

# **ST MARY'S NORTHCHURCH**

REGISTERED CHARITY 1130418



# **ANNUAL REPORTS 2016/2017**

## Contents

INTRODUCTION .....	3
CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT .....	3
PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT .....	4
ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT .....	5
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY .....	5
YOUTH & FAMILIES WORK .....	5
CHURCH MUSIC .....	6
MUSIC GROUP .....	7
STEWARDSHIP SCHEME .....	7
WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUP .....	8
BERKHAMSTED DEANERY SYNOD .....	8
NEWSLETTER .....	9
ANNUAL FÊTE .....	9
RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN .....	10
NORTHCHURCH CHURCH HOUSES .....	10
FLOWER GUILD .....	11
BELLRINGERS .....	11
KNEELER PROJECT .....	12
SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE .....	12
2 <sup>ND</sup> NORTHCHURCH BROWNIES .....	13
MONDAY CLUB .....	13
MOTHERS' UNION .....	14
TIME OUT 2 .....	14
CHRISTIAN AID .....	15
THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY .....	15
TRAI DCRAFT .....	15
BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST - SPONSORED BIKE 'N HIKE .....	15
NORTHCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES .....	16
THE CHARITY OF DR SMOULT .....	16
ST MARY'S SCHOOL .....	17
ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS .....	21

## INTRODUCTION

The last year has been shaped in part by a number of fundraising initiatives to raise funds for necessary repairs to the church roof. A focal point in this initiative has been the splendid model of St Mary's designed and built by Andrew Dobbie and supported by members of the congregation and the local community. When there is an assembly at St Mary's School that has focused on the history of the church, attention is drawn to how on the exterior of the church there are stones of different shape and size. This is important as the heart of the church is the people and each of us in different ways and with diverse gifts of the Spirit live out the Christian faith.

The reports below show some of the ways in which this takes place. I am very grateful to everyone for their hard work, support and the encouragement that we can offer each other as we respond to God's call to be His people in St Mary's. The last year has also seen ongoing discussion about the Mission Action Plan and we are looking forward to see how this can develop over the coming year. I hope that you enjoy reading the reports.

*Jonathan Gordon*

## CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone who has made my year as churchwarden so very rewarding. All the myriad and numerous people who quietly go about so many tasks behind the scenes every week, may go unnoticed, but they keep the church running so smoothly. I could not possibly name everyone, and David will thank the clergy team in his piece, but you know who you are and thank you so much for making the church such a huge part of your lives.

It has been rather a mixed year for St Mary's. We are extremely grateful for some legacies which have enabled the PCC to sanction the refurbishment of the Parish Room, which was redecorated in August, and a new floor was laid in October. The hall has been cleared of a lot of clutter and a broken piano and is now a more open and inviting space for entertaining family and friends for any occasion. There are many more bookings than we had before and if you would like to plan to have an event in there you will need to book via Emily Millar. Please see the photographs on the website, or pop across for coffee one Sunday after church to have a look.

A window above the altar, which had been broken for some time has been repaired, and the rotten wood that held up the weathervane that has needed replacing for many years has now been suitably dealt with, and, much to my relief, the scaffolding has been taken down without incident. There is a small display about it in the entrance porch if you are as interested in such things as I am.

In order to make the entrance to the church more inviting and safe, the paths from the church towards the shops and across the back of the church to the school have been resurfaced, and I have even heard that some people are so pleased with them that they dance down them now.

The flower bed that was so lovingly tended for many years by Violet has now been grassed over so that the ever increasingly elderly man who tends the grass can use the mower more easily. No one had offered to take the plot over and it was growing ever untidier. It looks very pretty as I write this piece as the bulbs are coming through to remind us that Spring is on its way. If you love to mow grass or tend to flower beds and would like to volunteer to take over a patch of grass or a flower bed, please, please see me after church one Sunday or contact me via the website.

We are hoping to find some volunteers this year to start to take over some of the many tasks that need doing. Whatever your talent I am sure we can find you a job to do. At present the daily running of events and maintenance falls on very few people and we are all getting older. There are also

opportunities to join the PCC so that you can have your say about our priorities. Perhaps you would like to join the maintenance committee previously known as a fabric committee (nothing to do with sewing). The special team of volunteers who gathered on Saturday last Autumn had a great time cutting back hedges and lighting bonfires. I will be hoping to do that all again soon.

Margit and Andrew will tell you about the results of our fundraising efforts, but I must say how grateful I am to them and the rest of the roof raising team not only for the hard work and effort they have all put in, but also for the great friendships that have developed. That in itself is reward enough.

Our church is a place of love for everyone to come to in times of stress, joy and sadness and at any time in between. During Lent, we even had tea and cake and jig- saw puzzles on Wednesday afternoons. Please do come along to one of our services and give us a try if you do not already. We have coffee and biscuits after the 10am service to have a chat and make new friends or catch up with old ones.

*Evelyn Hodgson*

## **PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT**

St Mary's Northchurch remains the focal point for the local community. The Sunday morning services continue to be well attended, as are the special services during the Easter and Christmas periods and well as Remembrance Day.

The 10am Holy Communion services continue to be taken by either the Rector, Rev. Jonathan Gordon or Rev. Michael Eggleton. Connie Barrett, has generally led the monthly All Age Worship Services. All of our Readers have preached on one or more occasions. Numbers at the 6pm service have declined in recent months, but the monthly Taizé service remains popular.

The PCC met on five occasions during 2016 with the Rector chairing all the meetings. Additionally, the Standing Committee met on one occasion. The subjects discussed included the new Mission Action Plan, opportunities for opening the church outside of Sundays, finance and fabric matters, particularly relating to the leaking church roof.

At the Annual Church Meeting in April 2016 Evelyn Hodgson was elected as a new Churchwarden joining David Sayers in that role. Andrew Dobbie, Sara Fox, and Gareth Pritchard were re-elected onto the PCC and were joined by Gill Bugg and Clare Sayers. During the year, Mary Clarke stood down as Verger; Jackie Jones has now taken over this role. We thank Mary for all the years of valuable service she has given St Mary's.

During the year, there were 35 baptisms, 8 weddings/blessings and 12 funeral/memorial services. In July, Bishop Michael presided over the Confirmation Service at St Mary's. As is normal practice, the church was also used by a number of local schools to hold Easter, Harvest and Carol services. Among the funeral services in 2016 were those for Margaret Bowley. Margaret had been Parish Secretary running the Parish Office for many years before she was forced to stand down due to ill health. She is sadly missed.

Finally, all parishes in the UK now have to adhere to the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 which was passed last year by General Synod. This imposes a statutory legal duty on PCCs to pay due regard and guidance issued by the House of Bishops on matters relating to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults. The PCC has reviewed the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 and believe that they currently comply.

*Richard North*

## **ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT**

At the time of writing, there are 131 members on the electoral roll, two fewer than last year.

*Rosemary North*

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

During term-time, the two Sunday School groups continue to meet every Sunday except for the week when we have the All Age Service. This is for children who are aged 3 to 11. We use Scripture Union resources and have a great team of volunteers who run the sessions, although we are always looking for new volunteers. The number of children attending each week ranges from 5 – 15 - we have recently seen an increase in the younger age group (generally 3 and 4 year olds). At the end of term, we usually have a fun morning when all the groups meet together to sing, praise God and do crafts. During school holidays, there is a combined group most weeks – similar to term-time Sunday School, subject to volunteers being available to run these sessions. A particular highlight this year was the nativity service which involved lots of children, young people and adults from the congregation.

