

ST MARY'S NORTHCHURCH

REGISTERED CHARITY 1130418



ANNUAL REPORTS 2013/2014

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INTRODUCTION

The Diocese has encouraged every church to develop a Mission Action Plan. This is a way of encouraging the various church communities to reflect on what are its priorities and aims. In some ways, the life of St Mary's is now very much part of the 21st Century with its own Facebook, Twitter pages and website. Yet, there is always continuity with the past and a recognition that the church is and has been very much at the centre of the community and seeks to be a place where people can come to worship and pray growing together in faith, friendship and fellowship.

These various reports give an insight into the diversity of church life and activities for all ages. I am extremely grateful to everyone for their ongoing involvement and the time and care that has gone into preparing these reports. St Mary's seeks to be a place which offers welcome and hospitality to all and it is a great privilege to serve here as its Rector.

Jonathan Gordon

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT

The Churchwardens thank Jonathan and Michael for their leadership of the worship. We also offer thanks for the wonderful team of readers who have been able to bring new insights and meaning to our weekly readings. On the subject of worship, our grateful thanks go to Jenny and the choir for the fine music in Church, this even with a semi-defective organ!

We would also like to thank Nick Laing for sitting at the sound mixer each week to enable us all to hear every word. Nick and Charlotte are also to be thanked for their Fairtrade stall in the parish rooms.

Thanks go to all the helpers in the Sunday groups. It is enjoyable for us all to enjoy the fruits of their labours after the communion service. Thanks also to the bellringers who greet us at the start of the service.

The Annual Fete was again the highlight of the summer and this year we were blessed with fine weather. We were pleased to see some new faces manning the stalls. As always, more help would be welcome, particularly on the organising side.

This has been the year of our quinquennial inspection by the church architect and thankfully, there were no major surprises. Given the age of the building however, there remains a long list of minor works to manage when funds are available. We also passed full electrical and insurance checks. The maintenance of both buildings and churchyard takes up a lot of time in the course of the year and we are very grateful for those that help out.

The Churchwardens are also in the course of updating a risk review for the whole site including the upper churchyard.

The weather has been a challenge showing up several leaks in the roof. We have recently had some work done on this and it is hoped that the problem has now been fixed. The front wall that faces on to the High Street is also in the process of being restored. We also need to replace the weather vane when funds permit.

We are always keen to have more involvement in parish affairs by the congregation and as such would welcome applications in the following areas:

- Churchyard maintenance
- Flower arranging
- Brass cleaning
- Coffee making
- Newsletter deliveries and sorting of rounds
- Church welcomers and sidesmen
- Bellringers
- Choir
- Helping with youth and Sunday clubs
- The spring clean
- And as always the fete

We are grateful for the input of the Wallace-Hadrills in the choir and in many aspects of our worship. We shall miss them and wish them well in their move.

The Almshouses trustees offer thanks to Jill Bugg for her work as administrator, particularly throughout the difficult period of refurbishment. She has recently stood down and has been replaced by Kathy Ridges.

We especially thank Margaret and Roger Bowley who have stepped down this year having done so much to ensure to continuous administration of all matters that affect the running of the Church over many years of service. Roger has been PCC Secretary for more years than we care to remember and has always fulfilled the role with good humour and efficiency. We would also like to thank Margaret for the very efficient running of the parish office and production of the pew leaflets and service books that we tend to take for granted. Richard and Rosemary North have now very kindly taken over these respective roles.

Thanks should also go to Barbara Reynolds for her work as church cleaner and bookings secretary for the parish rooms as after many years of service she is stepping down. We welcome Sabina Harvey to the post of bookings secretary. We appreciate the support of congregation, PCC and parish and ask to be remembered in your prayers.

Nick Bugg and David Sayers

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT

Life at St Mary's Northchurch continues to thrive. The Sunday morning services continue to be well attended, as have the special services during the Easter and Christmas periods. Particularly popular among families once again was the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. The Remembrance Day Service saw the reading out for the first time of a revised Northchurch 'Roll of Honour' with several additional names being included. Peggy Sear once again organised a 'Quiet Day' at the start of Advent, which many people found helpful. The regular Taizé Sunday evening services are also popular.

Rev. Michael Eggleton continues taking services at St Mary's, normally alternating with the incumbent, Rev Jonathan Gordon. During the year, we gained a new Reader, David White, who officially joined Doreen Knapp, Peggy Sear and Edgar Wille but we will shortly be losing Eva Wallace-Hadrill who is moving away from the area. Ed Stewart and Peach Berry continue to lead the thriving Youth Group, but new helpers are always needed on a Sunday morning in the Sunday School. During the year, our former Rector, Rev. John Tabor spoke at one of the Sunday morning services, as did Rev Edgar Ruddock. Clare Hodgson spoke at another service during November on her ongoing work with Mission Direct.

The PCC met on six occasions during 2013 with the Rector chairing all but one of the meetings, the other one being chaired by Nick Bugg, one of the Churchwardens. Additionally, the Standing Committee met on one occasion to discuss the new insurance arrangements for the church buildings being put in place by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

At the Annual Church Meeting in April, Philip James and Charlotte Pritchard stepped down having served for many years as PCC members. We thank both Charlotte and Philip for all their many contributions over the years. Three new members of the congregation joined the PCC – Andrew Dobbie, Sara Fox and Quentin Jones. At this year's ACM Richard Gurney will be standing down having recently married and moved away from Northchurch. Richard has played a valuable part in the life of the Parish, particularly with the Fabric, and he will be missed, especially where climbing onto the church roof is concerned.

During the year, the PCC spent a considerable amount of time discussing Finance and Fabric matters. The recent heavy rain has once again highlighted problems with the church roof and plans are underway for remedial work to the walls. A major fundraising initiative to raise money for the urgent repairs to the church organ has now begun, led by our organist, Jenny Hoare, and several events are already planned for the year and are mentioned elsewhere in these reports.

During the year, there were 33 baptisms, 5 weddings, 1 marriage blessing and 15 funerals.

Our outreach to the local community and the wider field continues with the monthly Newsletter and website and has recently been joined by new Facebook and Twitter pages for the church. All these are being used to raise the profile of St Mary's in the local area as well as further afield and to advertise specific needs and forthcoming events. The life of one of our most famous churchyard 'residents' – 'Peter the Wild Boy' once again featured on national television and led to an increase in 'hits' to our website.

Finally, this is my first report as PCC Secretary and I must pass on the PCCs specific thanks to Roger Bowley who stood down at the end of 2013 as both PCC Secretary and PCC member having served in those roles for 25 years. Margaret Bowley has also recently stood down as Parish Secretary having served for a similar time in that role. We thank both Roger and Margaret for their tireless efforts over the years in their efficient running of the PCC meetings and church administration. Rosemary North has now taken over the role of PCC Minute Secretary. Thanks should also go to all those who contribute to the overall life of the Parish, no matter how small, which helps to make St Mary's a thriving church.

Richard North

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

At the time of writing, there are 144 members on the electoral roll, 4 more than last year. Since last year, sadly, one member has died but we welcome 5 new members.

Margaret Bowley

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

For the children's team, this year has again consolidated many of the foundations set up over the last few years. It has yet again been a year of many blessings and fulfilled hopes.

