

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT. 2016-17.

We have had another busy year at St Mary's with much to report as we seek to live out Bishop Nicholas's challenge to Pray Serve Grow. There have been many opportunities to strengthen our prayer life, our exploration of faith and our worship. We now have four House Groups with another planned to start after Easter. A study group in Lent, a Quiet Day before Advent, a workshop on How to pray have been very helpful together with the very focused and varied opportunities for worship during Advent, Holy Week and Easter.

Many of us have felt strengthened by the 'Praying Together' booklet provided by the diocese. A highlight this year was the Easter Eve liturgy of Light and Renewal when we were so pleased to welcome Bishop Karen to our church. And it was a real joy to celebrate with four of our young people, Isobel, Ailsa, Marc and Luc, as they were confirmed at this very special service. We continue, with our Charitable Giving, to try to help others. This year we have been able to support Prama-care, Julia's House, The Prince's Trust, Christian Aid, The Children's Society, Train a Priest, St James School and Mission Zimbabwe, Mission Aviation Fellowship, British Heart Foundation, Coping with Chaos, Salvation Army (Winton) and Wimborne Food Banks, Through the Roof, Bible Society, Church Urban Fund and Christians Against Poverty, Ferndown. We have also sent money to support our brothers and sisters in South Sudan and they continue to be very much in our prayers. As Church Wardens we continue to take very seriously our responsibilities in looking after the fabric of the church and ensuring that the administration and legal procedures are organised and effective. We were very pleased to be given 'full marks' when Archdeacon Anthony came for the Visitation, now an updated and much more rigorous inspection. On the run, up to the inspection we arranged for our 5 Year periodic Electrical inspection to be renewed. We arranged an Asbestos survey and placed this on file. Now that the blower box on the Organ has been replaced as part of a two-year programme of major servicing of the organ. The Church and Hall are Asbestos free. In the last year, we have made a start on the requested repairs and renewals, following the Q3 2015 Quinquennial report by the Dioceses surveyor. In the summer of 2016, Jonathan Morris our local Builder carried out redecoration of Hall windows and external railing and gate maintenance. The Church doors were given coats of protection to weather proof them. We have accepted an estimate from the specialists at Salisbury works department to carry out 2 weeks work this summer, repointing high level parts of the Church, inspecting the Bell tower, treating the leaded windows for fermentation damage and replacing a cracked piece of Stonework behind the Choir vestry.

We are hoping to move to carry out some upgrade of the Church PA system later in the year. Throughout 2016 we had a number of equipment failures and breakages with over £1000 having to be spent on a number of repairs, we hope for a better year in 2017. We have carried out the installation of replacement, new LED outside lights, 4 of these have sensors to come on as people approach them under a timer, this is much more eco-friendly. The Churchwardens and PCC are very grateful to the two personal donations that covered the cost of purchase and installation. We believe they look super and fit in well with the age of the Church building. We have been working through this year and collecting together paper Archives, records and documents of the Church, PCC. We have documents going back over 30 Years.

Some of these have already been deposited for safety with the Dorset History centre at Dorchester. We are reviewing the others to decide what may need scanning for future reference. All Paperwork of the last 6 Years is kept safe in the parish. We now have an electronic back-up of computer records. A further step in modernisation of our record keeping and administration. We have this year agreed a new Safeguarding Policy and, to meet the increased requirements 39 church members, including almost all PCC members and all LPA's have taken the C1 course along with many sides-people. We are grateful to Alex Clarke, our Safeguarding Officer, for running two of these courses at St Mary's. The LPA's and Church Wardens have also received further training at C2 level and the clergy at C3 level. Noel and Paul Middleton this year's Churchwardens elect have been for C2 training on Safeguarding at Salisbury dioceses on Monday 3rd April 2017. This year our kitchen had its routine two yearly inspection. Claire Easton, EDDC Public Health Officer, visited to inspect the kitchen, our records and processes. We were delighted that she found the kitchen 'immaculate', our records 'thorough and very well maintained.' and she renewed our five-star rating! Several of the key workers in our kitchen have also successfully completed the training on Allergens – an extremely important area now in serving food and essential to qualify for the five-star score. Our thanks to all the people who work so hard in our kitchen to maintain such high standards of hygiene and food safety. And we continue to serve some delicious food – an important outreach to our community. The Civic Service to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday very well supported with over 100 adults and 39 young people including representatives of uniformed organisations and councillors. The Harvest Lunch was a very happy occasion with 65 people seated at tables. And the now regular Tea@3, Men's Breakfasts, Lent Soup Lunches, MU events, Messy Church and much more all ensure the kitchen is a busy hub in the life of St Mary's.