*Sunday School Team*

## **YOUTH & FAMILIES WORK**

The last year has been a really positive year for The Lighthouse, which has been involved in a wide range of activities. I have chosen to focus on a couple of these.

Last September we ran a Youth Camping Weekend in Spring Meadow Farm. This ran from 16 to the 18 September, and we had a total of 12 young people in attendance. I was thrilled to have three of our university students come on board as leaders. It was also lovely to have Geoffrey's input, as we very rarely get to serve alongside each other. The setting was beautiful, we camped in 20 acres of woodland. And even though we were camping we had fantastic facilities, including an indoor heated swimming pool!

As we were camping in such a secluded area I found it the perfect location to run a 'retreat'. It helped that the phone reception was far from perfect, meaning that young people felt able to put down their phones and take a break from 'the outside world'.

The theme of our Bible studies was 'unhurried enough'. The sessions included 'unhurried enough to switch off - switching off from the noisy world', 'unhurried enough to be still - peace be still in the storms of life', 'unhurried enough to listen - the still small voice whispering' and 'unhurried enough to pray.' Some of the activities that the young people got involved in were drama, art, prayer stations, group games, reflection, worship, and quizzes.

The young people were a joy to work with, and the young leaders made the residential weekend run really smoothly, I am so thankful to work with such a fantastic group of people. On our return we started the Youth Alpha Film Series. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions exploring the foundations of the Christian faith. The Youth Film Series consists of twelve twenty-minute episodes designed to engage young people in conversations about faith, life, and God. We enjoyed a meal together in the first hour, and maybe a game or two if there was time. Then we watched the film together in the second hour. There were three breaks built into each episode to create opportunities for young people to share their thoughts. Some of the topics included 'Life: is this it?' 'Jesus: who is He?' and 'The Cross: why did Jesus die?' Other episodes focused on prayer, Bible reading, the Holy Spirit, evil, healing, and evangelism.

A real strength of Youth Alpha is that the programme gave our young people the space to process and reflect on what they were hearing. It is also 'youth-led' rather than 'youth worker led', encouraging the young people to steer the conversations and share their opinions without fear of being told "you're wrong!" Over the weeks, I have seen the young people increase in confidence when it comes to sharing their faith and I trust that Youth Alpha was a real milestone for some of them.

The Christian Union at St Mary's School dropped to from 12 to four last term, but at Christmas these four pupils asked their friends to attend and the numbers rose to 18 and there is now a steady number of 12 pupils attending. I have also been running a course at Greenway School for Year 6 pupils moving up to secondary school next September and this has been well received.

*Connie Barratt*

## **CHURCH MUSIC**

Following the repairs in 2014, the organ has been regularly tuned and maintained but the problem with the salicional continues, with the trickiest fault to remedy – an intermittent fault. Organ builder Andrew Stevens believes it to be an 'electrical contact' problem which will be addressed when the console is overhauled. However, no work on the electrics will take place until the roof is completely sound!

Organist Craig Nathan returned to play a stunning 'all Bach' programme, culminating in a wonderful performance of the great Passacaglia and Fugue in C minor. He clearly enjoys playing the organ at St Mary's and we look forward to hearing him again. Chris Embrey from Leominster celebrated his CertRCO award by playing a delightful Sunday afternoon recital including some of his exam repertoire to a small but appreciative audience who managed to devour a strawberry tea set for 40!

In July, we welcomed back Richard Grylls to lead a singing workshop focussing on Vivaldi's *Gloria* and excerpts from some of the great choral classics. Madalina Tudoran gave a memorable performance in the Easter hymn from Mascagni's *Cavaleria Rusticana* and Valerie Clark was a delightful soloist in the Vivaldi. 60 singers enjoyed a glorious afternoon and evening of music making and were thrilled at the hospitality they received at St Mary's.

In addition to Sunday duties, the choir sang at a number of weddings and funerals and from the proceeds financed three special rehearsals with visiting professional choir directors. We were particularly delighted to welcome Richard King (formerly musical director at All Saints, High Wycombe) who now lives in Potten End. He provided valuable insights in to breathing, voice production and performance and helped rehearse and polish the Byrd *Ave verum* which we then sang in the chancel during Sunday communion. From comments received afterwards, this was clearly much enjoyed by many in the congregation as well as the choir.

The music at St Mary's requires much thought, planning and preparation and I am grateful to Valerie Clark and Clare Sayers who have agreed to help with the choosing of hymns and anthems during 2017 and we are all open to suggestions and requests. Clare Wille continues to keep the music library under control which is much appreciated and I am indebted to Gareth Pritchard, Rachel Gordon, Alastair Cuthbertson and Roger Bowley for their playing contributions, in particular over the Christmas period when I was unable to play at very short notice.

*Jenny Hoare*

## **MUSIC GROUP**

The music group continues to flourish and leads the worship for All Age services about 8 times a year in St Mary's. There are about 15 members who play clarinets, oboes, violins and trumpets. We play a variety of hymns/songs which are chosen to fit in with the theme of the service and according to how difficult the parts are. Some of our more experienced players enjoy playing descant parts and we usually play "Kum Ba Yah" for a family friendly version of the Lord's Prayer. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members for their continued support and excellent playing.

*Rachel Gordon*

## **STEWARDSHIP SCHEME**

Approaching Christmas 2016, I put a note in the pew leaflet regarding the ways, we as a congregation, can give our donations to church. Although the numbers using the 'Box' scheme continues to drop, it is certainly true that a number of people have moved to Standing Order as a preferred method of donation.

With regards to Gift Aid, it is now possible even to claim a Gift Aid contribution from the UK Government from a certain value of simple cash donations made in the collection plate. However, a declared commitment to making your donations Gift Aided, is preferable to make sure we can reclaim the maximum Gift Aid on your donations.

Whichever way you choose to donate, there are four donation methods available:

**STANDING ORDER** - This is the ideal way as it allows the Stewardship secretary and Treasurer to see exactly what amount they can guarantee will be paid. This can be used with or without having signed a Gift Aid declaration. To initiate this there is a form on the back of the last pew.

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP SCHEME (Boxed brown numbered envelopes)** - This envelope has a number assigned to you and dated for each Sunday throughout the year for you to put your cash/cheque in and which you can put into the collection plate during the service. The scheme includes committing to a financial value which you are able to afford. It can be used with or without having signed a Gift Aid declaration.

**WHITE ENVELOPE SCHEME** - This envelope has been provided for those who wish to contribute cash of whatever value, on a regular basis (if not weekly) and who don't want to fill in the Blue Gift Aid envelopes every time they attend. An individual scheme number is assigned upon starting this scheme.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES (Blue un-numbered envelopes)** - These are found at the end of the pews and are specifically there for income tax payers wishing to contribute cash to the collection. **THERE IS NO POINT IN USING THEM WITHOUT SIGNING THE DECLARATION AND PROVIDING YOUR ADDRESS.**

To join any of the first three schemes, please contact us on [info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk).