The Sunday Groups continue to flourish. Over the year, we have welcomed several new families into our church fellowship, with the children being able to attend various age-related activities. In addition, some new parents have joined the team. On a typical Sunday, our crèche welcomes babies and toddlers into the parish rooms. However, the provision of a crèche has not been easy this year, as our regular organisers have moved on, so we are currently looking for new helpers to guide the crèche ministry. The rest of the children on a typical Sunday are split into two main groups: Sparklers (nursery, reception, year 1 and 2) and Rockets and Runway (year 3-7). Due to increasing commitments for many of the Sunday school team, the two older groups, Rockets and Runway have had to team up. A new fresh and different way of managing this is now in progress and so far, both the team and children are enjoying fellowship and learning together. Many thanks to the whole Sunday school team who pull out the stops to ensure that children engage in meaningful worship and teaching each week.

In addition, a big thank you to Louisa Osmond who continues to co-ordinate the holiday activities held on Sunday mornings during the holidays. These activities are aimed at children aged 3 to 7. There continues to be a good turnout with our children enjoying learning God's Word together. Many thanks to the Sunday holiday team.....we still need more volunteers to boost this team, as many of our regular team need a break from regular Sunday activities.

The fun mornings, which are held at the end of each term, continue to consolidate what the children have been learning in a worshipful and fun environment with all ages present.

As our children mature, we continue to add more activities to further their spiritual journey. For instance, over the last year we have launched our younger youth group covering school years 5-7. This is proving successful and allows our children to transition easily into the older youth ministry. In addition, a forerunners course has been organised to prepare our older children and youth for the journey of confirmation and beyond. The course has taken the shape of a mini Alpha and proved a really blessed time for all those who attended. Another forerunners course is in the pipeline. Needless to say, none of this is possible without the support and help of our youth worker, Ed Stewart, who directs the process. Thanks also to the support and help of the parent volunteers who offer their support and encouragement.

We now look forward to joining with the other local churches in Northchurch and Berkhamsted to organise the annual children's Easter holiday club. This holiday club continues to bring the Easter message in a fun, Biblical and engaging manner to our children.

Thank you again to all our volunteers for their commitment and prayer.

Peach Berry and Linda Slim

YOUTH WORK

The main focus of the Youth Work at St Mary's continues to be centred around 'The Lighthouse' which meets on Sunday evenings between 6.30-8.30pm at the church.

Sunday evening is split into two parts. Firstly, there is an hour discussion group where the young people can explore and develop their Christian faith, and secondly there is the 'Lighthouse Cafe' which allows the young people to socialise with their friends as well as participate in a wide range of activities. These activities include Wii games on the large projector, pool and table tennis. Recently we have purchased a new table football game, which has become increasingly popular with the young people. All our games facilities are lightweight and therefore can be easily folded and stowed away in the parish rooms at the end of the evening.

Although there are often a number of other activities planned for the young people, many of them prefer to use the time to socialise, enjoy fellowship and to develop their friendships further in a Godly environment. There is also a tuck shop, which sells drinks and sweets. However, many of the young people choose to bring in their own homemade cakes to share with their friends. During the summer months (weather permitting), we tend to use the five-a-side football nets on the school field and occasionally we have been known to have a barbecue at the end of the year.

Although the group is largely comprised of those whose families are in some way connected to the church, occasionally we receive visitors from other churches in the town as well as from outside the Christian community. Ecumenical activities are encouraged and promoted through REFRAC, a town wide youth project where the young people of Berkhamsted link up to engage in joint activities such as youth services.

Although our numbers do vary depending on the time of year, we usually have between 6 and 14 young people attending the group on a Sunday evening. In addition, we have had contact with a further 10 young people over the past year in some way or another. This has been largely through additional events put on by the group such as film nights and away days. This March we are hoping to take 18 young people away with us for the weekend at Felden Lodge in Boxmoor.

In addition, over the past year a monthly Friday night youth group has been established for the younger age range with similar activities to the Lighthouse Cafe. The lunch club at Ashlyns School continues to be popular with the students at the school and the detached youth work also enhances the links between the local churches and the wider youth of the town.

Finally, I would like to thank the Charity of Dr Smoult for giving us the necessary funds to make it possible for us to run a full youth programme at the church. Moreover, it would not be possible to run the youth work without the ongoing support and help of our volunteer team. Overall, I am especially pleased with the way in which the young people have matured in their faith over the past year and look forward to seeing them taking on a greater leadership role, both within the youth groups as well as in the wider church in the not too distant future.

Ed Stewart

CHURCH MUSIC

The choir is currently achieving a high standard of musicianship and balance and there were some memorable musical moments in 2013.

Passiontide always provides a rich source of choral music and the choir made a significant contribution to a moving Maundy Thursday and powerful Good Friday service. An arrangement of *Christ is risen* by John Goss and *The angel rolled the stone away* were highly contrasting anthems that captured the joy of Easter morning.

The summer soiree was the culmination of a choral workshop with over 50 voices ably directed by Richard Grylls. The church choir was joined by enthusiastic singers from the area in brushing up Faure's ever-popular Requiem and in tackling the monumental Vierne *Messe solennelle*, written for choir and TWO organs. Madalina Tudoran's *Pie Jesu* was memorable, the *Kyrie* was breathtaking and Liam Cartwright's skills on the organ transported us to a French cathedral, both in the Vierne and in his solos.

The autumn brought Harvest and a highly enjoyable afternoon of musical entertainment including a traditional songs of praise service to conclude the day. Then the choir began the serious work of preparing for All Souls (a service for the dear departed), Remembrance Sunday, Advent and Christmas. The choir practised very hard learning new music and revisiting familiar works and our annual visit to the George and Dragon was greeted with delight. Although we did not gain any recruits we certainly gave the locals an evening to remember. Choir attendance was excellent over Christmas and we made a pleasing contribution to a wonderful festive season.

Apart from meeting at Friday night choir practice and Sunday services, members of the choir have sung for weddings and participated in other concerts and special services in the area. Some members accepted a special invitation to Oxford to experience a liturgical performance of the Vierne Mass in the stunning chapel of Exeter College, which was followed by a splendid dinner in the great hall. The choir is open to anyone who enjoys singing and wishes to make a contribution, even if it is not possible to commit to all services. Please do speak to anyone from the choir and find out more.

The organ developed a new fault in March 2013, which resulted in inspections by two organ builders. They diagnosed a split in the old timber of the wind chest in the north case and each gave an estimated repair cost in the region of £4,000 - £5,000. The PCC have asked Andrew Stevens, who currently maintains the organ, to carry out this work and is scheduled to begin in November 2014. Plans for fundraising were developed as the year ended with many exciting projects for 2014 already on the calendar. We are particularly delighted that Hilary Norris, former musical director at St Mary's, will return on 24th April at 7.30pm to launch a recital series in aid of the Organ Repair Appeal. The Promises Auction on 10th May and Hymnathon on 19th July are other fundraising events to look forward to in 2014.

As I complete my third year in St Mary's I continue to feel privileged to play the organ and direct the choir here. I am supported by most able musicians, Rachel, Alastair, Roger and Gareth, and by all the clergy, laystaff, PCC and members of the congregation. Thank you all.

Jenny Hoare

MUSIC GROUP

The music group leads the worship for our family services about 8 times a year. We number 16 in total (adults and young people) and whilst we do not all attend every service, there is always a good turnout and a good sound is produced. We do not have a regular rehearsal time due to people leading busy lives, but sometimes we meet to go through parts on a Saturday evening. We now have a very comprehensive repertoire of hymns and choruses that we can play well. It is lovely to have the young people in church for the family worship and the music group provides variety in our worship. It was lovely to hear the young people from the group perform several solo items at the Phakamisa Concert on 8th March, which raised a considerable sum of money for the charity. New members are always welcome.

