



**The Parish Church of
Saint George the Martyr
Waterlooville**



**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2017**

Churchwardens:

Mr John Hood, Drifters, 102A Drift Road, Clanfield, Hants PO8 OPE

Mrs Anne Morgan, 2 Everglades Avenue, Cowplain, Hants PO8 8NA

Banks:

**Lloyds TSB
Bank PLC
272 London Road
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 7HN**

**HSBC Bank PLC
312 London
Road
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 7DX**

**Mr Paul Read
Independent Examiner
9 Tamar Down
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 8QJ**

**THERE WILL BE A ST GEORGE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING ON SUNDAY 22ND APRIL 2018 IN THE CHURCH
AFTER THE 10 am EUCHARIST**

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
to elect two Churchwardens to serve for one year
4. MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS
Report by Electoral Roll Officer
5. Minutes of 2017 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 2 PCC members
8. Election of Sidespersons
9. Reports from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer and church groups
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 30th April 2017 in the church and commencing at 11.15 am. There were 74 persons present.

The Parish Priest, Fr Mike Sheffield, was in the Chair.

- 1 **WELCOME:** Fr Mike extended a warm welcome to everyone to the APCM at St George's.

- 2 **APOLOGIES** were received from June Chapman, Andrew and Wendy Clark, Lynne McNeill, Jane and Tony Rice-Oxley, Helen Wilkes, Marian Haughton, Sue and Bob Andrews, June Diaper, Lynn Winter, Don Lloyd, Jess Deal, Abi Woodford-Richens, Nigel Morgan, Patricia Byrne and David Palmer.

- 3 **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT TWO CHURCHWARDENS:** Fr Mike said that we need to appoint a Clerk to the meeting and proposed Jane Cook and this was agreed unanimously.

He explained that there are two meetings, the first for the parishioners and the second for the congregation. Churchwardens originally were head of the parish, responsible for the church building and the Nave, and all the roads in the parish. They can fine people £200 for riot, violent conduct, behaving indecently and molesting the Priest! Nowadays the Churchwardens are appointed to help the parish priest. Although in this parish we elect Churchwardens to serve for 4 years they still have to be re-elected yearly. A big thank you to Rosy Stone and John Hood for all they have done over this year. Rosy has decided to stand down as Churchwarden this year because her daughter who lives in Salisbury is not well and she spends several days a week there helping her and looking after her granddaughter Penny who is 5. Fr Mike said Rosy has done an excellent job and knows everybody and stands at the back and welcomes everybody which is such an important ministry so thank you Rosy. John Hood has indicated his willingness to carry on as Churchwarden. He is a regular attender at the 8 am service and also Wednesday morning service. John has just completed his first year as Churchwarden and has had to sort out several large problems. He has also taken the lead with the Archdeacon and Area Dean sorting out the vacancy for a Priest. John Hood has indicated his willingness to continue and was proposed by Richard Spurgeon and seconded by Len Palmer. There has been one other nomination from Anne Morgan. Anne

Morgan was proposed by Jane Cook and seconded by Colin Monk. Fr Mike asked if everyone was happy for these two to be elected and it was agreed unanimously. They will be sworn in by the Archdeacon.

- 4 **MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS / REPORT BY ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER:** In Tony Rice-Oxley's absence Rosy Stone read out his report as follows:

This year we have tried to really update the roll. During Lent we have asked everyone who has come to church to check their entry and if they are not on the roll to complete a new form. This exercise has led to the new figures for the roll which are:

169 names
72 from outside the parish

This is more or less the same as last year but we have removed some who have moved or passed on and have added several new names.

There are still quite a few parishioners that we know come to church regularly but who have still not completed their roll form and if you are one of these please speak to Tony Rice-Oxley for a form to complete.

- 5 **MINUTES OF THE 2016 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING:** There were no amendments and the minutes were agreed unanimously as a true and accurate record. It was proposed by Dick Handy that we accept these Minutes and this was seconded by Sheilah Hall and agreed unanimously.

- 6 **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.16:**

Dawn gave the following report:

"The accounts are being audited by Paul Read and I hope that no alterations are required.

The first thing to mention is that we ended the year with a deficit of funds of £17795.

Our investment value has increased in value by £2281 and was valued at £24028 at the end of December.

The main bank account held at HSBC had a balance of £13587 at the end of December. We also have money in the UTB account of £39392 and a reserve buffer account to ensure we are able to

manage our cash flow of £7507. We had another very successful shop raising over £4000 which meant that we did not need to dip into this account. We also have an account specifically for Legacies and at the end of December we had a balance of £837.

We received £11006 back from HMRC so thank you to everyone who is a UK tax payer and has signed a gift aid form.

The donation figure is lower than last year by £4085. This comes from donations made to the church and also collections from baptisms which we receive half of and the other half goes to the charity of the month.

The fundraising figure is exceptional again this year amounting to £17351 and takes into account the money taken by the shop (£4101 before gift aid), and money received from Bonusball (£600), Friday coffee morning (£1300) and 100 club (£568) to mention just a few.

We have received dividends from our investments and these have come out slightly higher this year at £703.

Moving to Expenditure we managed to pay our full parish share again this year. In general the expenses remained within budget.

I have again depreciated the church hall by 2% as in previous years and this came to £2711 leaving a balance of the value of the hall as £132,841.

Once again I would like to say a big thank you to the PCC and in particular the Fabric and Finance committee for all their support over the last year. I would also like to say thank you to Lynda Sheffield and David Cavey (and helpers) for taking on the role of counting and banking the money each week. Without their continued help it would be very difficult for me to continue to be Treasurer, but I am happy to say that I will remain in this role for another year.

Fr Mike thanked Dawn for the wonderful job she does. Len Palmer said we need to accept the Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report for year ended 31st December 2016. This was proposed by Colin Monk, seconded by Jennefer Higginbottom and agreed unanimously.

7 ELECTION OF TWO REPRESENTATIVES TO THE DEANERY SYNOD

Thank you to Barbie Lloyd and Elaine Shimbart who have served over

the last 3 years. Fr Mike explained that it is very important that we have 2 people particularly when we have a vacancy. It enables us to know what is going on in the Deanery, Diocese and wider Church of England here and around the world. We now need to appoint two new representatives to represent St George's on Deanery Synod. We have had two applications for this. Barbie Lloyd has agreed to stand again. This will be her third term and we are very grateful to Barbie for supplying this continuity. Candy Williams has also submitted an application. Barbie Lloyd was proposed by Linda Wainwright, seconded by Dawn Trimby and Candy Williams was proposed by Sandra Hewett and seconded by Rosemary Monk. Fr Mike asked if everyone was happy for these two to be elected and it was agreed unanimously.

- 8 **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS:** First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 9 times over the last year. Fr Mike explained that there are two halves – the ex officio members, ie Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Reps, Treasurer and Secretary and the 9 elected members who stand for 3 years. Over the last year attendance has been 77% so for the new members who are being elected please do try and attend the meetings. Fr Mike explained that we need to appoint 3 PCC members this year. Malcolm Brewer kindly volunteered at the first meeting of the PCC last year to stand for one year as John Hood was elected as Churchwarden and had one year left to run so Malcolm is able to stand again. Malcolm Brewer was proposed by Richard Handy and seconded by Colin Monk. We have an application from Sandra Hewett who was proposed by John Johnson and seconded by Lesley Handy and an application from Lesley Handy who was proposed by Jane Cook and seconded by John Johnson. Fr Mike asked if everyone was happy to elect these 3 people on block as your representatives on the PCC and this was agreed unanimously.

Sadly this means we are losing 3 people this year – Malcolm Brewer (re-elected), Candy Williams and Lynne McNeill – who have served their time on the PCC. Thank you to the 3 of them for all they have done.