*Nick Laing*

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

Our group has met fortnightly through the year, although there have been a couple of times when busyness or holidays have taken over! We use a range of Bible studies, generally following a series of about 10 studies either on a book of the Bible or on a theme - most recently we have done a series on Guidance. We enjoy Emma McCann's hospitality and the thoughtfulness and support of each other as we read the Bible and pray together.

We would love to have others join us!! You need no knowledge of the Bible and there is no need to do anything embarrassing like sing (none of us do that!!) or pray out loud (some do and some don't). Please contact [info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk) if you would like to know more.

*Penny Coase*

## **BERKHAMSTED DEANERY SYNOD**

Jon Reynolds, a Reader at Tring Parish Church reported that while the Diocese of St Albans gives £10,000 to the Diocesan Board of Education, typically a Board of Education with 136 Church of England Schools as we have in this Diocese would receive in excess of £100,000 to support its work. The short fall in funds meant the Schools Team was and is over-worked in comparison with other larger Dioceses such as our own. St Albans is not a poor Diocese. He suggested that parishes in this deanery discuss whether to donate a sum in addition to their parish share directly to the Board of Education.

The Deanery Lecture on June 8th was given by Rev Edgar Ruddock on the theme of Remodelling Mission and Ministry.

On 26<sup>th</sup> September, the Bishop visited the deanery, including the Monday Club at St Mary's and the Youth Café at Tring and finishing with a barbecue at Haresfoot Brewery. 120 members attended and everyone enjoyed the evenings proceedings, but the Bishop would have liked to have had time for each church to say what they are doing in Living God's Love.

In October two representatives from Berko for Refugees came to speak about its work. The first fundraiser they held was on 13 September 2016, which they intend to repeat once a month - the next being Berko Rocks on 10 November. 28 vans of donated items have gone to Calais, Greece, Syria, Turkey. Many items have gone to Move for People in Luton which has transport and storage. From the initial four volunteers, there are now many more helpers sorting items. BfR would soon be seeing Dacorum Borough Council to see how to help refugees here. So far there are two families in Hemel Hempstead and a few more across Herts. They are also getting into contact with other groups wanting to help refugees. Kings Road Church has a weekly prayer meeting to pray whilst items are being sorted, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month 1-3pm.

Lauryn Aubrey, a reader at St John's Harpenden, spoke about her work co-ordinating training for the diocese. The initial training takes three years followed by ongoing training. Readers preach, take funerals and meditation groups, baptism and confirmation preparation. One reader at St John's Harpenden is now a chaplain to the police in Rickmansworth. Readers are hospital chaplains, take faith programmes on local radio and a chaplain to a group of disabled people. In our deanery, there are 15 readers and the youngest two are 61, so younger readers are needed. The Diocese also trains in leading worship. 22 April 2017 is the next arch deanery vocations Day at St Albans.

*Rosemary North*

## **NEWSLETTER**

The Newsletter aims to be a source of local information, forthcoming events and outreach for St Mary's Church Northchurch. Don't forget that local charitable events will be advertised for free. Let the Editor know what is going on by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before you want it to appear, and she will put it in the newsletter.

The Newsletter continues to support itself by raising a substantial part of its costs through revenue from advertising. It is good to know that local businesses find us a good place in which to advertise.

The team of people who deliver the newsletter has been expanded by new volunteers during the year. To them and to 'old hands', both the community and St Mary's are grateful. Becoming acquainted with people on a delivery round can be of mutual benefit, and for some a valued expression of outreach amongst our neighbours. Any queries about distribution should be addressed to Valerie Clark. The Editor, Jill Hipson, is more than happy to be contacted by email, Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn. You can also write to her at her home address. Please do not telephone because the Editor is profoundly deaf. All contact details are on the back page of the Newsletter.

*Jill Hipson*

## **ANNUAL FÊTE**

The fete was well supported by members of our church and community and a record amount was raised for the Church Roof Fund, Northchurch United charities and the work of Mission Direct in the Dominican Republic. The weather was changeable but we just about kept dry with the help of the new gazebos purchased with Woods vouchers. The lovely music provided by the Hemel Hempstead Brass band was enjoyed by all, as was the country dancing performed by St Mary's School. The BBQ was as popular as ever and there were many delicious cakes to choose from both in the Refreshments area and on the cake stall.

Stalls in the playground included White Elephant, books, cakes, bottles, gifts and toiletries and we ran a tombola, raffle and plant raffle. We were delighted also to have local artist Mary Casserley with us. On the school field, we ran a golf game, football game, coconut shy and there were pony rides later on, too. A Welly Wang competition became very competitive and the annual Duck Race ended the afternoon. In the Rectory Garden, there was a bouncy castle and face-painting, the Princess Lucky Dip, Toy Tombola and Tin Can Alley.

New attractions included a Pets Corner and Children's Craft Tent, a Puzzlefest in church, a home-made crafts stall in the playground, and strawberries and cream were served for the first time in the Parish Room. We invited some musicians from Ashlyns School to sing some songs in the Rectory Garden and also enjoyed being entertained by the Afonso School of Performing Arts in the school hall.

We are stepping down from being the chief organisers of the fete this year due to work commitments but still plan to be involved in a smaller way. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make the fete such a success last year.

*Rachel Gordon and Heather Murray*

## RAISE THE ROOF CAMPAIGN

To raise funds for the replacement of the leaking and irreparable lead roof over the main aisle and north transept of St. Mary', the aptly named Raise the Roof Fundraising Committee was set up in Autumn 2015. Initially the group consisted of 6 members of the PCC, but has since been enlarged and greatly helped by other parishioners.

At the inaugural meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 we defined the following tasks:

- Dream up ideas for generating funds
- Evaluate and select winning projects to be progressed
- Explore possibilities for changing specification for listed building repairs
- Allocate leaders to each selected project
- Publicity management
- Progress reporting, secretarial duties

The events and activities organised so far include 2 Burns Night Dinners/Scottish Dancing Events, 2 Chiltern Sinfonia Concerts, a Call My Quaff Wine Tasting Evening and a Christkindlmarket. Events which not only generated a substantial sum of money but were lots of fun and were enjoyed by a wide range of people, from St Mary's as well as from Northchurch and neighbouring communities.

In addition, money was paid into the roof fund from funds raised through the Bike 'n' Hike, the St. Mary's Summer fête and a cake sale organised by the young people. Brian and Evelyn Hodgson and Paul Sear donated the money they would have earned for decorating the Parish Rooms to the roof fund.

The single most successful fundraising activity, with funds raised of £18,840 to date, is the building of a 1:50 scale model replica by Andrew Dobbie. It all started with the idea of selling sponsored bricks for £3 each. As the model grew, replica windows made from transparencies were inserted and the roof and tower added. The flagpole already has a flag and we are awaiting sponsorship for the bell and the weather vane. Andrew now plans to add internal details, such as font, altar, and organ.

In total funds of £ **27,564.33** were raised up to March 2017. This sum does not include gift aid which can be claimed for the majority of the funds.

We would like to thank all for their generous gift of time and money that made it possible to raise this substantial sum and look forward to another season of joyful fundraising.