It is now a year since we appointed Nick Osborn as our Church Cleaner and we are very grateful to Nick for his care and dedication in, not only cleaning the church, but also maintaining the church grounds. We are very appreciative of Nick's work, but also the other members of the team who help look after the Churchyard. Stuart Stebbings, Stuart Harvey, John Reid, Sue Coombes and Jenny Winslade supported by wardens Noel Moss-Holland and Paul Middleton. New Volunteers are welcome please talk to Noel. We have now registered as an Eco Church, a new online scheme launched by A Rocha. This is an award scheme – Bronze, Silver and Gold levels – to help churches be more eco-friendly within the five areas of church life: Teaching and Worship, how we Manage our Land, how we Manage our Buildings, Community and Global Engagement, Personal Lifestyles of the Congregation. Salisbury diocese is aiming to become an Eco-diocese and we are pleased to support this aim by being one of the first churches to register. Having now completed an on-line survey we are pleased to have been able to apply for a Bronze Award. We now aim to be even more environmentally friendly as we look at further steps we can take in caring for God's earth and recognising the Fifth Mark of Mission.

With Revd. Lynne as our representative on West Moors Dementia Action Group we have worked together to become a Dementia Friendly Church. This year, as part of our Action Plan, we have held Dementia Awareness sessions; these were well attended and many of our congregation have become Dementia Friends. We have also had three sessions knitting Twiddle Mitts used to calm dementia sufferers – a wonderful display of well over a hundred Twiddle Mitts have been made and distributed to local homes and hospitals. It has been a year when we have seen a number of our long-standing members of the congregation pass to the Lord in Heaven. Many we will remember as good friends and people who have made a contribution to Church life over many years. In particular Baird Oldrey who with Sue put in considerable time in the new Church Hall Project, replacing the lighting and heating and seeing for many years our Sound system worked. I also wish to remember Peter Smith who was Church Treasurer for many years. Others have moved away to be nearer to family. We have been blessed with a number of new people joining us throughout the year at St Mary's. In two months' time, we look forward to Ruth our new Curate and her husband and Children joining us at St Mary's as she starts her training for four years as our Curate. 2016 has been another busy year in the life of the Church at St Mary's. There are lots of people who help in many ways. Gill and I wish to thank you all in supporting or helping to run the Fete in the Summer and the Bazaar in the Winter, coming to Chris Wilson's fundraising events, we are very grateful to Chris and the impact it has on Church and charity funds.

Our Thanks to Sarah, Isabel and Jan who run the Cosmics, Messy Church and Bell's and Biscuits and all the preparation time that is put in to making these a success. Our Thanks to Sue Coombes who stepped down due to a change in work after many years leading Bell's and Biscuits. Our Flower Ladies must be thanked again for keeping the Church looking lovely and we are pleased that Elsie is much better. We wish to Thank Valerie, Cliff and Jean for playing the Music at all our services throughout 2016 William our Treasurer has continued to manage the Church finances we are very grateful for the time William gives to keeping our finances in good order. Mike Bowler for his work in running the covenanted giving and all the administration that goes with the Covenant Secretary's job. As your wardens, we are grateful for all the support of our two Deputy Wardens Paul & Louise and all they do to help with running St Mary's. Most importantly our thanks to Andrew, Lynne and Tony for leading us in our ministry in the last year every week and helping us to Pray Serve Grow.

Noel Moss-Holland & Gill Clarke, Churchwardens.

TREASURER REPORT 2016

I have the pleasure of reporting that 2016 was another good year for the church, reflecting that our life in the Lord continues to develop .

During the year, our income again exceeded £100,000 a year which included appeals, weddings and funerals.

This APCM report now includes the accounts information and I will not be issuing a separate document. Some of the items below refer to activities which are reported separately by those who have taken responsibility for them.