- 9 **ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS:** Dick Handy read out the Sidespersons rota as follows:

08:00 Service

- a) Jaye Warren
- b) Graham Biggs

10:00 Service

1. Colin Monk
2. Jane Cook
3. Sandra Hewett
4. Audrey Linney
5. Barbara Clark
6. Susan Deal
7. Linda Wainwright
8. Lynda Sheffield
9. David & Margaret Cavey
10. Sue Hodgins
11. Sheilah Hall
12. Patricia Byrne
13. Norma Kershaw
14. Eve Inwood
15. Malcolm Brewer
16. Carol Walker
17. Dick Handy
18. Marian Haughton
19. David & Sara Pask
20. Alice Pitney
21. Marilyn Atkins

Acceptance of the list of sidespersons was proposed by Dick Handy, seconded by Richard Spurgeon and agreed unanimously. If anyone else would like to join please let Dick know.

Dick said special thanks should go to John and Margaret Symonds and Rosemary Monk who have stepped down after many years.

10 **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:**

The congregation had either read a copy of the APCM report on the website or downloaded a copy including all the individual reports or had received a hard copy from Jane so Fr Mike asked if there were any questions/observations on the various reports.

• **Churchwardens' report**

Rosy Stone added the following:

“Little did I know when I spoke at last year’s APCM that a year later I would be stepping down as Churchwarden, and more importantly that we would be preparing to say farewell to Fr Mike and Lynda. What an amazing team they have been, demonstrating so well how to live and work in the service of our faith. Fr Mike is an inspiration -

hardworking, cheerful and with a great sense of humour. His qualities have been recognised, deservedly, by the Bishop promoting him to Cathedral Canon.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped me over the past three years as Churchwarden, many of whom are here today. Special thanks must go to Linda Wainwright, who has not only been a great support in teaching me the ropes and attending events, but amongst other things she has regularly dug me in the ribs to remind me to turn on the lectern microphone!

Thank you all and I leave you in the very capable hands of John and Anne”.

Fr Mike also thanked the two Churchwardens assistants – Tony Rice-Oxley and Jaye Warren for all they have done over the last year. They are happy to continue for a further year.

- **Church Hall**

Colin Monk said it is very difficult to thank people individually as there are so many people involved but he would like to thank John Hood for re-furnishing the tables and lots of other jobs that he does. We do have vacancies in the Church Hall as sadly groups have ceased operating. The Dance class has reduced their hours so we have Monday and Friday evenings free for permanent bookings and Wednesday and Friday afternoons are also free. If anyone knows of anyone who would like to use the Hall please do put them in touch with Sheilah Hall who is doing an excellent job as Bookings Secretary.

- **Vulnerable Adults/Child Protection/Youth Coordinator**

Fr Mike said last week Sonja Barrand had a fall outside the church and is in quite a bit of pain. We wish her a speedy recovery.

- **Walsingham Cell**

Last week 27 people from St George’s together with our friends from the Havant churches had a wonderful weekend in Walsingham.

- **Holy Dusters**

Fr Mike said he came up to church around 7.30 am one day as he thought he had forgotten to lock up and was surprised to find a team of ladies cleaning the church. Thank you to the team of people who keep this church looking lovely. They are always happy to accept new helpers.

- **Flower Team**

Fr Mike said thank you to all those who keep the flowers looking beautiful in the Church.

- **St George’s News and Website**

Thank you to John Johnson for keeping the website up to date. It is a

fabulous website and if you haven't been on there do take a look. Thanks also to Chris Gadd and the Communications Team.

- **Servers and Choir**

Fr Mike also thanked Rod Starr and the choir for all they do to enhance the music in the church and all the St George's Servers for all they do to enhance the services.

- **Toddler Group**

Thanks to Claire Rockett who runs this group and to the team of ladies who make the coffee.

- **Social and Fundraising**

A huge thank you to everyone involved in raising so much money this year.

Fr Mike said a big thank you to Fr Ray and June Chapman. As you will know Fr Ray has not been well over the last couple of months. He has been a huge help being around within the church and taking services when Fr Mike is not here.

Fr Mike said it is also lovely to welcome some retired Clergy:

- Fr Tyrone, a retired Army Chaplain who took the service last week and he understands didn't need a microphone!
- Sandra Edwards, retired priest from Denmead who has moved into this area.
- Fr Charles and Sheila Howard, retired priest from Funtington who have moved into this area.

A big thank you to everybody.

- 11 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:** we are very grateful to Paul Read (who usually attends the 8am service) for again successfully examining the accounts for 2016. Paul has requested that rather than buying him wine as a thank you for this work the money be given to the St George's Police Children's Trust in the light of the Westminster tragedy. He has indicated that he is willing to examine the accounts again next year.

12 **COMMENTS FROM PARISH PRIEST**

Fr Mike gave the following report:

"A lot has happened at St George's in the past year, apart from the Font.

The reports in the main APCM report talk about all that has gone on in St George's over the last year.

If you cast your minds back you will remember:

- It was the year that England voted to leave the EU
- England football were out of the Euros
- Flooding in January, February and March
- Tim Peake
- Flying Scotsman
- Queen was 90
- B.H.S. closed
- BBC lost the contract for 'Bake Off'

At St George's:

- We have a newly refurbished St George's banner
- The Parish Giving Scheme was launched
- Invites went out to everyone on the Electoral Roll to attend small gatherings which were held for people to meet others and most people took this invitation up.
- Services were broadcast for the Harvest and the Carol Service.
- The new Website was launched
- There was one week in November when St George's was not in The News!
- We had a fantastic shop in October which, with Gift Aid, raised almost £5,000 which was amazing – also managed to sell Eileen's walking stick!

- Lots of activities
- Lots of people
 - thank you to all the various individuals and committees

St George's is alive:

- spiritually
- socially
- financially

For that thank you – thank God.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

Background

St George's Church has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (The Reverend Mike Sheffield) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the churchyard and church hall. During 2017 St George's held two services every Sunday (a said Eucharist at 8.00 am and a sung Eucharist at 10.00 am). Normally there has been an evening service at least twice a month with one being traditional evensong sung by the Church choir. Other services have included Taize services, special festival services and a healing Eucharist. Our partnership churches were invited to the Taize services and there was a good response with refreshments after the service. During the seasons of Lent and Easter, St George's ran an educational programme together with the full range of traditional services.

Membership

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Reverend Mike Sheffield, Chairman (until 31st July)

Ex Officio: Jane Cook (Secretary)
Dawn Trimby (Treasurer)

Wardens: John Hood
Anne Morgan

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Barbie Lloyd
Candy Williams

Elected Members:

Malcolm Brewer
Patricia Byrne
Chris Gadd
Sheilah Hall
Dick Handy
Lesley Handy
Sandra Hewett
Norma Kershaw
Colin Monk

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees/groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Church Attendance

Tony Rice-Oxley, Electoral Roll Officer reported that there are 177 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of these 72 are from outside the parish. There are still quite a few parishioners who we know come to church regularly but who have still not completed their roll form and if you are one of these please speak to Tony for a form to complete. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2017, was 106 adults and 6 children including weekday attendances, this number increased at festivals.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 12 times (including 2 Extraordinary meetings), during the year, with an average attendance of 78%. Fabric & Finance, Pastoral, Social & Fundraising and Hall sub-committees continued to meet in the interim, to enable items to be discussed in more detail, and reported back to the full PCC. The PCC will continue to invite outgoing Churchwardens to remain on the PCC for a further year to provide continuity.

Comprehensive budget accounts continue to be e-mailed to PCC members before the meeting to give people a chance to send any questions to Dawn so they can be answered at the meeting and save time.