Rachel Gordon

MONDAY EVENING HOUSE GROUP

Eva and James Wallace-Hadrill took over hosting and leading the group last September after joining us in the spring. David White joined us later in the year and generously decided to take over these roles when Eva and James decided to move from the area. With their going, the numbers attending the group will fall to around five people so we would welcome others who would like to join us each fortnight for a time of Bible study and prayer.

Rosemary North

WEDNESDAY HOME GROUP

The Wednesday home group has continued to meet approximately every other week in the evening at a house in Tortoiseshell Way, Berkhamsted, usually excluding school holidays. For much of the year, we followed a DVD/Study Guide course on 'What's so Amazing about Grace' and we are now following a Scripture Union Bible study on 'Characters of the Old Testament'. We have 5 or 6 regular members, and anyone who'd like to join us would be made very welcome. If you are interested, get in touch with me.

Linda Slim

THURSDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Although we may be fewer in number this year, there are usually about 7 - 8 of us that meet regularly, sharing in a time of fellowship, prayer and Bible study. We meet at the home of Peach Berry on alternate Thursdays and it has been a blessing to share and support one another in our Christian journeys.

During the year, we have used a range of Christian material. This has focused largely on studying the parables, using a DVD and discussion format. We are currently using a DVD based on the book 'A life worth living' by John Ortberg. It comes with a useful personal guide that allows the group to continue their spiritual journeys at home. A typical evening starts

with refreshments and cheerful banter followed by the DVD, discussions, with the evening ending in a time of reflection, prayer and worship.

Peach Berry

BERKHAMSTED DEANERY SYNOD

Since the last report, there has only been one Deanery Synod meeting, which took place on 12th June 2013 and chaired by Rev Michael Bowie, the Rural Dean.

At that meeting, it was reported that from 2014, first post curate costs will be met by the Diocese. Housing will be provided if necessary and parishes with existing curate housing will be credited for it. It is hoped that more parishes will provide training posts.

Steven Fletcher, the Reader-in-Training from St John's, Bourne End introduced a discussion on 'IT in the Parish and Diocese' and displayed a selection of websites from local churches.

His presentation focussed on:

- With whom do you wish primarily to communicate via your website – present church members ('internal audience') or those who do not attend (your) church ('external audience')?
- What do you want to communicate?
- Does your website show how your church impinges on family life or is it solely a list of structures and service times?

The subsequent discussion points included:

- Focus on the websites – keep them simple
- www.christianity.org.uk is a website where prayers can be posted. This attracts many non-Christian users.
- Consent is needed if pictures of individuals appear on the website to comply with data protection laws.
- Be cautious of putting private email and telephone numbers on websites as these can attract spam.

The scheduled October Deanery Synod meeting became a lecture in Tring Church open to all and advertised as 'The Future of the Church of England'. It was delivered by Canon Professor Martyn Percy, Principal of Cuddesden College, Oxford. Perhaps his most pungent point was that the choice of futures for the Church of England may not be based on 'bums on seats'. He felt that it might be better to have 'bums off seats' and out into the real world, with Christians playing their part in other scenarios such as local councils, governing bodies and voluntary organisations. He implied that Church of England members need to be tolerant of others' ideas, but also to be aware that one's own beliefs could engender unpopularity with others.

On 19th March 2014, Jonathan was commissioned as Rural Dean by the Archdeacon at a special Eucharist Service at St Mary's. We congratulate him and wish him a happy and successful tenure in office.

Gareth Pritchard

GINGERBREAD HOUSE NIGHT

The biennial St Mary's Gingerbread House Night took place on 6 December 2013 in the Parish Rooms. At the sell-out event over 60 women and girls of all ages had the opportunity to make and decorate their own Gingerbread House, enjoy seasonal refreshments and each other's company. Many thanks to our wonderful speaker, year, Claudette Fisher-Johnson, who spoke of the importance of taking time out from the pressures of getting ready for Christmas to remember the real reason for Christmas. Many thanks to all those who helped to organise and run the event.

Linda Slim

NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter has now been going for nine years in its current format. Our advertiser base is steady and advertising continues to bring a healthy income into the Newsletter budget. I would be extremely grateful if someone could come forward and help me manage the advertising side of the Newsletter.

Remember – all church events are advertised completely free of charge.

Please do continue to send in your local items of interest.

There are several people who write regular items for the Newsletter and who produce their articles every month on time without having to be reminded – thank you for your loyalty. I would especially like to thank our team of distributors for their work all the year round. They are a very dedicated bunch of people. Occasionally, someone has to drop out due to moving out of the area or their knees giving out, or other reasons. I greatly appreciate it when people find their own replacements to take over from them – and even more so when these kind people will collect their bundles from church. Keep up the good work; your efforts are much appreciated.

I would also like to thank the staff at Gemini Printers for their support with the Newsletter and for their unfailing good humour.

Jill Hipson

ANNUAL FETE

After the rain of 2012, we had the wonderful sunshine of 2013. The entertainment was provided in part by the excellent Hemel Hempstead Brass Band, alongside stalls, tea and cake, games and other activities. It was very well supported by the local community and we raised around £2,500 to be split between local charities and the church. The organising committee are very grateful to the willingness of volunteers to help out with moving tables, setting up stalls, to Caroline for her microphone duties on the day and also to May and Andrew for counting the proceeds.

The fete is a team exercise and we are always looking for any willing person who would like to get involved in planning and organisation. Each year is always slightly different and there is scope for new ideas and suggestions. One has already been acted upon by buying a couple more gazebos for the Rectory garden to offer protection from the sun whilst enjoying tea and cakes. Hopefully, that will be their main use this coming year!

Jonathan Gordon

NORTHCHURCH CHURCH HOUSES

All is going well but sadly, one of our residents died during the year. There were no unexpected maintenance problems. The wall between No.96 and the churchyard wall had been separated to control some damp problems. We are looking for a new resident to occupy the vacant flat. Jill Bugg stood down as administrator in September. Our thanks go to Jill for her work in particular during the refurbishment. An additional trustee post was created and the trustees are pleased to welcome Karen Brady to the position.

Kathy Ridges (on behalf of the Trustees)

FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild has continued organising floral arrangements in the Church throughout the year. Easter, Harvest and Christmas services were especially decorated with a number of floral and candle displays. (The Guild made a contribution towards the purchase of the candles for the window displays.) Donations from parishioners and other churchgoers towards the flowers purchased for display have been received and are appreciated.

Arrangements have also been organised, where requested, for weddings and other events.

A stall was organised by the Guild at the Summer Fete, with games and the sale of various items.

Mrs Wilma Taylor has recently moved away from the area and her support for the Guild and her artistic skills will be much missed. However, new members have recently joined and we look forward to continuing our contribution.

Denise Rouse

BELLRINGERS

The bellringers have continued the tradition of hospitality at St Mary's, supported by Rev Jonathan. For the second half of the year, work on the walls and tower at Redbourn meant their ringers could not use their bells – so once a month they practised with us. These practices were so much fun that Redbourn ringers will join a Northchurch practice on alternate months during 2014. The expert ringers from Redbourn enable us to ring something more complicated on eight bells than we can manage on our own, and we give their less experienced people the chance to ring among eight bells.