*Margit Pendl-Dobbie  
On behalf of the fundraising committee*

## NORTHCHURCH CHURCH HOUSES

The Almshouses have had a busy year. Sadly Mr. Hughes died in the summer and we have welcomed Barrie Whelan as a new resident.

A couple of boilers broke down over Christmas even though they are serviced annually. I was busy trying to sort out a repair engineer given that our previous service engineer had retired and not told us! However, we now have a new boiler service team, Brad Sinfield Services and he has worked hard to keep our boilers in good repair.

One of our residents, Nick Johnston, looks after the garden for us now. We had a window broken in flat 94, which faces the High Street - someone appeared to have put their fist through it - that cost us a lot of money to repair. We continue to have problems with damp, which our surveyor advises is just part of the problem of these old houses and not a lot can be done in some cases. We will be starting major roof repairs this Spring.

I have now been made manager and I would like to thank Evelyn (Trustee) and Brian Hodgson for their hands-on support with flat maintenance and general work, and also the other trustees, David Sayers, Revd. Jonathan Gordon and Karen Baldwin for their ongoing support of my work.

Our accounts have been audited for this year - many thanks to Steve Mitchell for his hard work on this. Thanks also go to Anna French for her important contribution in collecting the maintenance charge money

*Kathy Ridges (on behalf of the Trustees)*

## **FLOWER GUILD**

The Flower Guild have continued to organise floral arrangements throughout the year. Easter, Harvest and Christmas services have had a number of floral and candle decorations and posies have been provided for Mothering Sunday.

Weddings and other events have also been marked with floral arrangements where requested, and door and table arrangements made to sell at the Christkindlmarket proved to be popular. We will be making small arrangements to sell for Mothering Sunday this year.

Our stall at the Summer Fête with games and various items for sale did well. We are planning arrangements for the Flower Festival at The Sacred Heart Church in Berkhamsted this summer.

Donations from parishioners are much appreciated as are contributions of greenery for our decorations for the major festivals through the year.

Very sadly, Mrs Kathy Turner passed away recently. She supported the Flower Guild unswervingly, shared her knowledge and skills unstintingly and her beautiful arrangements were a joy. We will miss her a great deal.

*Denise Rouse*

## **BELLRINGERS**

On one occasion, a wedding guest was heard to remark that "they use recordings these days." At some churches they do, but not at Northchurch! It is real people who make music on our bells at St Mary's, Sunday by Sunday, on Mondays, and on other special occasions – weddings, anniversaries, birthdays. That represents a considerable degree of commitment by more than a dozen people, half of them not members of the church, but who choose to serve the local community in this way.

Happily, there are good relations between the bellringers and our Rector and the PCC. You may have read in the press that ringers at York Minster were dismissed during the year: we may never know the reason why. Locally, we do not have the experience and skill to ring to the standard of the Minster ringers, but we continue to improve and to train people who want to learn. Two of our more experienced ringers have attended courses run by the Association of Ringing Teachers. This has enhanced their teaching skills, such that we hope practice nights are good opportunities for everyone to make progress as ringers, enjoying themselves at the same time. Those of you who can hear us practise should be able to detect improvement over time: bells should each ring clearly

in their own space, not on top of each other. When you hear our bells sounding evenly, then you know we are ringing well. When you hear odd bongs from one or two bells, that could be when we are teaching new ringers to handle and to control their bell before they are able to join the rest of the band.

With the support and agreement of the Rector, the tower offers hospitality to visiting ringers. We count three groups in particular as friends – they have been coming to Northchurch regularly for some years. These are people who ring to a high standard, and our Visitors' Book records many a successful quarter peal (that's nearly 50 minutes of ringing non-stop.) Other visitors may be 'out for the day', ringing at several towers to gain experience on different bells, or simply turn up on practice night. Once a year, the 'local bell club' holds its monthly meeting at St Mary's: this was in June in 2016, and it will take place in April in 2017.

There was some patriotic ringing in the year, both celebratory and in solemn memory. On St George's Day in 1916, Major Hubert Thelwall of this parish was killed in the Great War. He was remembered as a band of eight ringers rang 100 years later. HM the Queen gave us two opportunities to ring in celebration of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday - we took advantage of both! Our very best call changes involved nearly all our ringers, with six people taking turns in calling into Queens – that's calling out (several times) which two bells need to change places until they sound in the pattern 1-3-5-7-2-4-6-8. For the first time in many years, we marked the passing of 2016, and rang joyously to bring in the New Year.

Some members of the congregation listen to the bells – and it is rewarding to your bellringers to know their efforts are appreciated. Be assured that I always pass your comments on to them.

*Valerie Clark, Tower Captain*

## **KNEELER PROJECT**

The Northchurch Kneeler Project got under way in the autumn of 2003 and by 2004 we had 14 kneelers in the pews. To my surprise, we are still ticking over! There are only four people currently stitching, so we will need to recruit some more helpers if we are to succeed in reaching our objective which is to fill the main body of the church with our much-admired kneelers.

If you are new to St. Mary's, or think you might be able to stitch a kneeler, please do have a word with me even if you have never worked cross stitch before. Some of our most attractive kneelers have been worked by the novices among us! You will not be expected to help in the making up process.

During the Christmas period, you may have noticed that the kneelers were removed from the pews and stacked in the chancel. Candle wax when it drips can get into the wool and can be very difficult to remove. If candles are to be part of our celebrations at Christmas the only sure way to protect our kneelers is to remove them to a safe place.

Stitching is good therapy too, so why not give it a try!

*Marilyn Pryor*

## **SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE**

Thank you once again to all our wonderful volunteers who provide coffee and biscuits to the congregation following the 10am service each Sunday. It is always a good way of meeting people and we are lucky to have such a good team, who all do only three or four sessions each year. We did, however, lose two members over the last year, so if there's anyone out there who would like to

join our team, just let me know, even if you would just like to be a "standby" to cover any occasional absences.

*Sue Jukes*

## **2<sup>ND</sup> NORTHCHURCH BROWNIES**

We have done lots of badges this past year including our Seasons and Book Lovers. We have just finished our Brownie Traditions badge. We learnt about what Brownies used to carry in their pockets. Some of the girls brought in items from when their Mums were a Brownie. It's amazing how much the uniform has changed. We did our Friend to Animals badge when we visited Pets at Home in Hemel Hempstead. We were lucky enough to hold a Guinea Pig and touch various reptiles. It was Emilia's idea to do our Fire Safety badge. She contacted Berkhamsted Fire Station and arranged for us to visit the station. We had learnt about fire prevention. We also got to see inside a fire engine and we used the hoses to squirt water.

We were all invited to Brown Owl's wedding back in June. We welcomed her in to the church. The service was beautiful and so was her dress! We gave Brown Owl and Mr Brown Owl a guard of honour as they came out of church and had fun throwing confetti at them.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June, we attended Berko Buzz. This was a District event at Phasels Wood We did lots of different activities including crate stacking, and rolling rock. We ended the afternoon with a camp fire.

At Christmas, we went to Aylesbury Theatre to see the pantomime Aladdin and in February we joined with lots of other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides from Berkhamsted at our annual Thinking Day celebrations. We enjoyed an afternoon of different dances and sports. We also made Thinking Day cards to send to another Brownie Pack.

Rosie, one of our Brownies, has gained over 50 badges during her time with us. It is the most any Brownie has gained whilst at Northchurch Brownies. She has now gone on to Guides.