We have supported over 29 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £242 to the Children's Society (a large part of which came from a very successful Christingle Service on Christmas Eve) and continued support of four children under the African Child Trust Scheme. Other benefiting charities included Angel Radio, Hannah's holiday home, Living Waters foodbank, PSP Association, Grenfell Fire Appeal plus many others. These were all retiring collections. Money was constantly being raised for church funds over the year, in particular £2357 at the Summer Fete, £1683 at the Christmas Bazaar, £3829 from the St George's Shop and £2315 from the sale of plants, bulbs and votives throughout the year.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders has increased to £42799, £373 more than last year excluding tax. The tax recovered on all Gift Aid donations for the year was £11219, an increase of £213. We had a very successful St George's Day Gift Day this year, raising £1455. Contributions on the collection plate were slightly lower than last year coming to £3853. £112121 (an decrease of £15934 from 2016) was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St George's Church, including the full contribution to the parish share of £59715 (an increase of £2620 compared to 2016).

Our remaining fund balances are invested with the CBF Church of England Investment and United Trust Bank.

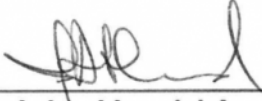
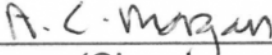
Paul Read agreed to examine the Accounts and the PCC are very grateful to him for the time he has spent on this.

The following has happened during the course of the year and most will be written about in more detail in the following reports:

- Very sadly Fr Mike decided to retire at the end of July and he and Lynda have bought a house in Lee-on-the-Solent. St George's had several farewell "do's" for them. They are greatly missed but we have been very lucky to have a variety of priests who have stepped in to take services during the Interregnum.
- The Parish breakfasts are still popular and will continue.
- Taize services took place during the year.
- Waterloo Music Festival – celebrated its 12th anniversary with another very successful festival which was held in June.
- We joined with our friends from the Baptist and Catholic churches for various processions throughout the year.
- There was a highly successful Church Shop in October.
- Naomi House held their "Light up a Life" service again in December.
- The Travelling Nativity again went round the parish during Advent and was very popular. Many thanks to Sue Andrews for organising this and knitting the angels for another year.

On behalf of the PCC

Dawn Trimby, Treasurer
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed:   April 2018
John Hood / Anne Morgan (Churchwardens)

Treasurer's Report 2017

Incorporating all the Church group finances with the main Church and Hall Accounts, the final figures initially show a surplus of £3854. Taking into account the depreciation of the Church Hall at 2% amounting to £2657 this increases to £6511.

For another year St George's hosted the Waterloo Music Festival and the PCC received a generous donation of £3000 from that source. This is the only income that the church receives from the Music Festival as it is self funding. Other major donations received included £551 from the 100 Club, £830 from the Social & Fundraising Committee (including Friday Coffee Funds) and £500 from the Bonus Ball

Donations from Planned Giving was higher than budgeted receiving £39368 compared to £38613 in 2016, and we received £11219 in Gift Aid tax recovery. We also received £1455 from our Gift Day.

Interest on bank and building society accounts amounted to £655 and the value of PCC investments increased by £2248. The Investment fund is currently valued at £26276. Throughout 2017, £854 was received as dividends.

Fundraising was higher than expectations by £17000. We are very grateful to all the members of the Social and Fundraising committee for their dedication and commitment of all St. George's fundraisers, without which we would be in a very bad financial situation.

Charity giving exceeded £3,359 and we have supported a wide range of Charities both at home and overseas. Funds generated by the Wednesday Coffee Mornings have also supported a variety of Charities together with donations to the Church Hall.

The budget for 2017 was again very tight. It is difficult to predict income based on the generosity of those who support St George's Church, against the knowledge that expenditure is likely to increase each year. The preferred method of giving is the new Parish Giving Scheme. Not only is this the safest form of giving in a physical sense (carrying a lot of change through Waterloo Precinct to the bank is not ideal), it also means that we do receive the donations on a regular basis. Although the green envelope scheme is still in operation, we do not receive envelopes every week from all the givers, and the amount in the envelopes also differ. Forming a realistic budget may not always be possible but will hopefully guide us through the year. I pray for guidance in the coming years as I am very aware that we are going to be in a very difficult financial position with our parish share due to

increase again over the next few years. May I also take this opportunity to thank everyone who has already reviewed their planned giving to the church. Without you all, St George's Church would not be the church we all know and love.

My thanks go to the Fabric & Finance Committee for all the work they put in and also for their support, together with the support of the PCC. On behalf of St George's Church, my thanks are also due to Mr Paul Read, for examining the Accounts this year.

A summary of the Accounts is shown overleaf. A full version is available on request.

Dawn Trimby
Honorary Treasurer to the PCC

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2017**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2017 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2016 YEAR TOTAL
INCOME					
Planned Giving S/Orders	36788	-	36788	36500	35689
Planned Giving Green Env	2579	-	2579	3000	2925
Gift Aided Pink Envelopes	3431	-	3431	4000	3814
Gift Aid Tax	11219	-	11219	13000	11006
General Collections	3853	-	3858	4800	4478
Gift Days	1455	-	1455	650	1159
Donations & Appeals	2617	-	2617	5500	3002
Liturgical Donations	-	1956	1956	1600	1445
Bookstall	840	-	840	1250	735
Parish Magazine Advertising	930	-	930	600	668
Parish Magazine Sales	208	-	208	150	167
Fees received (PCC)	4104	-	4104	4000	4311
Fete, Bazaar, Fund Raising	17000	-	17000	10000	17352
Sales	58	-	58	-	62
Photocopying Income	395	-	395	700	436
Income from Investments/Bank	1510	-	1510	650	1569
Unbudgetted items:					
Fees received (Assigned)	1047	-	1047	-	1419
Other Funds (Charities)	4924	-	4924	-	3603
Hall Lettings	14893	-	14893	-	12632
Toddler Group Income	519	-	519	-	510
Social Committee	-	5322	5322	-	1828
Ex.ord Income	500	-	500	-	1450
Ladies Group	-	-	-	-	-
Pastoral funds received	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	108875	7278	116153	86400	110260

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR,
WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS
OVERVIEW FOR 2017**

EXPENDITURE	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2017 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2016 YEAR Total
Parish Share	59715	-	59715	57080	57095
Gas/Elec/Water Insurance	2667	-	2667	3900	3022
Church and Grounds Maintenance	4361	-	4361	3500	25337
Clergy Expenses	2630	-	2630	3700	3289
Administrator	3426	-	3426	3000	2426
Liturgical Costs	62	2025	2087	2000	1383
Magazine, Bookstall & Bulletin	850	-	850	710	883
Piano and Organ tune	160	-	160	400	120
Honoraria and Salaries	3000	-	3000	3240	3000
Administration	1144	-	1144	1000	1590
Photocopier Costs	1612	-	1612	2000	2401
Fees paid out	2434	-	2434	2150	2345
Capitation Fee	20	-	20	20	20
Fundraising & Sales costs	1080	-	1080	150	554
Pastoral Costs	100	-	100	100	260
Music Support	50	-	50	100	-
Sunday School	61	-	61	150	67
Unbudgetted items:					
Assigned Fees	1047	-	1047		1608
Ex:Ord Outgoing	1431	-	1431		-
Hall Running Costs	12337	-	12337		12306
Hall Depreciation @ 2%	2656	-	2656		2711
Youth Group Activities	178	-	178		695
Social Committee	-	5394	5394		2453
Giving to Charities	3859	-	3859		3359
Quinquennial costs	-	-	-		1178
Ladies Group	-	-	-		-
TOTALS	104880	7419	112299	83200	128055

Churchwardens Report

2017 was a truly busy year at St George's especially with Fr Mike's retirement at the end of July. We Baptised seventeen infants and children, held one Marriage and five Funerals in Church plus a further five Funerals at local Crematoria. We also welcomed two newly confirmed members to our congregation; Amber Gadd and Marilyn Atkins. A particular thank you is owed by us to the support of the PCC in organising both the regular Church and additional activities stemming from the Interregnum. Grateful thanks also to our Honorary Assistant Priest, Fr Ray and to the many retired and still serving clergy from other parishes who have allowed us to continue a full programme of worship. Mention also should be made of Rod Starr and the Choir, our Sacristan Adrienne, the Altar Server team led by David Palmer and Sidespeople led by Dick Handy and the tireless efforts of the Sunday School team. A "mountain" of work continues to be undertaken by our Parish Administrator, Lesley Handy, PCC Secretary Jane Cook and Treasurer Dawn Trimby who has so ably kept our finances under control. Pastoral outreach and care has continued through the year with home visits and home communion. Regular prayer meetings were held organised by the mothers' Union. This is, by no means, the full range of our activities, so do please accept apologies for omissions.