Throughout the year, St Mary's is host to expert friends who attempt to ring a quarter peal, mostly with success! They in turn have been generous to the church community. One quarter peal was dedicated in thanksgiving for the lives of two people who had recently died; the band invited me to join them in a celebration of the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Anne and Bill Frew; and another quarter marked David White being licensed as a Reader at St Mary's. The 'certificate' subsequently presented to the 'beneficiaries' has, in each case, given much pleasure.

Three quarter peals were rung by other visiting bands, including one rung on St George's Day; and there were two successes at Northchurch during the District Quarter Peal Weekend. This latter event is organised each year by our 'local bell club' and Northchurch ringers, Philip, Valerie and Vivienne, all took part, ringing either at St Mary's or at other towers in the area. The tower takes pride in the election of Helen as member of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths, one of the societies of 'top' ringers.

Friends from other towers augmented St Mary's ringers to ring for three weddings and for the School Carol Service, and we also benefit from their participation in our practice nights on 1st and 3rd Mondays. Sunday by Sunday, you hear your ringers ringing to a good standard. Rarely are there fewer than six bells before services – and on one occasion nine ringers turned up and we ran out of bells!

To ring a bell is to make the loudest sound in praise of God. The organ offers a wider variety of tones but less volume. The bells hope to make their contribution to the Organ Repair Appeal in 2014. Would you like a 'certificate' to record a quarter peal rung to mark a personal or family event? Would you like to learn to handle a bell with one of the best instructors in the area? Then make your bids at the Auction of Promises in May.

Valerie Clark, Tower Captain

KNEELER PROJECT

The Kneeler Project is still alive and well, albeit the 'production line' is moving at a slower rate than in past years. The reason for this is simply that a large number of the people who wanted to be involved at the start only wanted to stitch one kneeler. Fortunately, a faithful few have been keen to press on with me, so that our ambition to enhance the pews and fill the body of the Church with colourful embroidery might be achieved. We are spurred on by knowing that with 62 kneelers in the pews our goal must soon be in sight.

Two new kneelers are in the process of being made up and will soon be in the Church.

These are:

- A celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was designed by Valerie Clark and worked by her sister Pam.
- Miniature daffodils with crocus. This was stitched by Margaret Davis and is dedicated to Margot Hughes, the wife of a past Rector of Northchurch, Canon Bernard Hughes.

I am currently stitching a kneeler in memory of Bernard (who, incidentally, I knew as my brother-in-law's father as much as Rector). I know that some older members of the congregation still remember Margot and Bernard with affection.

My thanks are due to Janet Volker, Jacky Roberts and Judy Wilkin for their support and help with making up the kneelers. I would also like to mention the contribution made by Margaret Davis to the Project. She has just completed her sixth kneeler, so becoming one of our super stitchers.

There will always be a warm welcome for new stitchers. If you would like to have a go, but do not know how, we can teach you. My contact details are below, or you can have a word with me on a Sunday morning.

Marilyn Pryor

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE

Once again, we have had a terrific team of volunteers who have given their time after the 10 o'clock service to supply us with refreshments in the Parish Room. There are 28 of us, who work in pairs, and we all do either 3 or 4 sessions a year. Luckily, we have not lost anyone this year, but if ever anyone would like to give us a hand, we will not refuse their help! As you can see, it does not take up much of anyone's time. I am sure the refreshments are greatly appreciated by the congregation and it gives us all the opportunity to share time together after the service and to support the Fairtrade Stall.

Thank you so much everyone for all your help. If anyone would like to find out more, please contact me.

Sue Jukes

MONDAY CLUB

The Monday Club is a social club for people of any age and of either sex who live alone. We aim to provide a varied and stimulating programme in a friendly atmosphere where newcomers to the Parish, of whom we have recently welcomed three, as well as longer-term residents, are always most welcome. Currently we have a membership of over thirty.

Meetings are held in the Parish Room and, over the past year, we have enjoyed talks on the Magistrates Court, Peter the Wild Boy and the Historic Churches Cycle Ride as well as demonstrations of quilting, patchwork and flower arranging. A lady who was born in the Czech Republic, which was then part of the former Czechoslovakia, gave us a very moving and interesting account of her early life in that country, its customs and traditions and the great changes which it has undergone.

Members of the Strathspey and Reel Club danced for us, as did the children of St Mary's School, and Jenny Hoare brought her keyboard and tested our ability to sing while also explaining the purpose of the Organ Fund.

We plan an annual coach trip to a Garden Centre and at bluebell time have a walk, followed by tea at the Ashridge Visitor Centre. Last year other outings included theatre visits and lunch at one of the nearby village restaurants.

Several events are now popular regular annual features in the programme. These are the Harvest lunch and Service, teas with traditional fare at Easter and Christmas and, weather permitting, a very enjoyable garden party at Willow Cottage.

We are always keen to hear of people who would be willing to come and give a short talk, or demonstration, on a subject of their interest and, while we cannot offer to pay fees, we are very happy to donate to a charity of their choice.

Very special thanks are due to Northchurch United Charities for their generous support and also, this year, to the Berkhamsted Lions. Their donations have contributed greatly to the cost of transport for those who need it to attend meetings and outings. Thanks also go to Joan Cox, assisted by Jennie Budd, for help with catering and to Tony Lockhart who provides transport for the few members who live further away from the Parish Room. All of us appreciate their kind and unstinting support.

Joan Downhill

MOTHERS' UNION

In 2013, our three Mothers' Union branches in Tring, Berkhamsted and Leverstock Green have continued to thrive and all members had a very busy year fundraising by sewing, knitting and contributing goods for the many projects both at home and abroad including disaster areas.

Our first event was our annual 'Lady Day' service in April in Tring led by Rev Jane Bannister.

Our stall at the Church Fete was stacked high with goods and lots of Jennie Budd's tangy marmalade. Many thanks to her and Elizabeth for their help.

At Harvest time, we welcomed 'The Happy Wanderers' to a service in church and teas in the Parish Room much enjoyed by them all.

We thank the Brass team for keeping the brasses bright and shiny.

We also helped with Thursday lunches, the Monday Club monthly prayer and study group, CRISIS for Christmas and other fundraising events.

Out thanks to Jonathan, our Rector, and Rachel for all you do for us and for your guidance and to all our friends for their time and help enabling us to have such a happy year.

Joan Cox

TIME OUT

Over the last year, the Time Out 2 group have met on a regular monthly basis, either in our homes or on organised outings. We had an enjoyable walk around Ashridge last May to see the bluebells, and on a scorchingly hot day in July, we toured the beautiful Rose Gardens at Chiswell Green, St Albans. We were blessed with another fine day for our visit to Chenies Manor in September, and then finished 2013 with a visit to Waddesdon Manor. There, we enjoyed a pleasant lunch, followed by a tour of

the manor itself, which had been splendidly decorated with huge Christmas trees in each room. More recently, we enjoyed a pancake tea at Gill Bugg's house on Shrove Tuesday, and have planned various walks and outings for the next six months.

In December, we held a coffee morning and lunch in aid of Crisis for Christmas, at which the sum of £436.80 was raised. During the course of the year, we have also knitted eight school jumpers for needy children in Zimbabwe. Over the last 2-3 years, we have been raising money for the refurbishment of the cushion and carpet at the altar rail and the altar itself. This project is still ongoing, and our next step will be to remove the carpet at the altar to expose the stone floor underneath. We are intending to have an accessories stall at the church fete in July to raise further funds for this project.