*Susan Anderson*

## **MONDAY CLUB**

It has been another enjoyable year for the Club, though one which has brought some changes in organisation. Our membership has declined slightly over the year as some members moved from Northchurch, while for others their ability to attend changed. Even with help with transport to reach the Parish Room the effort involved became too much. We have, however, welcomed some new members and would be happy to welcome more.

Organising a programme which, until now, has included two events each month has brought problems. We simply don't hear of enough people who would be willing to give a short talk, or a demonstration of a hobby or craft. That aside, the administration involved and our presence at each meeting takes much of our time. As is the case with our members, sadly time doesn't stand still for us either, so we have now decided to have fewer meetings in the future. Harvest, Christmas and Easter will still be celebrated as they have been, with traditional fare and music. Quizzes, board games and the occasional film all remain part of the programme. Last year's outings tended to be poorly attended and were expensive for the club. We have therefore decided to stay closer to home. A lunchtime outing to a local village restaurant has been organised and tea at the Ashridge Visitor Centre will still take place, though in the Summer, rather than at bluebell time, when many members

may have already been with family or friends. A visit to a large garden centre is still going ahead, by popular request.

We appreciate very much the support offered to the Club by Northchurch United Charities, which is put to good use when transport is required; also, the help, given unstintingly, by Tony Lockhart, Joan Cox and Jennie Budd for which all in the Club are very grateful.

*Joan Downhill and Barbara Lloyd*

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

2016 has been a good year for our Branches at St Peter's and Tring. Sadly, after many years Leverstock Green could not continue but their members are still meeting and join us for special occasions.

Last year was a special time of celebration of Mothers Union – 140 years since Mary Sumner formed a branch in 1876. Also celebrated was 125 years of Mothers Union in the Diocese of St Albans.

Other events have been our Lady Day service held here at St Mary's and our monthly prayer time with Jennie Budd at Shaftesbury and the St Peter's branch, with their monthly meetings. Summer saw our usual fête stall containing a wonderful selection of goods. We also held a fundraising lunch for overseas in July. In the Autumn, we welcomed the Happy Wanderers to the Harvest Service followed by tea and cakes. Many thanks to those who make the cakes for us.

Thank you to Gill Bugg for help with the brass cleaning and to all who have helped us to achieve a happy year and for Jonathan and Rachel's guidance in that we do.

*Joan Cox*

## **TIME OUT 2**

Time Out 2 has continued to meet on a regular monthly basis over the last year, enjoying the usual mix of lively discussion, prayer and reflection, craftwork and tasty food. Last summer we went for walks around both College Lake, Tring and the Wilstone reservoir, where we enjoyed the beautiful wild flowers and local countryside.

We also took part in the craft making session to prepare items for the Church fête in July. In the Autumn we were busy sewing, knitting, baking and bottling in aid of our craft stall, which formed part of the Christkindlmarkt in December. Everything sold well and we were pleased to raise c £550 as our contribution to both the Church roof fund and Crisis for Christmas. Also in December, Roger Bowley kindly provided piano accompaniment for carols and mince pies at Karen's house.

In the New Year, we enjoyed a lunch with partners at the Greyhound, Wigginton, and then in February Peggy hosted a craft afternoon, where we tried our hands at various activities.

We have a number of outings planned for the summer months, weather permitting, including visits to Ascott Manor, Rickmansworth Aquadrome and Wendover Woods. Also, we hope to arrange a quiz in aid of Crisis this year as a change from the usual lunch.

*Karen Baldwin*

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

For Christian Aid Week 2016, 17 roads were collected from by the St Mary's team. This included a new girl – Jenny Budd – who did a great job around Shaftesbury Court. I would love to see additional members to the team! It is a great responsibility but a greater joy to be able to contribute into the lives of people in desperate need. Our total donated from collections was £1,227.78. We also recently paid in £570 gained from the donations for tea or coffee after the 10am service every Sunday.

Thank you to the PCC for this extra donation and to all those that joined me on the streets of Northchurch and those that made donations. The money we raise is so vital and I implore you to continue supporting Christian Aid, this year.

If you think that you could join the team for Christian Aid Week 2016, 15-21st May, please contact [info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk).

*Nick Laing*

## **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

The Children's Society box collection has been counted for another year, raising a wonderful £748.09p, slightly down from last year, but when added to the Christingle service offering, which was slightly more this year, then we have just broken through the £800 barrier (£850 in Feb 2016). Thank you very much to our very generous box holders - every penny counts and the boxes of small change do very worthwhile work to help young people at times of crisis in their lives, often when at their most vulnerable. We have lost three box holders during this year, so if you would like us to register you with a box - or if you would like to know how your money is spent, then do get in touch via [info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk).

*Charlotte & Gareth Pritchard*

## **TRAIDCRAFT**

We finally stopped running a regular Traidcraft stall in 2016. We did in the end find ourselves having too many items going to the Use By Date and not enough regular custom to make it worthwhile, when there are the same products in the supermarkets.

However, we remain open to supplying by order and in particular will maintain supply to church of fairly traded coffee and tea for all our social activities, as is our responsibility as a Fairtrade Church. For the Christkindmarkt, we supplied a range of Christmas cards which sold very well, making £285.

If you need any information or supplies for your events, work places or organisations, then please don't hesitate to contact us on [info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk).

*Nick Laing*

## **BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST - SPONSORED BIKE 'N HIKE**

Brian and I can best be described as enthusiastic fair weather cyclists, and rarely venture forth on a wet or windy day, so it was with heavy and even, can you believe it, slightly grumpy hearts, that we watched the weather forecast for the entire week preceding the annual bike and hike on Saturday 10th September 2016. True to form and forecast, the day dawned wet and windy, but, as we sat in bed dreading the hour of departure the telephone rang.

“Oh no, we thought, even Ros is calling it off”, but no, bless her, Ros rang to say that she was just packing her snorkel and would be with us shortly. We carefully selected our shortest shorts, (wet legs dry more quickly than wet trousers,) and set off.

Jennie Budd and Elizabeth Lachenal arrived at the church to set up the refreshments and we were on our way to begin the 25th anniversary cycle ride to benefit the historic churches trust and St Mary’s Northchurch. It is such an important annual fund raising event that we were determined to do our best to raise funds whatever the weather.

Everywhere we went, our intrepid trio found that there were not many people out enjoying the hospitality of the day. We had our usual delightful and very welcome lunch at New Mill, Tring, where I am sure, they must have had lots of food left over. Our pub stops may have been slightly longer this year, as we tried to dry out in front of roaring fires as much as possible, but nonetheless we managed 29 of our usual 30 churches before retreating home to a hot shower and a well-earned glass of wine.

I would like to thank my team of welcomers who made everyone welcome at our church, both the experienced team and the new folk, and I hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we did.

A very special thank you goes out to all those who ventured out on such a horrible day. I am delighted to be able to report that we had 12 names on our list who set off from St Mary’s, and 39 visitors came to our church.

At the time of writing I appear to have sent the Bike ‘n Hike treasurer, Richard North, £1,146 proceeds, plus there was a further £747.39 via “Just Giving” so it seems that the total raised before gift aid was in the region of £1893. It would have been wonderful to raise another few pounds to knock the total over £2000, especially as it was the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Beds and Herts Historic churches trust, but with the weather as it was I am extremely grateful to all those who took part.