If any of you require more accounts information please contact myself. (William Munn, Church treasurer 01202 897528 and I will supply you with the Auditors and the full December sheets about 25 pages)

I am encouraged by our situation at the end of 2016, giving thanks and praise to our Lord and to you all for your generous financial support. However, I have to report that we have lost around 1 in 10 of our regular givers in 2016 as they have either left the area or gone to our Father in Heaven. As a result my calculated Budget for 2017 shows that income will be about £7,000 below our expenditure for 2016. This has been referred to our finance committee to review what we need to consider in response.

Basic numbers

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Total funds December 2015 | £112,945.64 |
| Income for 2016 | £102,742.77 |
| Expenditure 2016 | £101,937.56 |
| Total Funds at end of 2016 | £113,732.85 |

Expenditure numbers

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Diocese and Deanery Share | £ 55,943.00 |
| Basic church running costs | £ 22,660.00 |
| Events | £ 1,149.00 |
| Activities and magazine | £ 3,076.00 |
| Charity and appeals | £ 5,655.00 |
| Fabric | £ 3,957.00 |
| Restricted items | £ 1,370.00 |
| Wedding and funeral fees | £ 6,771.00 |
| Other | £ 1,350.00 |
| TOTAL | £101,937.00 |

Income numbers

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Voluntary income | £ 74,115.64 |
| Events | £ 8,095.92 |
| Activities and magazine | £ 3,165.22 |
| Fees/PV panels/Interest | £ 5,308.67 |
| Wedding and funerals | £ 4,383.00 |
| Legacies and Donations | £ 6,906.33 |
| Other | £ 770.00 |
| TOTAL | £102,742.00 |

Events

Please note these figures are after some costs have been paid and the pence has not been included so total is £2.00 more.

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| Barn Dance | £ 387.00 |
| Dianne Tompkins | £ 305.00 |
| Rock Choir | £ 560.00 |
| School fete | £ 1,372.00 |
| Salvation Army | £ 506.00 |
| Railway Day | £ 2,916.00 |
| Folk & Fun | £ 122.00 |
| Born to Sing | £ 467.00 |
| Church Bazaar | £ 1,105.00 |
| Dorset Slide show | £ 353.00 |
| TOTAL | £ 8095.00 |

General Activities

| Item | Income | Expenditure |
|--------------------|---------|-------------|
| Coffee | £245.00 | |
| Quiet Day | £194.00 | £141.50 |
| Jane Haddon crafts | £59.94 | |
| Messy Church | £29.95 | £118.61 |
| Mens Breakfast | £639.99 | £536.09 |
| Social Events | £79.00 | £28.52 |
| Alpha | £485.89 | £450.97 |
| Harvest | £90.00 | |
| Between Bfsts | £301.28 | |
| Magazine | £848.50 | £1,800.00 |
| Bells and Biscuits | £76.80 | £23.96 |
| | | |

Appeals and Charity

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Macmillan | £250.00 |
| Christians against Poverty | £250.00 |
| Coping with Chaos | £250.00 |
| | |
| Train a Priest | £250.00 |
| Memorial Hall | £200.00 |
| FSJMS | £250.00 |
| MAF | £250.00 |
| British Heart Foundation | £250.00 |
| Salvation Army Food bank | £150.00 |
| Wimborne Food Bank | £150.00 |
| Princes Trust | £101.75 |
| Through the Roof | £250.00 |
| Sudan | £1,200.00 |
| Prama care | £250.00 |
| Bible Spociety | £250.00 |
| Childrens Soc (from 2015) | £602.39 |
| Julias House | £250.00 |
| Church Urban Fund | £250.00 |
| Action 4 Children | £232.50 |
| | |
| | |
| TOTAL | See above |

William Munn

MEN'S BREAKFAST

2016 was another reasonable year with an average of about 20 attending the Saturday mornings when I was able to run the breakfasts. I am also still hoping that one or two other gentlemen will be found, who have the time to take it in turns with me purchasing the food and cooking, ensuring continuity, and filling in gaps if I am unable to be there. I do however thank those who have assisted with set up and cleaning. Special appreciation goes to Paul Middleton, Peter Dunning, Chris Wilson and Alex Clarke for their help including doing the breakfast when I was unavailable, assisting with the cooking, setting up the sign in lists, preparing the hall and cleaning up afterwards.