Karen Baldwin

CHRISTIAN AID

For Christian Aid Week 2013, 18 roads were collected from by the St Mary's team. As I have said previously there is an opportunity for us to raise much needed money, as there are many roads across our village, which are simply not being visited.

To support Christian Aid Week we held a 'Souper Soup' lunch, which helped bring in over £280, and our grand total including our 18 door-to-door collections was £1,805.

Thank you to all those that joined me on the streets of Northchurch, your efforts are so vital and also thanks to all who contributed. The money we raise is of incalculable worth to those with little chance to support themselves.

Please consider joining the team in time for Christian Aid Week 2014, 11th -17th May.

Nick Laing

STEWARDSHIP SCHEME

I help run the stewardship scheme for St Mary's. This scheme allows you to give, giftaided or not, without having to fill in envelopes every time you visit church.

- There is the box scheme for those that make a commitment on value and in return receive a years' worth of envelopes.
- There are the loose white envelopes for giftaid donations of whatever value you wish to give.
- There is paying by standing order, so you never have to fish around for cash during the service.

We have plenty of spare boxes available if you want to get involved.

Whichever way you would like to make your commitment and donations easy for you, please contact Nick Laing or May Smullen for more information.

Nick Laing

MISSIONS & CHARITIES

We have a very ad hoc Missions and Charities system at St Mary's which, arguably, could benefit from somebody to volunteer and coordinate our activities.

We support several 'main' charities, including Mission Direct, Phakamisa, The Children's Society, Christian Aid, DENS and others that regularly are supported.

We had a return visit from Claire Hodgson in November to update us on the extraordinary work of Mission Direct. The work is done by teams of volunteers, who visit for two weeks to help build housing, schools, churches, for people who'd been living in effectively 'shanty towns'. Claire, who leads these teams, was able to take £1,400 in donations from St Mary's – a fabulous contribution – thank you.

Nick Laing

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

During 2013, the 40 box holders raised a total of £878. The Christingle Service collection brought in a further £41 so overall St Mary's sent £919 to the Children's Society. To everyone who has contributed, very many thanks for this excellent total. The Children's Society uses its income to help vulnerable and disadvantaged children – these include those at risk on the streets, disabled children, young carers and those within the youth justice system.

Visit www.childrenssociety.org.uk to see an outline of the work including some case histories.

Some of our box-holders have moved away and so we have some spare boxes. If you would like to become a box-holder and have somewhere to put your small (or large!) change, please me. Boxes are collected in during December for the annual count. Every penny counts!

Gareth Pritchard

TRAIDCRAFT

Traidcraft was formed in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty and it is great to see the significant increase in fairly traded goods being sold across the UK.

I make no apology for cribbing from the 2013 Traidcraft report as the message is the same as it ever was - buying fairly traded products should be routine for us all. Charlotte has often said, we hope our stall becomes 'redundant' as people now have the chance to buy their regular items from all the supermarkets.

However, as St Mary's is a Fairtrade church we are committed to using fairly traded coffee and tea at our social activities. We continue to sell a variety of foods after the 10am service

every Sunday. The Traidcraft catalogue, recently updated includes a plethora of clothing, gifts, food and things that we are happy to order for you.

It also has a website from which you can order their products direct. If you have a chance to look at the website, you will not only find the considerable number of products we don't stock but frequently you will find items being sold at special prices!

Anything we buy, we get a discount for regular buying and the profit goes directly into church funds.

Nick Laing

SPONSORED BIKE 'N HIKE

As usual this year the bike and hike began long before September with happy memories and surprises from the 2012 event. The Committee of the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust, who run this annual event in the two counties, decided that they would like to make an award for all those churches that had worked so hard last year by giving a gold certificate for raising £2,000, a silver for £1,000, with a bronze certificate for £500. I was delighted that our church was awarded the silver and on receiving it at the family service, I leapt up and down like an Olympic medallist and challenged the congregation to a) find me a biscuit and some squash (I had come on my bike) and b) to go for gold in 2013.

Did we make it? Wait and see.

Our organist Jenny Hoare was ready to rise to the challenge and she had a plan. She decided to visit as many churches as possible and play the organ wherever she went. She set up her light-hearted 'Justgiving' page, and canvassed all of her friends and family. People were very generous and she had an inspiring day out. The money she raised will go towards some repair work for the organ, so it has been a good start to the fundraising.

Who else went out? We had elderly and young cyclists and walkers alike setting off on their days out on a wet and horrible morning in September, some first timers and other old hands. We wrapped our sponsor forms in plastic, and off we went.

One of our most experienced couples, the Cuthbertsons, opted for an exploratory day in North Norfolk and made new discoveries of amazing churches such as one that was designed by an eccentric Victorian clergyman, with several prominent thin, pinnacled turrets. Another has wonderful box pews labelled with farm names and including one for the vicar's family and one for his servants! In one small town, they found that there were actually two churches joined together one of which serves as a parish room. So next year remember, going on holiday is no excuse to get out of your bike and hike event, just take the bikes and explore new places.

Amazingly this year, for the first time, both the Hodgsons are over 60, so I took my form to all my colleagues at work and to everyone who did not run away quickly enough and told them of our great age, and how we needed to be sure to be well and truly motivated to keep up this tireless campaign to keep our wonderful heritage alive. Our little band of 5 cycled 41 miles and visited 27 churches. We ate lots of cake and thoroughly enjoyed a couple of pub stops too (well 4 actually).

Yes you ask, but how much money? Well I can tell you that we made it to gold. The last letter that I received from Patrick Lepper, the Trustee responsible for our area, informed me that our total was a magnificent £1,746, which is increased to £2,197 with giftaid, of which £873 has already been deposited in St Mary's bank account to pay for much needed repair work. I think their Bike 'n Hike Treasurer, Richard North, may even be able to confirm that the final total was even higher.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the day especially Jennie Budd who provided the refreshments at St Mary's, and Elizabeth Lachenal who helped to set them out. We could not do any of it without our lovely friendly bunch of church welcomers, and of course, you, the congregation who provided the sponsorship money and the prayers for our safety on the day.

Please make a note of the date for 2014 and make sure you join in the fun. It is Saturday 13th September. You can start and finish anywhere you like, and travel by any method be it cycle, walking, electric buggy. The point is to visit as many churches as you can and meet lots of friendly people who all have this great Christian love in common.

Certainly, this sponsored ride has provided much-needed funds both for our own church and for the Beds and for the Herts Historic Churches Trust for provides grants for churches in the two counties for essential maintenance work.

Evelyn Hodgson

NORTHCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES

Northchurch United Charities was grateful for the generous donation from the proceeds of the St Mary's church fête last year. This enabled the trustees to make only a slightly reduced disbursement of funds to individuals and organisations, such as St Mary's Monday Club, Berkhamsted Under-5s Club, the Stroke Club, and the Happy Wanderers Club, which benefit people living in Berkhamsted and Northchurch as encompassed in the old parish of Northchurch.

Rosemary North

THE CHARITY OF DR SMOULT

For more than 300 years, this Charity has administered money left under the will of a former Rector of St Mary's. Since the Benefice was enlarged to include Wigginton, the Trustees widened the residential area of benefit, which is now 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'.