If you would like to come and join in the fun and take part in this essential fundraising and sociable event this year, please make a note in your diary of Saturday 9th September. You can start from any church, even if you are away on holiday, and do the whole day or just a part of it. There are nine churches and chapels in Berkhamsted, so you could just take a walk around the town and explore.

*Evelyn Hodgson*

## **NORTHCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES**

The Trustees are comprised of representatives from Berkhamsted Town Council. Northchurch Parish Council, Sunnyside church and St Mary’s Church and Rev Jonathan Gordon was elected as Chair again this year. The Trustees met in November to make their annual distribution of funds to individuals and clubs, including The Monday Club, helping the elderly and young children requiring extra support, in Berkhamsted and Northchurch. NUC appreciates the funds received from the proceeds of the fête in 2016 that enabled the Trustees to continue its work.

*Rosemary North*

## **THE CHARITY OF DR SMOULT**

A former Rector of St Mary’s left money in his will to establish this charity in 1705. It continues to support local young people with the costs of their education and, during 2016, grants totalling a little under £20,000 were distributed to individuals, youth groups and schools in the area of benefit. This

is defined as: “the Ecclesiastical Parish of Northchurch St Mary, the Civil Parish of Northchurch, the area known as the Chiltern Park Estate in the Civil Parish of Berkhamsted or the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wigginton, all in the County of Hertfordshire”.

Applicants must be under 25 and, if they do not live in the area of benefit, they must have “an active association with St Mary’s Church, Northchurch or St Bartholomew’s Church, Wigginton”. If you fulfil these qualifications and would appreciate financial help with education or apprenticeship, or you know someone who does, please contact us on [info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk](mailto:info@stmarysnorthchurch.org.uk).

Valerie Clark

## ST MARY’S SCHOOL

The past year at St. Mary’s has seen the school have its highest ever numbers on roll of 222 children, including nursery. We had 30 children who started school for each of the Reception and Nursery 2016 intakes and another 30 children are confirmed for the 2017 intake. It is lovely to see the school flourishing and to be able once again to reflect on our growth into a full Primary School.

We are also pleased with our continuing high attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2), with results significantly above those achieved nationally last year.

2016 saw our first Year 6 cohort of 14 children sit the new end of Key Stage 2 tests. Our overall combined reading, writing and mathematics result was 64%, with the Herts figure being 59% and the National 53%. For the reading test the children achieved 93% which placed us in the top 6% nationally - a result of which we are justifiably very proud and a testament to the hard work of staff and children alike.

The School Development Plan (SDP) enables us to achieve our School Aims and Vision by setting objectives for improving teaching and learning, and considering standards of achievement and pupil well-being. The Headteacher and the Senior Leadership Team regularly report progress of the plan at Committee and full Governors' meetings.

Each of these priorities is supported by a number of SMART objectives.

1. *(Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment)*. For all teaching to be at least ‘Good’ with an increase in ‘Outstanding’ teaching throughout the year.
2. *(Outcomes for pupils at the school)*. To raise the proportion of children meeting and exceeding age related expectations across the school.
3. *(Quality of Leadership and Management)*. To enable children to feel safe to take risks and challenge themselves in order to reach their true potential.
4. *(Quality of Leadership and Management)*. To develop the role of subject co-ordinators and middle leadership.

The areas for school development have been selected for the following reasons:

- A large number of observed lessons continue to be good with some outstanding features and some outstanding lessons. This is clearly an improving picture. However, in line with recommendations from Ofsted the school wants to continue to work towards a higher proportion of outstanding lessons across the school ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible provision and reach their potential. This target continues to be a focus for the school to ensure that an increased number of pupils exceed expected progress, more able pupils continue to be challenged and disadvantaged children across the school make at least expected progress.

- To maintain the continued rise in standards of writing through ensuring marking and feedback impact positively on children's progress
- To further develop children's learning attitudes through teaching children about Growth Mindset so they feel safe to take risks and challenge themselves in order to reach their true potential and to embed the new Positive Behaviour Policy.
- To develop the role of subject co-ordinators so staff members clearly understand their roles and responsibilities as co-ordinators and can identify next steps when continuing to deliver the new curriculum, especially at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

At the end of the Christmas term Mrs. Bristow left the school office to take up a post elsewhere, and at the end of this February half term we said a fond farewell to Mrs. Young when she retired. Governors, staff and children all gathered together for a special assembly when the children read poems and the choir sang to Mrs. Young. It was a very moving occasion and we wished Mrs. Young a long and happy retirement, having spent the past 26 years welcoming children and parents to St. Mary's.

The school has been without a Road Crossing Patrol for the past year when funding was withdrawn by the Highways Authority. However, in September we were fortunate enough to receive funding provided by the Parish Council to enable us to employ a Crossing Patrol. Following her training, Mrs. Delderfield has been helping children and adults safely cross the road.

Premises Projects carried out this year:

- Replacement of the windows in the Year 1-4 classrooms (thanks to a grant)
- Replacement of gates in the Foundation Stage area to improve security.
- Building of a Story Shack in the quiet garden.
- New trim trail in the lower playground.
- New doors to the classrooms in Years 1 to 4, cookery room and to lobby area so that they are in line with safeguarding and fire precautions.
- New finger guards fitted to all doors.
- New drain in the top playground to prevent the wall from becoming damp.
- New flat roof fitted to the top end of the building.
- Damp proofing injected into exterior walls at top of the building next to the music room to protect from damp.
- The tree in the top playground was removed by the Parish Council as the roots were causing damage.

Our Christian values underpin our school culture and every half term we still focus on a different value. For the children, this is mainly explored through Collective Worship, RE lessons and as part of the SEAL curriculum (Social and emotional aspects of learning). We inform the parents in the newsletter, encouraging the whole school community to focus on the value together. The staff think about how they can embody the value when they discuss it at a staff meeting.

We are proud to be a church school, with a distinctive Christian ethos and were delighted to be awarded the Gold RE Quality Mark at the end of the summer term in recognition of the high quality RE provision at St. Mary's.

In RE lessons, pupils learn about Christianity and the other principal world religions. Throughout its operation, the school promotes the fundamental British values including mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. To enrich the curriculum, Mrs Archbold organises many exciting trips and activities for the children.

This year the children have enjoyed numerous trips and visits to enrich their understanding of Christianity and other world religions, in addition to the regular church services and assemblies run

by Jonathan. These have included Remembrance, Carol Service, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Mother's Day and Easter Services and, owing to its success last year, another outdoor Pentecost Service which was once again held on the school field.

- Year 2 have visited St Mary's Church and Northchurch Baptist Church.
- Years 1 to 5 have taken part in the Easter Workshop run by Northchurch Baptist Church
- Year 1 visited St. Albans Synagogue
- Year 2 visited St Albans Cathedral in September
- Year 3 visited the North Watford Mosque
- Year 4 visited Bhaktidevanta Manor, to help them understand and respect the Hindu faith. They enjoyed a traditional Indian lunch, a bullock cart ride and dressing up in traditional clothes.
- Years 5 and 6 have enjoyed a visit from Rabbi Rafi.
- In December the whole school once again held a Christingle service which was a lovely way to conclude the Autumn Term.