William Munn

BELLS & BISCUITS

We have a busy noisy time on Tuesday mornings, with up to 18 babies and Toddlers with their mums, dads, and/or Grandparents.

We begin with a short service in the church, with stories, songs and instruments – (one of the highlights is ringing the church bell!). This is followed by food and playtime. It is wonderful to hear the happy laughter and to see the children grow and learn.

Jan Munn

HOME GROUPS

We currently have four Home Groups which give us the opportunity of studying the bible, deepening or faith, learning more about God's will and having friendly discussions in a home environment.

The Tuesday group is led by Liz Bowler and was formed following the last Alpha course and meets fortnightly in the evening. Initially studying sections of Paul's letters, but then moved on to the Pilgrim Course, with has found to be very interesting and challenging.

The Monday evening and Wednesday evening groups have just completed the Pilgrim Course and are

Also under consideration is to form another group. So now would be a great opportunity to join one of groups and explore more about the Christian faith and receive a warm welcome. Please contact one of the current leaders Gill Clarke, Liz Bowler or Chris Wilson.

There is also a Thursday evening Bible Study group led by Veronica Morgan or Jane Hadden who would also welcome new members.

Chris Wilson

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT

At the time of writing this report for last year's APCM, the membership was 186. Between then and the APCM, 2 members were added to the roll, and 1 member was removed. Thus, the new year commenced with 187 members.

During this year, I am pleased to inform you that a further 8 members have been added to the roll, however, 11 members have been removed. At the time of writing this report, the total membership of the roll is 184.

Jane Hadden

L.P.A. REPORT

As in previous years, the Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPA's) continued to meet on a bi-monthly basis with Rev Andrew and Rev Lynne sharing pastoral updates as appropriate. Holy Communion continues to be taken regularly to our village Rest Homes with personal visits arranged to sick and housebound church members in their own homes, on a need basis.

It was decreed by the Diocese of Salisbury that we were required to attend 2 training days for updating our Safeguarding Training in order to minister as LPA's in the parish. C1 the first course, was held at St Mary's replacing the former Foundation Course, and C2 the Leadership module was held at Canford, both were completed in January and certificates endorsed our training. With grateful thanks to our leaders over the training period.

There were various Deanery meetings held over the past year, and following a Quiet Evening in the Minster in September we said 'goodbye' to our very worthy and able Deanery Chair, who had arranged and selected excellent speakers and trainers over many years. The new co-ordinator Daphne Jones is based at St Michaels, Colehill and we look forward to getting to know her this year.

We continue to thank Rev Andrew and Rev Lynne for their time and commitment to each one of us over the past year, thus enabling the support of LPA ministry within the parish to continue.

Pam Prendergast

ST MARY'S CE FIRST SCHOOL

We have now been part of the Heath Academy Trust, which incorporates the following schools; Oakhurst Community First School & Nursery, Sixpenny Handley First School, St. Ives Primary & Nursery School, St James' CE First School, Three Legged Cross First and Nursery School and ourselves, for over a year. At the moment our deputy head – Jo Hudson is currently on secondment as the acting head at St James' CE First School at Alderholt, and is enjoying the challenges this role involves. At the moment we have Miss Moore, a student teacher, gaining experience predominately within the Year 4 classroom.

We have adopted an all new creative curriculum based around the Cornerstones Curriculum, which is a nationally recognised approach for delivering outstanding learning opportunities for children. The children are encouraged to use their imagination and apply their learning to engaging contexts. Our new curriculum will provide lots of learning challenges throughout the academic year that will require children to solve problems, apply themselves creatively and express their knowledge and understanding effectively across the curriculum.

Year 4 had an enjoyable trip to London to visit the Houses of Parliament, and the usual residential visit to Springhead is also planned. Year 2 competed successfully in the Heath Academy dodgeball event, returning from Three Legged Cross at the champions. We have also had pupils taking part in swimming galas, golf tournaments and recently a football event.

The school as always is looking to promote the healthier choice of cycling or scooting to school, and joined in The Big Pedal event, with children and their parents encouraged to scoot or cycle to school. The week kicked off with 'Bling your Bike', getting the kids to decorate their wheeled form of transport in a patron saint theme.