Young people up to the age of 25 living in these areas, or who are active members of either St Mary's or St Bartholomew's churches, may apply for grants to further their education. During the year, some grants were made to individual students, either for their studies or for

educational trips at home or abroad. Local schools and youth groups also received grants for resources or for training activities.

Anyone interested in more information, or who know a qualifying youngster, should contact me.

Valerie Clark

ST MARY'S SCHOOL

It has been an exciting year for St Mary's School, with lots of opportunities for learning and fun and it has also been a busy one, as we prepare for becoming a primary school in September and look forward to celebrating our 150th anniversary in October.

We have welcomed several new members of the teaching staff – Mr Potter (Deputy Head), Mrs Bates (Reception teacher), Mrs Zimmet (maternity cover in Y3). Rosemary North and Alison Laing stepped down from the Governing Body, having served the school for thirty years between them.

In the autumn term we reviewed our strategic aims and vision and established a school ethos statement. We ran interactive sessions with our staff and parents and used questionnaires for our pupils and parents to capture their opinions on how they would like our school to be in the future. The Governing Body reviewed and discussed the feedback and then formulated an updated strategic vision for the school:

Our motto:

'Excellence together, learning through faith'

Our mission statement:

'To be a caring, Christian environment, nurturing a life-long love of learning'

Our strategic aims:

With a whole-hearted commitment to putting our Christian faith and spiritual development at the heart of St Mary's, we aim to:

- achieve excellence in all that we do
- deliver the highest standards of teaching and learning
- develop happy, confident and resilient children, instilled with a life-long love of learning
- create an environment where everyone in the school can reach their full potential
- encourage mutual respect, acceptance and tolerance throughout our community
- encourage a true partnership between the school, pupils, parents, the parish, governors and the Local Authority, for the benefit of our children

Our ethos statement:

Recognising its historic foundation, St Mary's school will seek to preserve and develop its religious character in accordance with the principles of the Church of England and in partnership with the churches at parish and diocesan level.

The school aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice.

St Mary's seeks to encourage an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith, thereby promoting Christian values through the experience it offers to all its pupils.

Our Christian values underpin our school culture and every half term we 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.

Term	Value	Term	Value
Autumn 1	Justice	Spring 2	Humility
Autumn 2	Peace	Summer 1	Love
Spring 1	Trust	Summer 2	Compassion

We ran a competition for the children to write a school prayer, and the winning entry came from Bethany Hall in year 4: 'Dear Lord, please let St Mary's be a happy place, where teachers enjoy teaching, to give children a good education and where everyone is kind and helpful to each other. Amen'

We welcome children of all faiths and none at St Mary's and as well as teaching our pupils about Christianity, we also learn about other world religions, to encourage tolerance, respect and understanding. 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 and David Russell.

- Year 1 visited St Mary's Church and created books to develop their understanding of church interiors
- Year 1 enjoyed a Judaism workshop, learning stories from the Torah, creating a synagogue and making unleavened bread
- Year 2 visited St Albans Abbey in September
- Year 3 visited the North Watford Mosque, where they impressed the Imam with their knowledge and understanding of Islamic customs and worship.
- Year 4 visited Bhaktiveda 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.
- Year 4 visited Hitchin Gudwara to learn about Sikh worship. They listened to a talk and were invited into the langar (kitchen and dining hall) to enjoy a drink and a pakora
- In November, Peach Berry ran a prayer day, doing an assembly on prayer and working with the children in prayer activities throughout the day
- In December we were visited by 'Barnabas in Schools', who run arts-based RE days, encouraging children to explore Christianity creatively. The theme was Advent and Christmas and the children enriched their understanding of Advent through singing songs, playing games and meeting a monkey!

In addition to the RE-related trips and visits, the children also enjoyed other trips and activities at school, including:

- 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' pantomime
- Y3 and Y4 performed 'The Pirates of the Curry-Bean'
- A visit from Team-GB gymnast Danny Lawrence
- Sports day, when we had a glorious sunny day
- A visit from the National Trust to promote their '50 things to do before you are 11 ¾'. The children received a scrap book to fill in over the summer holidays
- The Mad Science Company entertained and inspired the children with practical science experiments involving beach balls, balloons and hairdryers
- Pancake races on Shrove Tuesday
- Dressing up as their favourite literary characters on World Book Day and taking part in a book swap

Nursery and Reception had a trip to 'Butterfly World', represented Australia in an Olympic legacy event in Hemel Hempstead and were visited by a nurse, paramedic, veterinary nurse and dentist

- Y1 visited the Science Museum in London
- Y2 visited Frogmore Paper Mill, had a talk by Bert Hosier on the history of Northchurch and performed their country dancing at the Monday Club. They enjoyed chatting to ladies at the Monday Club who had also learned country dancing whilst at school at St Mary's
- Y3 enjoyed a visit from an employee of Infinity Water, who taught them about how rocks were formed and the difference between sedimentary and metamorphic rocks
- Y4 had a fantastic activity-based residential trip to PGL Marchant's Hill, in Hindhead

As ever, the School Association has worked very hard, raising over £9,500 last year. Successful events included a spring and Christmas fayre, quiz nights and fashion shows.

We encourage the whole school community to support local and national charities and this year we have raised money for Herts Air Ambulance, Children in Need, Macmillan Cancer Support and The Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal. The children also filled shoe boxes with toys and gifts, which were sent to underprivileged children around the world as part of 'Operation Christmas Child'.

Other achievements during the year included:

- Receiving an International Schools Award from the British Council, as a result of e-twinning activities with schools in other countries
- Achieving the School Games Kite-mark Bronze Award
- Coming first in the Dacorum Inter-sports Festival held in June
- Increasing the percentage of children who walk to school by 2%. Our baseline was already 83%, the highest in the town and one of the highest in the county

In November we ran a 'Cool to be kind', anti-bullying week. The PCSO visited and explored what bullying is and how we can stay safe. All year groups worked on age-appropriate activities to empower them to recognise and report bullying.

In May we invited parents, local residents and the Parish Council into school to review our plans for extending the school to be a primary school in September 2014. We have now had approval of our planning application from Dacorum Borough Council. There are no significant conditions to the grant of approval and the planners required only very minor alterations to the plans presented in May. The timing of the work remains tight, but we expect the work to start in earnest during the Easter holiday. The Diocese have been very supportive in providing some funding for some essential works as part of the overall plan e.g. contributing to the cost of installing a new boiler. We were pleased with the outcome of a Health and Safety audit of the front playground, which included testing the air-quality, finding that it is safe to be used by the children.