In addition to the RE-related trips and visits, the children also enjoyed other trips, including the choir singing at the Royal Albert Hall and at the O2 Arena.

Year 5 took part in the 'Fiver Challenge' organised by the Chamber of Commerce and made presentations to the Mayor and local dignitaries at the Town Hall in July 2016.

We have continued to work with Living Streets, on the WOW (Walk to school Once a Week) campaign. Children are encouraged to walk to school and those who do are rewarded with collectable badges. St Mary's continues to have one of the highest proportions of children who walk to school in the area.

The Smoult Trust has been most supportive to the school during the past year and has kindly provided funding to enable two children go on residential visits with their classes and also to purchase books for the Story Shack.

Various sporting activities during the past year include:

- County Cross Country run at St. Albans, where we qualified for the national championships
- Trips to Sportspace to take part in various inter-school activities
- Berkhamsted Inter-Schools Swimming Galas for Years 4, 5 and 6 with the Year 4 team having their second consecutive winning performance.
- Dacorum Skip2bfit Competition

As ever, the School Association has worked very hard, raising money throughout the past year. They are funding i-Pads, new football kit, Mother's Day flowers for every child, a contribution towards two school trips for every class and are currently raising money to help the Governors upgrade the toilets in the top end of the school.

Ms Gore and Mrs O'Dell have continued to develop the use of the forest school area, which encourages children to become comfortable with an outdoor approach to education. The after-school Forest School Club has been rotated across the year groups, as we want all children to have the opportunity to enjoy these activities, which have included bush-craft skills (lighting fires) building shelters, arts and crafts using woodland materials, making chairs from old logs, learning about the natural world (investigating habitats, creating homes for wildlife), as well as games.

The wraparound child care continues to be very popular with our parents. This means that children can be looked after at Breakfast Club from 7.45 a.m. and remain in school at the after-school club

until collection at 6.00 p.m. Children who are not in full-time education are able to join our lunch club and then take part in Pre-School, before joining the older children after school for the club.

St Mary's is a voluntary-aided (VA) maintained school. Maintained schools receive their running costs from central government via the local authority. In contrast to other types of maintained schools, only 90% of the capital costs of a VA school are met by the state. The foundation (in our case, the Governing Body), has to contribute the remaining 10% of the capital costs. Parents are encouraged to pay a voluntary contribution towards the school's maintenance funds in VA schools.

Our Co-Chairs since September 2016 are Alan Kemp and Reverend Jonathan Gordon. Because we are a Church school the majority of the Governors are appointed by the PCC and the Diocese. Replacement governors are currently required and we would ask for consideration to be given by anyone who would be interested in this very rewarding position, which makes a real difference to the school and the local community. The Governing body have worked extremely hard throughout the past year, providing support and challenge, for which the school is extremely grateful.

*Vanessa Hunt, Head Teacher*

*Alan Kemp and Rev. Jonathan Gordon, Co-chairs of Governors*

# **St Mary's Church, Northchurch**

## **ANNUAL REPORTS AND ACCOUNTS**

**of the**

### **Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31 December 2016**

to be held in church after morning service  
on Sunday, 23rd April 2017

#### **Incumbent:**

*Revd Jonathan Gordon  
80 High Street  
Northchurch  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 3QW*

#### **Hon Treasurer:**

Emma McCann  
7 Tortoiseshell Way  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 1TB

#### **Independent Examiner:**

Janet Hart  
Harts Accounting  
Business & Tax Advisers Ltd  
3 Churchgates  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 2UB

#### **Bankers:**

National Westminster Bank  
199 High Street  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 1BH

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Parochial Church Council of the St Mary's Church, Northchurch**

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I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 which are set out on the following pages.

### **Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and Independent Examiner**

As trustees of the charity, the members of the PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- Follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

### **Independent Examiner's Statement**

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention.

1. Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
  - To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
  - To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding to be reached.

Janet Hart FCA  
**Harts Accounting Business & Tax Advisers Ltd**  
Berkhamsted, Herts.

**April 2017**

## Treasurer's Report 2016

### Summary:

2016 was a good year for St. Mary's financially as the fundraising for the roof was incredibly successful and we received an unusually high level of legacy income. Our Parish Share was paid, in full and on time and another hugely successful fete was another bonus. At the end of 2016 overall income exceeded expenditure by £54883.

### General Fund Income:

Voluntary income during 2016 is shown in the accounts to be up on last year for regular giving and collections but, the large overall increase in income of some 68% is due in the main to legacies received and the funds raised for the roof. We also had an increase in both PCC fees and Rectors fees received in 2016 due to an increase in the number of weddings and funerals held.

### General Fund Expenditure:

The largest expenditure for the year, as expected, was the £55435 paid to the Diocese in relation to the Parish share which covers clergy stipends, pensions and diocesan costs. This represents the full payment due for 2016.

Other major expenses for the year were monies spent on the Parish Room, relaying the floor and the resurfacing of the paths in the churchyard. Both these projects were undertaken with funds from legacy income.

Church running expenses were on a par with the previous year and there were no other major variances in expenses.

St Mary's has continued to donate to charities with the fete income being split between Northchurch United Charities, Mission Direct and the roof fund. Other donations were made to Christian Aid, the Children's Society and Crisis.

### Going Forward:

As we begin 2017 the fundraising for the roof will continue and there is a committee working towards what we hope will be yet another record breaking summer fete. The recent works carried out on the Parish Rooms will, we hope, lead to increased bookings of this space and therefore additional revenue.

Gift Aid will continue to be reclaimed on a regular basis and St. Mary's will continue to make regular monthly payments towards the Parish share and should have this settled in full and on time again this year.