The Church year started with our regular activities led by Fr Mike through to Lent and Easter followed by our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham, the last to be led by Lynda Sheffield. March saw the staging of an Elvis Convention murder mystery with food and drink organised by the Social and Fund Raising Committee. During Lent, a team of George's Men cleaned and repaired the secondary glazing to the side and rear windows, easy to write of here, but a truly major task involving the use of scaffolding. On the Friday after Easter while members of our pilgrimage were on their way to Walsingham the Church was visited by vandals who seriously damaged the Font and the new Paschal Candle. The candle was quickly replaced, but repair of the font required the granting of a Faculty before work could commence. Chichester Stoneworks then made a superb job of making new sections and reassembling the Font in situ. News of the damage to the font was reported in the local media and resulted in wide financial support from individual donors, local businesses and from Havant Borough Council for its repair and installation of a CCTV system. The installation of the CCTV system also required the granting of a faculty. This was granted in January 2018 and consequently will form part of next year's report.

The St George's Summer Fete was held in the Church grounds in June, immediately followed by the Waterlooville Music Festival with a wide variety

of daytime and evening concerts in the Church with further musical events in the town centre. A great big thank you is due to Fr Mike and Lynda and to the stalwart group forming the music festival committee.

The Social and Fundraising Committee have been busy and successful in their activities these have included the send-off party for Fr Mike and Lynda, the organisation and running of the two week long charity shop, located almost adjacent to the Church in St George's Walk, Lent lunches raising funds for Christian Aid, an extremely enjoyable talent show in the Church Hall, a cream tea event in Christine Culley's garden (realistically in Christine's house thanks to the weather) and a day out cruising the Solent to Cowes. We must also record our appreciation to Anna Richardson and David Palmer for their continuing efforts in fund raising and outreach with regular sales of plants over the front wall.

George's Men have continued with a busy social and maintenance task programme, activities ranging from the "mandatory" brewery visit and the Christmas skittles evening through operating miniature steam locomotives in Tony Shepherd's garden, indoor and outdoor cricket at Dick Handy and Tony Rice-Oxley's house and gardens to many maintenance tasks in the Church, the Church Hall and in the Church grounds. Maintenance activities have included upgrading of the wi-fi signal inside the Church, fitting LED bulbs to the main ceiling and side downlights, installing LED spotlights to illuminate the Crucifix and the main exterior frontage and numerous other exciting tasks such as grass cutting, and cleaning and inspecting the drains

Our Tweenies group, open to all Ladies associated with St George's also had a busy year with many activities including catering supporting Church activities, visits to places of interest, home meetings and their annual Dinner held in 2017 at Barnard's Denmead.

The Inbetweenies group of younger St George's members held a number of social activities through the year.

The Church Hall continues to be a great asset ably managed by the Hall Committee. The hall is well used for both Church activities and by outside organisations. A major new hirer has been Slimming World using the hall for 50 Fridays each year. This has resulted in relocating the Friday morning coffee session into the Church. A great thank you is owed to Audrey and the whole Friday Morning Coffee team for the way in which they have met this challenge resulting in even greater effectiveness of this activity in supporting St George's outreach to the community.

The range of topics and “thank yous” covered in this report can only cover a small proportion of the myriad activities that go to make up St George’s Church. Sincere apologies for any omissions.

John Hood and Anne Morgan
Churchwardens

St George’s Church Hall Report

St George’s Church hall continues to provide a service to many organisations and clubs as well as a facility for many church based activities.

Recently we have obtained a very valuable new booking in the form of a local Slimming Group. Their reservation is for Fridays which has provided a problem or two for the regular Friday morning coffees and teas team. This activity has now had to be moved into the church with several difficulties being experienced particularly the provision of hot water and the ability to wash up. However the team of workers has set too, to overcome these difficulties and it is great thanks to them for all the hard work they do to make this work.

Our regular bookings continue with the market, the karate group, TS Active, the National Trust, the Pilates group and Eastern Star all helping to keep our bookings at about 80%. Occasional casual bookings, mostly on Saturdays, help with income, though, of course they are more difficult to manage requiring opening and locking visits each time. Our in house bookings include Parent and Toddlers, Mothers Union, the bereavement group and the OAPs bingo on Tuesday afternoons.

We are delighted that the Waterloo Events team have decided to use the church for their regular monthly pop up cinema and the hall has benefitted not just by their income but also by their provision of a lovely drop down screen. We are delighted to have them on board.

The Denmead am dram group, Curtains Up, uses the hall for one or two productions a year. These are great fun and we are pleased to have them on board.

Sheilah Hall, our booking clerk for many years decided to stand down and we owe a great debt of thanks to her for all her hard work in this position. It is the vital link in hall letting and without an efficient booking clerk we would be in difficulty. Fiona Ross has taken over this role and we thank her for this. Sadly our kitchen has suffered over the past year. Initially we began to notice a lot of moisture on the floor welling up between the tiles. Further investigation revealed a considerable amount of damp, particularly round the

edges under the cupboards. A couple of leaks were found and repaired and it is hoped that this was the cause and that after a period of drying out we can renew the floor. We are praying that the damp is not coming up from under the flooring which could lead to more major works.

It has been a very busy year for all concerned, particularly our Treasurer Malcom Brewer, our two booking clerks and the remainder of our hall committee. We hope that things will settle down in the new year although, of course, the floor continues to be a worry.

Tony Rice-Oxley
Chair, Hall Committee

The Mothers' Union Branch Report

"We few, we happy few, we band of brother's [substitute 'sisters] from [St Crispin's Day Speech from Shakespeare's Henry V]

Whilst our membership remains at 15, including one Indoor Member, we achieve a lot and I thank you all for working as a team. We especially need you all on the occasions of the Epiphany Party, Summer fundraising Party and Coffee Mornings

As usual our programme for 2017 included some thought provoking topics such as the Lenten Meditation, led by Fr Ray, and Terry Davis's power point presentation of the charity 'Stella's Voice.

Sue Kanavan addressed us on the theme for the Year "Faith in Action'. Major Gill Smith gave a very interesting talk on her long involvement with the Salvation Army. We all enjoyed Audrey Mentor's account of her experiences with the Save the Children and the viewing of the DVD 'Churches of the Meon Valley'.

Last March some of us attended services including the Lady Day Service at Denmead and the Women's World Day of Prayer. Some of us attended the Cathedral Communion Services led by the MU. These take place regularly on the third Wednesday of the month at noon. Others have been to the twice yearly Diocesan Council Meetings, held in Cathedral House to which all members are welcome to attend. Deanery meetings led by Sheila King, the Havant Deanery Co-ordinator. These are held in different churches in the Deanery.

Jennefer Higginbottom continues to make and fill emergency toilet bags for distribution in the QA hospital's admission wards. Sue Andrews has

knitted beautiful gowns and capes for the stillborn babies and neonatal ward. Two of Margaret's friends, non MU members, have made ventilator bonnets and tiny crib blankets for us to present also. Audrey Mentor now a resident in a care home has got ladies knitting blanket squares. They are now on their third blanket and they are taken by kind Sue Andrews to the Two Saints Centre for the homeless at Fareham.