So far this year the children and staff as a whole school, along with some of the parents, have attended services within the Church for Harvest Festival and Christingle, with the Mothers' Day service to come shortly. Additionally the children have participated in other activities over at the church, for example Year 3 enjoyed learning about the meaning of Shrove Tuesday from Revd' Andrew and even got to eat some pancakes afterwards! Year 4 are once again assisting serving at the Lent lunches on Thursdays, and throughout the year children from each year group have been selected to attend Tea @ 3 with Mr Sewell, much thanks to the lovely ladies who run this and provide the food for these children. Revd' Andrew leads the school in weekly assemblies throughout the year, covering many different areas including the 21 prophets and Ash Wednesday.

Once again our PTA have been working tirelessly to provided many fundraising events over the year, including the Christmas Fair, Christmas Party and Disco for the children, bingo nights, story nights and cinema nights . For summer the usual church/school combined Summer Fete is already scheduled in. Some of the money raised is going towards updating the library, providing a sensory room and providing furnishings for the Spirituality Garden (to be officially opened at the beginning of April).

Karen Mansfield

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

We are pleased to have Rev'd Andrew Rowland as our new Rural Dean, with Rev'd Canon Chris Tebbutt becoming Assistant Rural Dean.

At our June meeting, held here at St Mary's, we were pleased to welcome Dr Ruth Valerio, Churches and Theology Director at A Rocha UK to speak about EcoChurch and Care for the Environment. Ruth spoke of the importance of Caring for our Common Home, referencing the Pope's encyclical 'Laudato Si' and emphasising the responsibility of Christians to care, not just for the community, but for the whole creation. In her view, there is massive potential for the church in addressing environmental issues. If we really learned to care for our 'home' we could make a huge difference. Very clearly and succinctly, Ruth said we should be motivated to get involved.

At the November meeting, the Deanery Action Plan 2020 was agreed as follows:

WIMBORNE DEANERY ACTION PLAN 2020

outlining areas we have identified to focus on.

Particular projects will be prioritised as appropriate

- **Children and Young People**
Coach in the Community – our outreach to rural communities
Young Vocations – work experience/volunteering (QE School)
- **Men**
Events aimed to nurture men's discipleship
- **South Sudan**
Continuing support for our brothers and sisters in our link with South Sudan
- **Reaching out to new communities**
Focus on the new building developments planned within the deanery
Church planting
- **Vocation & Discipleship**
Exploring and nurturing Discipleship
Encouraging and Supporting Strong Leaders
Learning about Vocations
Prayer
- **Music & worship**
Exploring creative approaches and new opportunities for worship
- **Environment & Eco-church**
Worship and Teaching
Church Buildings and Land
Personal Lifestyles
Opportunity for Community Engagement

At the March meeting Sr Debbie Orriss, the new Diocesan Discipleship Co-ordinator was guest speaker and challenged us to consider our thoughts on Discipleship – a help or a hindrance?

SAFEGUARDING

On 24 November, 2016, a revised Safeguarding Policy was approved by the PCC together with guidance notes. These were based on the template provided by the Diocese for a church community of our type and size. They are on display in the hall.

The various policies, training and supporting guidance at Diocesan level were revised and updated very significantly in 2016. Training in the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults is now required or recommended for a range of roles in the church community

The Diocesan policy states that PCC members, servers, welcomers or those working with children, young people or adults who may be at risk need to complete the new foundation module (C1). This course is delivered by the Diocesan team around the Diocese and bookings can be made online.

To make access to the course as easy as possible, Alex Clarke, our Parish Safeguarding Representative, undertook training and qualified as an approved trainer to enable him to deliver the C1 course here at St Mary's. In the two sessions in January, 39 members of the congregation completed the course (in addition to one who had completed it with the Diocese). This was a tremendous commitment and Alex wishes to thank everyone for this.

Lay Pastoral Assistants are required to take the Leadership course (C2) and all nine of our LPA's completed this at the end of January. Alex, as PSR, completed it in November, 2016. The two churchwardens are booked for April, 2017. Rev'd Andrew and Rev'd Lynne have both completed the clergy module (C3).