*Emma McCann*

## Receipts & Payments Account for Period to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016

	2016			2015	Variance
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Total £	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
<b>Voluntary Income</b>					
Planned Income	49,990.92	0.00	49,990.92	46,706.64	3,284.28
Cash Collections	4,188.43	0.00	4,188.43	3,484.58	703.85
Income Tax Recovered	11,786.39	0.00	11,786.39	12,409.97	-623.58
	<u>65,965.74</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>65,965.74</u>	<u>62,601.19</u>	<u>3,364.55</u>
<b>Other Voluntary Income</b>					
Specific Legacies	455.86	455.86	911.72	0.00	911.72
Donations/Legacies	40,117.00	500.00	40,617.00	3,475.00	37,142.00
Special Collections / Donations	0.00	592.02	592.02	633.25	-41.23
Rector's fees	5,283.00	0.00	5,283.00	4,058.00	1,225.00
PCC fees	4,688.00	0.00	4,688.00	2,689.00	1,999.00
Organist's fees	895.00	0.00	895.00	970.00	-75.00
Bellringers' fees	1,080.00	0.00	1,080.00	540.00	540.00
Verger's fees	380.00	0.00	380.00	520.00	-140.00
Grants Received	0.00	0.00	0.00	230.00	-230.00
	<u>52,898.86</u>	<u>1,547.88</u>	<u>54,446.74</u>	<u>13,115.25</u>	<u>41,331.49</u>
<b>Events and Activities</b>					
Summer Fete	0.00	5,024.61	5,024.61	4,292.85	731.76
Magazine Advertising Income	3,792.60	0.00	3,792.60	4,123.00	-330.40
Parish Room Hire	3,228.28	0.00	3,228.28	2,954.22	274.06
Historic Churches Cycle Ride	0.00	805.45	805.45	936.00	-130.55
Social Activities	236.80	0.00	236.80	855.00	-618.20
	<u>7,257.68</u>	<u>5,830.06</u>	<u>13,087.74</u>	<u>13,161.07</u>	<u>-73.33</u>
<b>Other Income</b>					
Bank Interest	13.04	0.00	13.04	13.05	-0.01
Dividends	272.62	0.00	272.62	292.23	-19.61
C B F Interest	251.57	0.00	251.57	260.07	-8.50
Donald Lockhart Memorial Fund	4,366.54	0.00	4,366.54	5,156.11	-789.57
Northchurch Development Fund	89.95	0.00	89.95	103.73	-13.78
Miscellaneous Income	593.28	0.00	593.28	5.00	588.28
Rent for 98 High Street	0.00	5,043.50	5,043.50	7,304.40	-2,260.90
Insurance Reclaims	0.00	0.00	0.00	124.40	-124.40
Organ Restoration Fund	0.00	360.75	360.75	1,070.64	-709.89
Building Fund Income	0.00	27,756.89	27,756.89	3,778.89	23,978.00
Youth Worker / Youth Group Funding	0.00	550.00	550.00	2,045.00	-1,495.00
Traidcraft Sales	490.20	0.00	490.20	591.29	-101.09
Choir / Music	0.00	504.75	504.75	60.00	444.75
Kneeler Funds	0.00	50.00	50.00	152.50	-102.50
	<u>6,077.20</u>	<u>34,265.89</u>	<u>40,343.09</u>	<u>20,957.31</u>	<u>19,385.78</u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<u>132,199.48</u>	<u>41,643.83</u>	<u>173,843.31</u>	<u>109,834.82</u>	<u>64,008.49</u>

<b>Payments</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Grants</b>			
Overseas Missions & Relief Agencies	1,792.02	1,000.00	792.02
UK Missions & Relief Agencies	1,640.50	1,643.25	-2.75
	<b>3,432.52</b>	<b>2,643.25</b>	<b>789.27</b>
<b>Relating to the Work of the Church</b>			
Diocesan Quota	55,435.00	51,853.00	3,582.00
Rector's fees paid to Diocese	5,283.00	4,058.00	1,225.00
Church Running Expenses	12,511.21	12,415.56	95.65
Clergy Expenses	2,824.81	2,925.85	-101.04
Service & License Costs	1,726.10	904.23	821.87
Youth Worker Salary	4,058.54	474.56	3,583.98
Honoraria	2,300.50	4,973.00	-2,672.50
Organist	2,148.83	1,805.00	343.83
Churchyard	3,878.96	129.77	3,749.19
Magazine	5,280.00	5,280.00	0.00
Printing	1,078.20	732.64	345.56
Organ Maintenance	388.00	2,864.00	-2,476.00
Verger Fees	2,155.00	1,665.00	490.00
Bellringers' fees	1,080.00	0.00	1,080.00
Organist's Service Fees	-450.00	450.00	-900.00
Other Expenditure	2,473.02	669.12	1,803.90
Fundraising Costs	1,496.81	2,042.40	-545.59
Sunday School Expenses	48.81	237.82	-189.01
Youth Work Expenses	551.49	930.06	-378.57
Traidcraft Purchases	629.71	590.58	39.13
Kneeler Funds Expenses	0.00	1,029.00	-1,029.00
C B F Interest Reinvested	341.52	363.80	-22.28
	<b>105,239.51</b>	<b>96,393.39</b>	<b>8,846.12</b>
<b>Maintenance Costs</b>			
98 High Street	909.18	883.73	25.45
Buildings Maintenance	1,494.00	1,354.53	139.47
Parish Room	7,884.60	464.10	7,420.50
	<b>10,287.78</b>	<b>2,702.36</b>	<b>7,585.42</b>
<b>Total Payments</b>	<b>118,959.81</b>	<b>101,739.00</b>	<b>17,220.81</b>
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>	<b>54,883.50</b>	<b>8,095.82</b>	<b>46,787.68</b>

**St Mary's Church, Northchurch  
for the year ended 31st December 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Voluntary Income	65966	62601
Other Voluntary Income	54447	13115
Other Income	53430	34118
	173843	109834
 <b>Expenditure</b>		
Grants Made	3433	2644
Work of Church	105239	96393
Maintenance	10288	2702
	118960	101739
 Surplus/(Deficit)	 54883	 8095
 B/Forward	 251155	 241224
	306038	249319
 Gain on Investment	 15339	 1836
 Carried Forward	<b>£321,377</b>	<b>£251,155</b>

Charity/Fund Title	Account No.	No. Shares	Value per Share	Dividend/ Interest	Value of Fund at 31/12/16
<u>National Westminster Bank</u>					£122,788.07
<u>With St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance</u>					
Northchurch Development Fund	132001842D			£89.95 reinvested	£19,237.01
Donald Lockhart Memorial Fund	132001875S			£4,366.54	£149,083.60
<u>With Central Board of Finance of the Church of England</u>					
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	632008001F			£187.68 reinvested	£4,559.71
Deposit Fund	632008001D			£63.89 reinvested	£17,420.21
<u>COIF Charity Funds</u>					
Wagstaff Trust	C0000402616			£2.19	£0.00
Wagstaff Trust Income Fund	C0000403186			£0.78	£54.02
Hadden Trust	C0000402615			£2.40	£0.00
Hadden Trust Income Fund	C0000403185			£0.60	£40.00
Malcolmson Bequest	C0000402601			£2.22	£0.00
Bailey Charity	282190001T	18	£11.28	£8.13	£244.63
Ridley for Church Fabric Fund	282190002T	56	£11.28	£25.32	£761.08
Ridley for Churchyard Fund	282190004T	56	£11.28	£25.32	£761.08
Michael Memorial fabric Fund	282190003T	58	£11.28	£26.21	£788.26
Gwynedd Charity	282190005T	89	£11.28	£40.24	£1,209.57
Thelwall Trust for Churchyard Upkeep	282190006T	89	£11.28	£40.24	£1,209.57
A Ashley	282190007T	32	£11.28	£14.47	£434.90
C B Kings Children for Churchyard	282190008T	15	£11.28	£6.78	£203.86
Randall Memorial Foreign Mission	268810000T	62	£11.28	£28.04	£842.62
Browne Charity	332730001T	128	£11.28	£58.87	£1,739.61
					<b>£8,289.20</b>
					<b>£321,377.80</b>

**Northchurch Parochial Church Council  
as at 31st December 2016**

**Balance Sheet**

	2016 £	2015 £
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	0	0
<b>Current Assets:</b>		
Cash at Bank	122,788	68,360
Investments	198,589	182,795
Debtors	0	0
	321,377	251,155
	<b>£321,377</b>	<b>£251,155</b>
 Represented By Funds carried forward	321,377	251,555
	<b>£321,377</b>	<b>£251,555</b>

Accounts approved by the PCC on 22nd March 2017 and signed on its behalf by

The Revd Jonathan Gordon