We continue to support the Church Fete and Christmas Bazaar although we no longer take sole responsibility for the Cake Stalls.

We continue to run as a committee and special thanks go to Janet Johnson, Minutes Secretary, Wendy Clark for sending birthday cards to all our members and to Andrew Clark who keeps our accounts in perfect order. We are indebted to John Johnson who kindly inspects the accounts each year. We have good fellowship with the UCM at the Church of the Sacred Heart and the Baptist Women's Fellowship, both of whom invite us to their special events each year

It only remains to remind you that we need to work and pray together for the success and future of this branch.

Margaret Symonds
Contact Person for 2017

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee has met 5 times since the last APCM and is due to meet again 2 days after this year's APCM.

The Sunday School continues to be ably run by the team and Anne Morgan continues to support them by writing the lessons, which are adapted by the Sunday School teachers themselves, to suit their requirements. Many thanks to Sheila Howard, who produced a superb nativity play with the children.

Claire Rockett finishes as leader of the Parent and Toddler group in the summer and a prospective replacement has been found. It has been suggested that a group of parents/grandparents/carers also work as a team, to assist this person with the general running and organisation of the group.

The electoral roll was renewed and updated during the year and all relevant people have had their DBS checks updated as per the Diocesan Safeguarding Practice Guide.

Many thanks to the Pastoral Visiting Team who visit congregation members who cannot attend services and to the Baptism Visiting Team. Also, thanks to

Barbie Lloyd and her team for their continued assistance to the community in transporting items for the Waterlooville Food Bank from the church and several town centre shops to the Acorn Centre.

Thanks, too, to Rosemary Monk and her team for organising the Lent lunches and the Parish Breakfast in November.

Anne Morgan
Chairman Pastoral Committee

Vulnerable Adults / Child Protection

Vulnerable Adults

Definition of a Vulnerable Adult: A person aged 18 or over, who is or maybe in need of a community care service by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is, or maybe, unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

We often consider a vulnerable adult to be someone who is impacted by illness, infirmity or perhaps has learning difficulties. However there is a push for further understanding around domestic abuse awareness in the diocese, with training to be rolled across parishes . The Church of England is committed to raising awareness about domestic abuse and its impact on individuals and now provides a training module as a core component in the Diocese's safeguarding training program for all clergy, readers, spiritual directors, safeguarding representatives, pastoral visitors and leaders of children and adult activities. With an aim to provide attendees with the knowledge and skills to enable them to identify and support victims of domestic abuse. Throughout this year I will be ensuring all necessary candidates get the opportunity to complete this training in some form.

The diocese is also a member of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Modern Slavery Partnership. It aims "to reduce significantly the prevalence of Modern Slavery in Hampshire, Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight" -This will be measured by two indicators: The number of victims that have been identified and referred and the number of prosecutions for trafficking and slavery. In addition to this we are a participating Diocese of the 'Clewer Initiative' A 3 year project to enable Church of England dioceses and wider Church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care. The Lead Liaison for our diocese is Rev Edwina Fennemore - currently serving as curate at St Alban's Church, West Leigh. Edwina is the Lead Liaison for our diocese and our link to the Clewer Initiative.

During an interregnum, the PCC, in liaison with the Churchwarden/s and the PSO (Parish Safeguarding Officer), have a duty of care to ensure the well-being of the vulnerable, as well as all church officers, within the church.

Please note There is continues to be a printed & laminated flowchart for the attention of all parishioners, on how to act when 'Responding to Disclosures from Adults' - on the hall notice board.

Diocese Safeguarding Adviser -07544566850

Safeguarding Team - 023 9289 9677/665

Hampshire Adult Services -0300 300 555 1386 OR 0300 300 555 1373 (out of hours)

Portsmouth City Council Adult Social Care Help desk -023 9268 0810

Child Protection

The Diocese of Portsmouth is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults and creating protective and supportive environments where all people, especially those who may be vulnerable, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey in safety. The diocese follows the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and adults, as well as Church of England specific policy and practice. If you have a safeguarding concern about an adult or child, please speak with Sonja Barrand - The churches Safeguarding Rep or contact the Diocesan safeguarding adviser Ian Berry -Tel: 07544 566850.

Additional compulsory E learning has been completed by all members of the PCC covering both safeguarding children as well as adults. This e-learning is also available for all volunteers to complete, without having to give up time to attend a training course at Diocese House. I am happy to assist anybody who does not feel confident using a computer to complete this short online program.

There was a recent letter to all safeguarding leads/ PSOs from the Most Revd & Rt Hon Justin Welby & The Most Revd & Rt Hon Dr John Sentamu Archbishop of Canterbury Archbishop of York, wanting to emphasise the crucial importance for the Church of England to be a safe place for all who join in the worship of the living God, in God's mission, and in ministry. This letter stated we need to take heed of what the ,recently finished independent inquiry on child sexual abuse in the Diocese of Chichester, will say, when they issue their report, but, the Church of England are convinced that there is much we are doing, but also, much we can do to be better in regards to safeguarding.

Sonja Barrand

Safeguarding Representative and DBS validator

George's Men

George's Men is open to all the gentlemen who regularly worship at St George's Church. There is no membership and no subscriptions, with each event being open to all men and paying for itself.

The 2017 programme included the now traditional Cribbage Night, Indoor Cricket and Glendene Cricket, ending the year with our annual Christmas Skittles Match at Walderton. A new event this year was a very enlightening evening, hosted by Andy, teaching us all about Home Brewing. The group also held two Brewery Trips, visiting our old friends at Irving Brewery and Bowman's Brewery.

We have continued with our "St George's Men's Shed" work groups on Monday mornings to great success, saving PCC much needed funds in church maintenance.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to the group's founder, Fr Mike who retired at the end of June. George's Men held a farewell dinner with Mike in June where we presented him with several farewell gifts. Our group continues though, with evening events and Monday morning work parties arranged by various gentlemen and it's thanks to them for a very enjoyable and successful year. All our workgroups and events are publicised in the weekly Sunday Bulletin and all gentlemen from St George's are welcomed.

Dick Handy

Tweenies

Tweenies Group is an informal relaxed ladies social group with a wide diversity of ages, who create and plan their own range of activities over the course of each year. The monthly meetings are planned by ourselves enabling everyone to input a wide range of ideas. There are 30 members currently involved and the group is thriving and constantly growing. You can pick and choose which evenings you want to attend.

We are able to accommodate our own resources, skills talents and interests and the group is self-funding and runs on a voluntary basis with members offering either their homes or organising suitable venues.

January opened our meeting with our Christmas meal at Barnard's Restaurant in Denmead and was organised by Rosemary Monk. As ever, this lovely occasion was very well attended and the secret Santa caused

much hilarity as always. February's Meeting was hosted by Norma Kershaw, a Desert Island Disaster, which was a noisy fun evening.

March was a Tweenie's Career Convention hosted by Jo Bunch, a very detailed and interesting evening into the insight of the Police forensic team. April was a light hearted Musical Film Evening held at Anne Morgan's house.

May's meeting, hosted by Lynda Sheffield and held at the Vicarage was an evening of Chocolate Heaven which everyone enjoyed immensely. The June meeting turned into a very special evening as we met at the Hampshire Hog Pub/Restaurant in Horndean to say a sad but fond farewell to Lynda Sheffield giving us an opportunity to thank her for her dedication, loyalty and love over the last fifteen years.

July was a fun evening, hosted by Jane Rice-Oxley in her large garden with a BBQ, croquet, games and a swim which saw us relaxing into the dusky evening. In August Jane Cook organised a Spa Day at the Solent Hotel which was well attended and proved a lovely relaxing day.