The C1 course will be put on again at St Mary's by the Diocesan training team on 13 June at 6 pm which will support training in the Deanery as well as providing another opportunity at St Mary's for anyone here who missed the January sessions.

Much of 'safeguarding' is in fact embedded in good pastoral care, in love and respect for our neighbours in Christ. The training sharpens our knowledge of how we can do good in all circumstances, including the protection of the vulnerable. Being well informed, we also know how to act in a case of concern.

Alex Clarke, Parish Safeguarding Representative

MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church continues to run successfully every month. The sessions attract between 12 and 20 children, although our Messy Christmas with 'special guest' is very popular and attracts up to 30 children.

Messy Church is organised and run by a small group of very dedicated helpers. This year one of our trusted team has had to say goodbye and another has been unwell so we are struggling for helpers.

As we go forward our most important aim is to attract more people to help. No particular skills are required, just an ability to help children make a mess.

Isobel Dale,

FUND RAISING EVENTS

We have had a packed year of varying events with something for everyone.

They enable us to raise funds for a number of charities including. MAF, British Heart Foundation, Bible Society, Salvation Food Bank, Christians Against Poverty and St. James School and Mission Zimbabwe as well as our Church of St. Mary.

These events are now part of the life of West Moors and enables us to make our church more well-known and for the opportunity of welcoming lots of the local people to these events which were well supported. these were:

23.07.16 OLD TIME VARIETY SHOW

31.07.16 RAILWAY DAY

12.08.16 IM & IM FOLK MUSIC DUO

07.10.16 SLIDE SHOW AND QUIZ

29.10.16 ROCK CHOIR AND SWITCH SAXOPHONE QUARTET

18.11.16 BOURNE 2 SING MALE VOICE CHOIR

04.02.17 PARISH BARN DANCE AND FISH AND CHIP SUPPER

25.02.17 DIANNE TOMPKINS AND FRIENDS CONCERT

Plus the

SCHOOL /CHURCH FETE

&CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Chris Wilson

ASSISTANT CHURCH WARDEN'S REPORT

Welcome to Louise who joins us in supporting the Church Wardens and serving our Church Community. We could not do this without the love and fellowship of everyone, spiritual guidance and commitment. Our thanks to Gill and Noel for their guidance helping us to fulfil our role at Sunday services and Church events throughout the year. Thank you all again and look forward to serving you next year.

Louise Collins and Paul Middleton.

TEA @ 3

We have had another busy and successful year with everybody enjoying Easter, Christmas, Valentines Day and The Queens 90th Birthday.

It is lovely both Church and Village friends spending quality time together. Brookview join us when their other commitments allow and all attending have a great afternoon Eating delicious sandwiches and cakes whilst using their brains to answer Sue's brilliant topical quizzes. I never know the picture quiz!

During term time, 10 children and 2 adults join us from St Mary's School. They are all very excited coming into Church and are a credit to their school. They explain that all the children in the school are "Awesome" , but this month they have all "gone the extra mile" to be kinder and more helpful to their peers.

As the children come over at 2.30, due to school times, it is very special to see our older friends arriving early to enable them to spend time with the youngster. It is much appreciated.

Thank you to the wonderful team of helpers who make, bake and serve every month. They are truly committed and it couldn't happen without them.

Mary Keegan

MOTHERS' UNION

The Mothers' Union afternoon and evening groups met monthly during 2016. The afternoon group had an enjoyable but challenging year and at present has 16 members. Sadly 2 of their members, Jim Day and May Clarke, died and they will both be missed.

The evening group currently stands at 17 in number.

Due to a decrease in active members, the afternoon group were unable to run the cake stalls at both the Church /School summer fete and the Church Christmas bazaar. The Evening group has taken over the cake bakes after the 10.00 am services; thereby enabling the Baptism books to newly baptised babies and children to be given. A donation was given by the afternoon group towards the Bibles for every child leaving St Mary's School. The evening group continued throughout 2016 to send baptism anniversary cards to children baptised within our church. Again during the past year we have donated to the Salisbury Womens' Refuge delivering much needed clothes and other items.

Both the afternoon group and evening group have supported Deanery and Diocesan events including joining the Wimborne Group for their Wave of Prayer and participating in the organisation of the Deanery Advent Service held in Wimborne Minster helping with the refreshments after also. Both groups have given donations to MU causes.