Eloise Haezewindt

SUMMARY OF ST MARY'S CHARITABLE GIVING

Charity/Mission	2013	2012
Alzheimers Society	£0.00	£294.00
Asthma UK	£0.00	£15.00
Bishop's Appeal for the Hungry	£275.00	£0.00
Breakthrough Breast Cancer	£0.00	£254.48
Children's Society	£357.00	£1,476.95
Christian Aid	£419.39	£409.98
Church Urban Fund	£0.00	£10.00
Churches' Fellowship for Psychical & Spiritual Studies	£0.00	£165.00
CMT UK	£0.00	£237.10
Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter	£40.00	£100.00
Diocesan Induction of Ordinands	£0.00	£197.07
Friends of Michael Sobel Hospice	£0.00	£375.61
Holy Trinity Church, Potten End	£66.75	£0.00
Hospice of St Francis	£151.70	£211.80
Mission Direct	£0.00	£160.00
Northchurch United Charities	£867.92	£0.00
Phakamisa	£0.00	£781.99
RNLI	£0.00	£60.00
Royal British Legion	£110.46	£159.84
SSAFA	£110.45	£159.84
St Mary's Flower Guild	£0.00	£50.00
Street Kids	£0.00	£676.29
Stroke Association	£0.00	£214.47
Unallocated	£867.92	£0.00
Wynaud Trust	£0.00	£45.00
	£3,266.59	£6,054.42

St Mary's Church, Northchurch

Annual Reports and Accounts

of the

Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31 December 2013

to be held in church after morning service
on Sunday, 27 April 2014

Incumbent:

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

Hon Treasurer:

Andrew Reay
5 Jeannie Arm Road
Wendover
HP22 5GP

Independent Examiner:

Steve Mitchell
16 Oxfield Close
Berkhamsted
HP4 3NE

Bankers:

National Westminster Bank
199 High Street
Berkhamsted
HP4 1BH

'Tall Trees'
16 Oxfield Close
Berkhamsted,
Herts.
HP4 3NE

**St Mary's Church, Northchurch.
Charity No. 1130418**

**Annual report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year Ended
31st December 2013**

Independent Examiners Report.

The report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2013, which are set out in the following pages is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 (the regulations) and s 145 of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act).

Respective Responsibilities of the PCC & Examiner.

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of Regulation and the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulation.

Basis of Independent Examiners Report.

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance (2006 edition). The examination included a review of the accounting records maintained by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual item or disclosures in the accounts & seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent Examiners Statement.

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations have been met or have not been met
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.


Steve Mitchell
14th April 2014

TREASURER'S REPORT

2013 saw a varied set of financial challenges at St Mary's. We responded well to almost all of these, and ensured that we continued to support charitable work locally and further afield. However, we were delayed in making our Gift Aid submission for 2012, and this delay has resulted in a significant loss of income during the 2013 financial year. We will receive a return from HMRC through the Gift Aid scheme during 2014, and the accounts contain an accrual for this claim (£9,500). This can be seen in the Balance Sheet that is included within these accounts.

The delay in receiving the payment from HMRC restricted our ability to make the full payment of our financial obligation to the Diocese through the Parish Share during the year. We will make good the shortfall to the Diocese (some £4,000) during 2014.

Whilst we have seen a modest increase in the level of voluntary income during 2013, we face continued upward pressure in operating costs, notably utilities (Church Running Expenses). In 2013, this was primarily due to the particularly harsh winter experienced in the early months of the year. Almost all our costs continue to rise, and this trend has carried on into 2014. Where possible, we looked to reduce outgoings and increase efficiencies, something that we will need to build on in the year ahead.

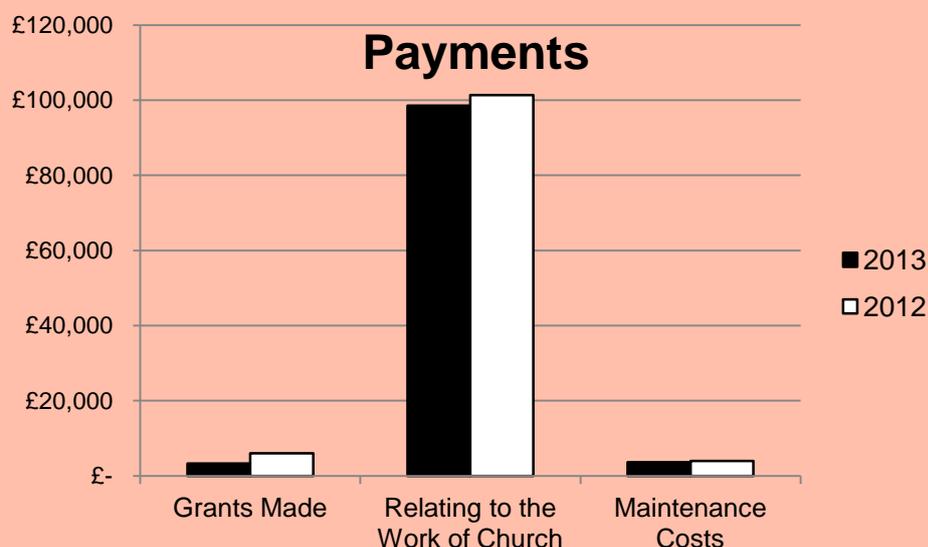
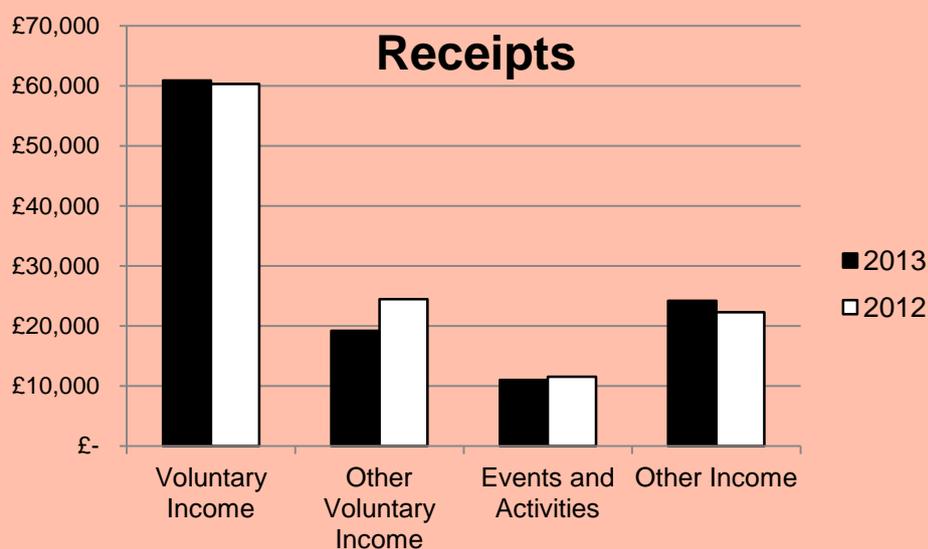
There has been little major expenditure on building maintenance during 2013, but this belies the amount of work and maintenance carried out by the church wardens and large number of people who support the fabric of the Church and Parish Rooms. The quinquennial report on the condition of the church and Parish Rooms contained no surprises, but a number of building works will be required in the years ahead. In the short term, the PCC has determined that dedicated building funds will be released to cover some of these costs. However, the funds are limited, and by using reserves we reduce our contingency to cover any major unforeseen costs in future. It is hoped that we see increases in the levels of giving to replenish our reserves.

It is important to point out that the church receives significant financial support for its Youth work programme. This support comes from both the Moore Road Trust, covering our Youth Worker salary costs, and the Charity of Dr Smoult. During 2013, the Dr Smoult trust made several significant grants, and these have contributed to the number and nature of youth programmes that take place. We are hugely grateful for this financial support, as it allows St Mary's to offer a wide range of activities that attract the young members of our community to the church and all it has to offer.

The year ahead will continue to pose financial challenges, particularly in an environment of rising costs. We will face up to these challenges through actions to reduce our outgoings, but remain reliant on the generosity of our stakeholders to support us financially. One way of maximising any donation made by tax payer is to claim Gift Aid. If you are eligible, please remember to take advantage of this scheme whenever possible. It ensures that an extra 25% is added to the value of donations made by those who pay UK income tax – a great benefit for very little effort.