October was hosted by Lesley Handy, with a detailed and informative talk by Anne Morgan on her holiday in South Africa entitled 'A Taste of Africa'. November was organised by Rosemary Monk entitled The Way Ahead which was a planning meeting deciding on the programme for the year ahead. Finally, December was Christmas at Candy Williams, a happy Festive event which was very well attended. An excellent conclusion to another successful and enjoyable year.

From time to time Tweenies are invited to join with George's Men to help at work sessions on a Monday morning around the Church and the Hall.

Do please chat to any of us if you would like to know more about Tweenies.

Candy Williams

Walsingham Cell Report

The group of 27 pilgrims set out on the Friday after Easter and as usual we travelled with our friends from St Albans, West Leigh and St Faith's, Havant, 43 in all. The Havant Cell were again led by Bishop John Hind.

It was lovely to see so many pilgrims from Waterlooville Cell attend this year as it was Fr Mike and Lynda's last time leading this weekend before his

retirement. A presentation was made to them at the end of the weekend by the Cell. We will miss them greatly.

St George's serving team again enhanced the wonderful outdoor processions and we again experienced the beautiful liturgies and the fantastic food.

This annual trip is always the weekend immediately after Easter and costs approximately £220 per person.

Dick and Lesley Handy, Linda Wainwright and Jane Cook have taken over the administration of this since Fr Mike's retirement and if you are thinking about joining us next year or you would like more information about this weekend please do talk to one of us.

Linda Wainwright / Lesley Handy / Dick Handy / Jane Cook

Holy Dusters

Our two teams of volunteers have, we hope you will agree, kept our church clean and tidy over the past year. Cleaning is done every two weeks, with Adina's team covering every fourth Friday and Jaye's every fourth Thursday. We owe a debt of gratitude to our stalwart volunteers (Margaret Deal, Tony Kightley, Wendy Clarke and Lindsay Hood). We miss Daphne Wilkes who, having moved house, had to stand down. We are very grateful for her loyalty.

Another person we must thank is Fiona Ross, who comes in, usually on a Monday morning, to sweep the floor. She does this at a time to suit her and it is a great help.

Other small tasks:

There are other tasks that need more frequent attention than the fortnightly clean and could be undertaken on a similarly casual basis: straightening the hymn books or tidying the children's corner or cleaning the glass doors or brushing the entrance mat? None of these tasks would take longer than ten minutes. Could you perhaps commit to one of these areas? You choose the time (within church opening hours).

As most of our team are the wrong side of 70, it goes without saying that we are always hoping for more 'permanent staff', especially to provide cover during times of illness or holiday, but, if you are unable to commit to just one hour per month, then joining a band of casual helpers would make an enormous difference.

Please think about this and have a word with either of us.

Adina Burton/Jaye Warren

Church Flower Fund

Thank you to the small band of people who regularly contribute to the Flower Fund each year. Flowers are very expensive and, whilst we all would probably prefer to see fresh flowers each week, the monies in the Fund do not stretch that far. We have a huge stock of artificial flowers, which are used extensively with fresh greenery during 'lean' times. Needless to say, donations of fresh or artificial flowers are always very welcome. However, if you would like to donate please speak to June Diaper or Lynn Winter as to which type and/or colour to buy – they will be very happy to advise you.

Lastly, thank you to the small team of flower arrangers for their time each week and especially for preparing the Festival Flowers at Easter, Christmas and for the Music Festival.

June Diaper

Bible Reading Fellowship

The number of people subscribing to the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes has risen to nineteen. The booklet gives a printed passage from the Bible for each day of the year on a set theme, which changes every 10 days or so, with prayers and comment written by a wide variety of theologians. Published 3 times a year in January, May and September the Church group subscription rate from May 2018 is £4.50 per copy. I have sample copies available and I can arrange new subscriptions at any time of year. There is now the option to receive the notes via a computer or mobile phone if preferred.

Linda Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

Three meetings were held in 2017, St George's was represented at Deanery Synod by Elaine Shimbart and Barbie Lloyd prior to the APCM, and then by Candy Williams and Barbie Lloyd.

Summary taken from Deanery Synod minutes as follows:

Wednesday 15th February 2017 at St Clare's Church, Warren Park.

Two presentations:

1. "Eco Church - an A Rocha UK project helping churches to care for creation, love our global neighbours and follow God faithfully"

presented by Revd Kate Macfarlane, Deacon-in-Charge, Hart Plain.

Kate described Hart Plain's progress in working to achieve their Bronze Award and encouraged other churches to take part in this initiative which was founded in 2001 as an antidote for fly tipping and antisocial behaviour in Hillingdon, London.

It is a web-based awards scheme for churches in England and Wales, which wishes to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's Earth. It has succeeded Eco Congregation and covers aspects such as church buildings, church life, community and global engagement, and conservation. Results nationally have seen sensory gardens, organic food allotments, beehives, and woodlands for birds created, while Hart Plain itself has already:

- converted to using only recycled paper;
- offered tips for "living well" covering topics such as walking -v- driving, and shopping with waste reduction and recycling in mind;
- created a playschool garden;
- cleared an overgrown area and turned it to grass;
- joined the Toilet Twinning scheme

150 churches have signed up nationally to this "very easy and straightforward scheme".

2. Louise Clay and Norman Chapman, Lay Chairs of Petersfield and Bishops Waltham deaneries respectively, were then introduced by Andy, who reminded the meeting that as no-one had come forward for election to Havant Deanery Lay Chair, some insight into the role was sought from two serving Chairs.

Louise started by enthusing that the job is both rewarding and do-able. She emphasised that the post holder should "be themselves" and not try to be the same as the previous holder; they should find out what they are capable of. The job description is fairly nebulous, but essentially the Lay Chair co-chairs Deanery Synod with the Area Dean/s, and acts as a link between the diocese and the parishes. The job itself is what you make it. Once the Lay Chair starts involving themselves in the whole mission of the church, they will find they are valued and amongst friends. They share many tasks with the Area Dean/s, meet regularly with their Archdeacon and Area Deans, are well supported by the Bishop through inclusion in staff meetings and regular training, have a peer group of Lay Chairs within the Diocese (7) and have the

opportunity to attend the national Deanery conference to gain inspiration from other chairs. Lay Chairs are not required to be on the Diocesan Synod but it does help to see your deanery in context. Relationship building is very important, and a Lay Chair is encouraged to go to services in other parishes, and visit parishioners. Some Lay Chairs are Readers in which case, as Norman added, you can do a bit more within the deanery - but it is not a prerequisite. You can assume a pastoral role for the laity in the parish, such as clergy spouses, churchwardens etc, and create links with them to prevent isolation, and as Lay Chair you are instrumental in drawing out lay vocations. The recent diocesan strategy, Live/Pray/Serve, offers a greater role for Lay Chairs to help develop the deanery plan and bring the initiative to have some reality within the parishes. Louise opined that she would like to see the role more widely shared in order to make it more attractive, with a time limit imposed such as that for Churchwardens. It's not a job for life - so try it!

Norman added that people skills, and a mind where you can think on your feet are essential, as well as the ability to learn to chair meetings (ie DM&PC and Synod) which can be daunting at first, but can be learned. He emphasised the importance of working closely with the Area Dean/s. He described the role, which he has done for three years, as a wonderful experience. Louise has been Lay Chair for six years.

Lay Chairs are elected at Deanery Synod with the next Synod being in July.

Thursday 6th July 2017 at St Faith's Church, Havant

Two presentations:

1. Guest Speaker: Reverend Edwina Fennemore, Portsmouth Diocese Liaison Lead against Modern Slavery.

Edwina described the "exciting" place which the diocese is in at the moment with its initiative, "We See You". Despite the Abolition of Slavery Act, there are still 45-million people trapped in modern slavery, with up to 11,000 potential victims in the UK. "We See You" is the diocese's three-year project within the Clewer Initiative, which develops strategies to detect modern slavery in our communities and provide support and care. The Clewer Initiative is committed to work alongside the diocese, building its capacity to respond to modern slavery. Slavery is a complex crime perpetrated by evil people which is happening everywhere around us but is often invisible - only 11% of the population have any understanding that slavery is happening in Great Britain. Edwina urged everyone to embrace awareness of the problem, to look at what is going on around us, and to think what we as individuals and parishes can do. The problem needs to be tackled as a *national* problem - not making just Hampshire safe, because then the perpetrators will move on to another county. Because we are a Diocese by the Sea, in October there will be a training day on modern slavery in the shipping industry. Also

hopefully available early in 2018, is a course, designed specifically at community level, “The Stories on the Street - Modern Slavery”, offering guidelines for safe and professional pastoral response.

To keep up to date with what the diocese is doing, you can visit www.portsmouth.anglican.org/modernslavery.

2. Guest Speaker: Mrs Angela Herring, Havant Deanery IDWAL Representative

Revd Andy Wilson introduced Angela Herring who, after giving a brief description of IDWAL, reassured the meeting that her presence was purely for an update and not a request for funds!

Angela showed many slides and reported on the progress with the school and also the Diocesan Offices building, to which (the latter) the parishes’ donations have contributed. She also advised that a schedule of finances has now been given which is encouraging. Bishop Francis Quashie will be retiring in February 2018 and Angela showed a slide of Bishop Elect, Fr Felix Annancy.

Tuesday 21st November 2017 at St Alban’s Church, West Leigh

Guest Speaker: Jessica Meale, Relationships Manager – Guildford, Portsmouth, Winchester and Chichester, for the Children’s Society, gave her presentation, “Our Work, and Integrating with the Church”.

Jessica explained the Society’s current *modus operandi*: to go out to meet parishes, talk about what both sides are trying to achieve and to work together to meet those goals. The way the Society operates has changed since it started 130 years ago and while it does not have any “homes” it does provide direct help to children on the margins of society with multi problems. Under the guidance of a new CEO two years ago, who met with other children’s societies to try to focus the talents of each, and avoid duplicating efforts, the Children’s Society is now more involved in campaigning and trying to change the law to help more children throughout the country. They are specifically targeting the 10-18-year-olds group. Some concerning statistics were quoted, nationally and locally – nearly 30% of children in Havant live in poverty, and 2,500 live with problem debt. The Society works very closely with the CofE and would like to speak to individual parishes to see what they want. Please contact Jessica if you would like to discuss a project or learn more (jessica.meale@childrenssociety.org.uk).

Asked how the Society, when lobbying, works with other charities which have other focuses, the meeting was advised that it provides well-researched annual political briefings to every MP and the bishops who sit in the House of Lords; there is also a cabal with the National Organisation of Children’s Charities when they look at how to work in the same direction

Barbie Lloyd and Candy Williams

St George's Communications Team

Communications

Our communications effort this year has been largely focused on improving our reach through social media.

A previously-neglected area of our engagement with the Parish, we have made startling progress. Our Facebook account, only initially viewed by members of our congregation, now has more than 1000 friends and grows almost every day. Our Twitter page is followed by more than 200.

In the previous 90 days alone, our Facebook postings have been viewed more than 10,000 times and drawn nearly 4,000 post engagements.

For those that have private Facebook or Twitter accounts, can we ask that you regularly check the church's postings (do please consider turning on your St George's notifications so you instantly know when we have posted something). As well as commenting on and liking our posts, it would be great if you would also share them amongst your family and friends. This organic growth is an excellent way to further our message.

With the arrival of our new Incumbent, we will discuss introducing a wider range of biblical / religious content, as well as considering recording and broadcasting messages / sermons and the like. We will also look to re-establishing our regular appearances in The News and other print media which is an area that has suffered with Fr Mike's departure.

This attempt to evangelise what St George's is all about is of course with a longer view to bringing new people to church. But what our mission statement is focused on is turning people to faith. If we can seek to do this through our communication strategy we will, by any measure, have been successful.

Our communications mission will be reviewed with Fr Colin later this year.

St George's News

The Church Magazine is the official record of the history and life of St George's Church, available both as a printed magazine and on the Internet.

The big event for the magazine in 2017 was the launch of a completely redesigned printed magazine in full colour. What an improvement it makes to be able to introduce colour into the design layout. We plan a much greater emphasis on illustration and photography in the future magazine content, and

hope that you will keep a copy of the latest magazine on the coffee table and refer to it when you need to check up on coming events, or look out for any of our advertisers, who are essential for the financial viability of the magazine – so please support them!

We need material for publication! So please give it a try and write an article for the magazine, or provide us with photographs you have taken of life at St George's. A brief write up to go with any photographs is always helpful.

If you want to refer back to past issues of the magazine, read the Sunday Bulletin, get the latest St George's Diary information, read the PCC Minutes, all this and much more is on the website at www.stgeorges.church

Chris Gadd/ John Johnson / Tony Rice-Oxley

St George's Servers

St George's remains fortunate to have a large number of servers prepared to assist the clergy at the Eucharist, and other services when called upon to do so. Our preparation for worship is no different to that of the congregation. After checking that everything is in place for the service, we say our prayers both before and after the service.

A team of junior servers were trained up last year and served on several occasions, assisted by the adult servers. My thanks to Amber, Wendy, Euan, Martin and Simon for responding to the call to form this team. We also welcomed Alice to the team, and following her training is assisting at the 10am Eucharist.

I am extremely grateful for the patience extended by thethurifers to the children who have undertaken the duty of boat boy/girl.

My thanks to Ellen, Imogen, Piper, Wendy, Euan, Martin and Simon for enhancing the Eucharist in their own individual way.

I am grateful to Adrienne who prepares the rota for the Wednesday services, and to Anne who assists me in preparing the rotas for the other services.

If anyone else would like to join the team of servers, please let me know. You will receive all the training you need to assist at the altar.

One plea – please be respectful after the service has finished as the servers have to tidy up afterwards. Kindly refrain from coming into the sacristy until they have finished tidying up.

I am extremely grateful for the support of all the servers and clergy over the last year, none more so than Fr Mike. He was extremely proud of ALL the serving team, especially when St George's servers formed the team for the last service Fr Mike officiated at when on Pilgrimage at Walsingham. It was a proud moment too for all those who served with him, and one we shall remember for a long time.

David Palmer
Head Server

Sunday School

The Sunday school has a small number of regular children attending each week, but we have welcomed visiting children throughout the year. The Sunday school continues to follow the lessons plans around providing a traditional curriculum and have incorporated art, music, dance and writing to explore Christian themes. The children have the opportunity to discuss and display what they have learnt each week at the end of the Sunday service, and the children are gaining confidence in explaining what they have learnt. Some work is displayed on the notice board in the hall. The Sunday school have welcomed 2 new helpers to the team; Mo Peters and Sheila Howard joined in September 2017. We had a successful nativity in December, written by Sheila with the children taking part in the traditional nativity story.

The Sunday School Team

St George's Toddler Group

The Toddler group meets on Tuesday mornings in term time in the Church Hall. Up to 30 parents/carers/grandparents and toddlers meet for craft activities, play and singing. There is usually a short waiting list for new members. Claire Rockett runs the group with several volunteers who provide refreshments, organise craft and set up/put away equipment. At the end of the 2017/18 academic year Claire will be stepping down so we need some people to help run the group. Equipment and toys need getting out before the children arrive at 10am, refreshments are served at 10.30 and then the clearing up begins at 11.30. If we could muster a team for a rota it would keep this important outreach group going. It is great fun - and you get to cuddle babies if you are feeling broody! If you think you could spare some time to help out please see Rosemary or Colin Monk and feel free to come along for a visit to see how things work.