I am looking forward to another busy year in 2014, in particular those activities in support of the work required to repair the wonderful church organ.

Andrew Reay



Receipts and Payments Account for the Year to 31st December 2013

	2013		Total £	2012	Variance
	Unrestricted £	Restricted £		£	£
Receipts					
<i>Voluntary Income</i>					
Planned Income / Gift Aid Envelopes	47,846	0	47,846	46,043	1,803
Cash Collections	3,569	0	3,569	3,308	261
Income Tax Recovered	9,500	0	9,500	10,972	-1,472
	60,914	0	60,914	60,322	592
<i>Other Voluntary Income</i>					
Specific Legacies	0	0	0	5,000	-5,000
Donations/Legacies (inc HRH Duke of Cornwall)	6,116	192	6,308	3,144	3,164
Special Collections (incl Gift Day)	0	1,772	1,772	4,893	-3,121
Rector's fees	3,666	0	3,666	3,731	-65
PCC fees	4,340	0	4,340	4,326	14
Organist's fees	1,420	0	1,420	1,475	-55
Bellringers' fees	680	0	680	800	-120
Verger's fees	1,021	0	1,021	1,060	-39
Churchyard	0	0	0	30	-30
Grants Received	0	0	0	0	0
	17,243	1,963	19,206	24,459	-5,253
<i>Events and Activities</i>					
Summer Fete	2,604	0	2,604	2,784	-181
Magazine / Printing Income	3,847	0	3,847	4,535	-688
Parish Room Hire	2,895	0	2,895	3,113	-219
Church Lunches	0	0	0	0	0
Historic Churches Cycle Ride	0	1,230	1,230	509	721
Social Activities	0	412	412	601	-189
	9,345	1,642	10,987	11,541	-554
<i>Other Income</i>					
Bank Interest	13	0	13	8	5
Dividends	335	0	335	281	54
C B F Interest	288	0	288	509	-221
Donald Lockhart Memorial Fund	0	4,957	4,957	4,836	121
Northchurch Development Fund	109	0	109	0	109
Rent for 98 High Street	7,217	0	7,217	6,874	344
Insurance Reclaims	0	0	0	426	-426
Organ, Bells, Clock	0	50	50	0	50
Building Fund Income	0	4	4	96	-92
Youth Worker / Youth Group Funding	0	10,003	10,003	8,032	1,971
Sunday School	0	0	0	0	0
Traidcraft sales	0	989	989	1,214	-225
Printing	0	0	0	19	-19
Kneeler Income	0	0	0	12	-12
Alter Rail Carpet Income	0	209	209	0	209
	7,963	16,211	24,174	22,305	1,869
Total Receipts	95,465	19,817	115,282	118,627	-3,346

	2013 £	2012 £	Variance £
Payments			
Grants			
Overseas Missions and Relief Agencies	419	1,742	-1,323
UK Missions and Relief Agencies	2,847	4,312	-1,465
	<u>3,267</u>	<u>6,054</u>	<u>-2,787</u>
Relating to the Work of the Church			
Diocesan Quota	46,472	48,921	-2,449
Rector's fees paid to Diocese	3,666	3,731	-65
Church Running Expenses	16,341	14,329	2,012
Clergy Expenses	2,357	2,495	-138
Service & License Costs	1,213	1,769	-556
Youth Worker Salary	6,300	6,390	-90
Honoraria	4,903	4,975	-72
Organist	1,565	1,520	45
Churchyard	506	871	-365
Magazine	5,010	5,038	-28
Printing	822	633	189
Organ/Clock / Bells Maintenance	784	652	131
Vergers Fees	1,295	1,060	235
Bellringers' fees	760	800	-40
Organist's service fees	1,455	1,475	-20
Other Expenditure	721	2,121	-1,400
Fundraising Costs (incl Fete & Social Activities)	929	1,081	-152
Sunday School Expenses	200	189	12
Youth Work Expenses	1,506	1,700	-194
Traidcraft Purchases	1,289	1,104	185
Kneeler Expenses	77	0	77
C B F Interest Reinvested	398	509	-111
Audit Costs	0	0	0
	<u>98,568</u>	<u>101,362</u>	<u>-2,794</u>
Maintenance Costs			
Major Capital Expenditure	477	0	477
98 High Street	855	2,396	-1,541
Buildings Maintenance	2,122	1,037	1,085
Parish Room	175	531	-356
	<u>3,629</u>	<u>3,964</u>	<u>-335</u>
Total Payments	<u>105,464</u>	<u>111,380</u>	<u>-5,916</u>
Surplus for the Year	<u>9,818</u>	<u>7,247</u>	<u>2,571</u>
Building Fund	-1,539.89	-963.99	-575.90
98 High Street Fund	6,361.95	4,477.50	1,884.45
General Fund	4,995.86	-1,113.60	6,109.46
Unallocated Legacy	0.00	5,000.00	-5,000.00
	<u>9,817.92</u>	<u>7,247.28</u>	<u>2,570.64</u>

Balance Sheet

	2013 £	2012 £
Fixed Assets	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	39,324	39,006
Investments	173,299	159,049
Debtors	1 9,500	
	<u>222,123</u>	<u>198,055</u>
	<u>222,123</u>	<u>198,055</u>
Represented By		
Funds carried forward	<u>222,123</u>	<u>198,055</u>
	<u>222,123</u>	<u>198,055</u>

Note 1

Relates to Gift aid claim for 2012.

Summary of St Mary's Investment funds

Charity/Fund Title	Account No.	No. Shares	Value per Share	Dividend/ Interest	Value of Fund at 31/12/13
<i>National Westminster Bank</i>					£39,324
<i>With St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance</i>					
Northchurch Development Fund	132001842D			£109.47 reinvested	£19,217
Donald Lockhart Memorial Fund	132001875S	9,969.28	£12.61	£4,956.72	£125,694
<i>With Central Board of Finance of the Church of England</i>					
Fixed Interest Securities Fund	632008001F	2,383.19	£154.06	£190.47 reinvested	£3,672
Deposit Fund	632008001D			£97.74 reinvested	£17,159
<i>COIF Charity Funds</i>					
Wagstaff Trust	C0000402616			£2.92	£146
Wagstaff Trust Income Fund	C0000403186			£1.04	£54
Hadden Trust	C0000402615			£3.20	£160
Hadden Trust Income Fund	C0000403185			£0.80	£40
Malcolmson Bequest	C0000402601			£2.96	£148
Bailey	282190001T	18	£11.63	£9.67	£209
Ridley for Church Fabric Fund	282190002T	56	£11.63	£30.09	£651
Michael Memorial fabric Fund	282190003T	58	£11.63	£31.17	£674
Ridley for Churchyard Fund	282190004T	56	£11.63	£29.99	£651
Gwynedd Charity	282190005T	89	£11.63	£47.83	£1,035
Thelwall Trust for Churchyard Upkeep	282190006T	89	£11.63	£47.83	£1,035
A Ashley	282190007T	32	£11.63	£17.20	£372
C B Kings Children for Churchyard	282190008T	15	£11.63	£8.06	£174
Randall Memorial Foreign Mission	268810000T	62	£11.63	£33.32	£721
Browne Charity	332730001T	128	£11.63	£68.79	£1,488
					£212,623