The Toddler Group Team

St George's Choir

Another good year for the choir. The varied number of motets learnt and performed for every Sunday service throughout the year is a tribute to the quality of the choir and has provided the choral backbone and musical leadership for each service. The Advent and Christmas Carol services were most successful and the solos sung by Julia and Rachel were much appreciated. Much new music was performed by the choir for these two services and I am grateful to the choir for achieving such a high standard of singing in so short a rehearsal period. I am also indebted to the additional choir members who augmented us for this occasion. Candlemass was equally successful.

During the Lent period additional services have seen the choir in action. The Taize Style Evening Worship Service was again enhanced by the delightful playing of Violin and Treble Recorder music by Rachel and Julia to whom I offer my grateful thanks. Their playing added to the calm and reflective atmosphere which was also enhanced by the choir's most able contribution.

The very busy Holy Week was led musically by the choir and their hard work enabled a successful outcome to a large amount of performing.

Sadly Mark, the Deputy Organist, is ill and has temporarily left the choir and in addition Malcolm, one of the Basses also became ill just after Christmas and may not be returning to the choir's fold. We wish them both well and hope that they recover soon.

I am delighted to welcome Norma Kershaw as a new member of the choir and Tony Kightley who is helping out the Bass section in the absence of Mark and Malcolm.

Rod Starr
Organist and Director of Music

St George's Band

The church band has kept its current numbers, and we have been able to successfully perform at both Easter and Christmas. There is still a concern that the numbers are not improving, and this will hinder the ability for the band to be able to support the church. To enable this to happen it is vital that new band members are found, this is an appeal that happens every year but is now becoming more pressing.

Don Lloyd

St George's Social and Fundraising Committee

2017 has been yet another busy year for the committee following the merger of the two committees last year.

The year started off with a Quiz evening (including a Ploughman's and Raffle) on 4th February and was attended by 85 people who all enjoyed their evening.

This was followed on 4th March with a very entertaining evening of a Murder Mystery Dinner where we had to work out who killed Wally Mulligan at the Elvis Presley Society Convention. During each course of the dinner the suspects visited the tables and could be quizzed, this was followed, after all courses had been served, by the arrival of a detective who questioned everybody at the convention. Sheets were handed round the audience to tick a box for their name of the murderer before the person was revealed by the detective with their motive. A great evening was had by all who attended.

Then followed the Christian Aid lunches during Lent and a Passover Seder meal on 15th April. A Parish Lunch was held on 30th April after the APCM.

Christine Culley opened her garden on 28th May where cream teas, made by Margaret and Susan Deal, were sold along with plants and a raffle.

The next event was the all-important Summer Fete on 10th June. Fortunately the weather was fairly kind to us but could have been better. It was as very successful event enjoyed by all who attended. Christine Culley kindly twisted some arms and the £100 first prize in the raffle was raised from donations – thank you to all who donated.

The next event was the emotional one on 25th June when after his last service we said goodbye to Fr Mike and Linda. This was very well attended, weather kind to us so we were able to hold this outside on the grass with food available from the hall. At the end of proceedings, with the help of Sue Hodgens, we sent them on their way in a 1950's vintage Rolls Royce.

The Parish Trip this year had a royal theme when on 22nd July we had an outing to Windsor. This included watching the changing of the guard. Unfortunately the weather was not kind on this occasion having to put up with rain for most of the time; however it was an enjoyable day out. Margaret Deal held a coffee morning at her home on 2nd September. The Harvest Lunch was on 8th October which was on a bring/share basis.

The big event of the shop opened on 16th October for two weeks. Thanks to Patricia Byrne for obtaining a well positioned shop and to Chris Gadd for organising storage at Concise prior to the opening. This was a great success again raising lots of money. Also thanks to Jane and Tony Rice-Oxley for taking some of the larger items which did not sell home and selling them on Gumtree etc. We are intending to have another shop this year – October 2018 so please come along and help because without the volunteers it would not be possible and I can assure you that this help is greatly appreciated.

A Barn Dance was held in the hall on 11th November which was another enjoyable evening.

To conclude the year the Christmas Bazaar was on 2nd December with a new stall of the human fruit machine. For this event the social committee provide the £100 for the main raffle prize. The Bazaar went well with a steady stream of visitors.

During the summer, weather permitting, book sales were held on the church wall.

I am pleased to say that with the above along with the bonus ball and including other various fundraising events the total raised was over £17,000 which is a great sum of money.

My thanks go to the whole committee for all the work, time and effort which they put in as without this we would not be able to raise such a truly fantastic amount. If you would like to join the committee please let us know or even provide us with your ideas for new future events, as we all like a change and something new.

Malcolm Brewer
Chairman – Social and Funding Raising Committee

St George's Bonus Ball Fundraiser

Running now for ten years this fun way of raising money for the church is based on the weekly lotto draw. Members have a number between 1 and 59, and if their number comes up as the bonus ball they win the prize that week.

Every week we can have a winner, although if no one owns that number, the winnings roll over to double the next week's prize. We have had several winners this year who have won £100.

£5,000 has been raised for church funds and we thank those who have taken part over the years.

We do need a few more to take out a number so we do not have quite so many roll overs. It's just £1 a week and provides a bit of fun, a chance to win and support for the church.

Tony Rice-Oxley

St George's 100 Club and Accounts

As you will see from the accounts below, the 100 club has been able to make a donation of £551.18 to Church funds this year. Unfortunately this is slightly below our potential of £600 plus interest as, yet again this year, we have sadly lost a few of our long standing members. Membership only costs £1 a month and besides having the opportunity of winning up to £100, you are also assisting the church with its fund raising. We currently have spare numbers so if anyone would like to join please let me know. To those of you who are members, thank you for your continued support and yes, I know, your number never comes up, but maybe this year you will be lucky!

Colin Monk

ST GEORGE'S 100 CLUB ACCOUNTS						
1 JANUARY 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2017						
EXPENDITURE			INCOME			
PRIZE MONEY PAID OUT		£555.00	BANK BALANCE AT 01.01.17			£327.00
DONATION TO PCC BANK AT 31.12.17		£551.18	CASH BALANCE AT 01.01.17			£0.00
		£271.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID			£1,048.00
CASH AT 31.12.17		£0.00	BANK INTEREST			£2.18
		£1,377.18				£1,377.18
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION						
MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP			LIST OF WINNERS			
JANUARY	93		JANUARY	49	J. JOHNSON	£10.00
FEBRUARY	93			72	L.PALMER	£5.00
MARCH	91		FEBRUARY	22	J. RICE-OXLEY	£10.00
APRIL	91			8	S. ANDREWS	£5.00
MAY	93		MARCH	98	M. MAGINN	£75.00
JUNE	93			63	A. BURTON	£10.00
JULY	93		APRIL	96	D. PALMER	£10.00
AUGUST	92			77	P.DANCER	£5.00
SEPTEMBER	92		MAY	51	R. PALMER	£10.00
OCTOBER	91			41	E. OADES	£5.00
NOVEMBER	91		JUNE	38	B.OBERHOLSTER	£75.00
DECEMBER	91			40	D. HYETT	£10.00
			JULY	69	S. ALLISON	£10.00
	1104			30	T. ALLISON	£5.00
			AUGUST	9	A. LINNEY	£10.00
				1	D. LLOYD	£5.00
			SEPTEMBER	86	M. SYMONDS	£75.00
				4	E. INWOOD	£10.00
			OCTOBER	53	C. RICE-OXLEY	£10.00
				41	E. OADES	£5.00
			NOVEMBER	12	D. TRIMBY	£10.00
				47	T. RICE-OXLEY	£5.00
			DECEMBER	77	P. DANCER	£100.00
				98	M.MAGINN	£70.00
				1	D. LLOYD	£10.00
						£555.00

www.stgeorges.church