In September the Evening group celebrated their 40 years' anniversary and Rosie Stiven, the Diocesan President attended as Guest Speaker at a special service in Church followed by a superb buffet with a celebration cake. Members of long-standing membership received their awards during the service.

Due to the fact members for the Afternoon group have been getting fewer, mainly due to ill health, after much heart-searching prayer and discussion, it was felt that the only way forward was (and it was put to the vote) to become a Prayer and Fellowship Group, whilst still remaining full MU Members. This Prayer and Fellowship Group has been successfully co-ordinated by Liz Bowler with Mike Bowler acting as the MU contact and Treasurer.

Dawn would like to thank members who have helped to run or loyally support the afternoon group in any way and made it a successful and enjoyable group for over 90 years. They look forward to the future celebrating our faith and counting their many blessings.

Finally, we would wish to take this opportunity to thank the generous support from our members not only of their time and talents but their giving of everything we make and do for the MU. Thankyou also to our Church and many friends who regularly attend our events and without whose support we would not raise the much needed monies for the MU projects.

Geraldine Cole and Dawn Beek

ST MARY'S CHOIR

It has been another busy year for St. Mary's choir. During Holy Week 2016 they sung, with other singers, Stainer's Crucifixion.

Later in the year, during Advent, with the help of extra singers, they sung in an all age Carol Praise Service, as it had been so well received the year before and it was equally as successful last year. So hopefully this is now an annual event.

Sadly, Jean Sansom decided to retire from the choir, but we were pleased to welcome Sally Read as a regular choir member and her husband John joins us for special occasions.

I would like to take this opportunity to mention Baird Oldrey, as although he was not a regular choir member, he always joined us for special occasions and thoroughly enjoyed his singing. Also for the various jobs he did behind the scenes, i.e. Lighting, sound, etc. He is greatly missed by us all.

We are always looking for new members, so if you enjoy singing why not give it a go. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

Valerie Robertson

COSMICS

COSMICS have had another full year that has seen four of our children decide to study with Revd. Andrew towards confirmation. We have a core group of children regularly attending, with a number of others who attend occasionally. Supported also by children visiting.

A particular highlight of the year has to be Christmas and the cosmics nativity. This year we were blessed by God's angels telling of Christ's birth. Thank you to everyone for their hard work and all who supported the children.

Currently the children are working hard on their lent project making a mural depicting the life of Jesus and reflecting on our Christian steps in life. All the children enjoy sewing and a project enjoyed this year was the seven hearts of wisdom. We always try to make our learning fun, for our activities to reflect our children growing up. So this year we did something different with our carpentry skills to make a prayer board for that special place at home.

I particularly enjoyed our time reflecting on remembrance Sunday and as we made parts for a giant poppy, talking about what the colours represented and how they also reflected the life and passion of Christ the children poems were inspirational. Another favourite was salt 'n' shake packets-not crisps reflecting how Christ is our flavour, our salt and how he shakes us up each and every day of our lives.

Thanks be to God, to all our cosmics and all the support given by the Church family. Amen.

Sarah Middleton. COSMICS leader

PREMISES DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Church Wardens report cover the majority of activities and news concerning premises matters and my thanks to Noel especially for all he has done.

A bit more about the PA – The old amplifier failed so we fitted a reconditioned one for now. However, as previously reported, it is our intention to update/renew the system and we are in the process of sharing ideas on what best suits our needs.

Some of you have asked what the white patches are in the roof on either side of the altar, thinking this might be mould of some sort. Well don't worry its' just the paint peeling away from the white coloured heaters, we're talking to the manufacturers to see what can be done.

Can't let this year's report pass without mentioning Baird who until his sad passing this year has given tirelessly of his talents and support for many things associated with Church building works, lighting, sound, heating to name but a few. Truly appreciative of all his help, guidance and invaluable contribution to myself and all the team.

Paul Middleton. Premises Development Committee

CHURCH BREAKFAST

Church Breakfast – the fourth Sunday in the month at 9 o'clock, bridging the two morning services. This is one of those special St Mary's social opportunities closely associated with food! This lovely time to meet and chat and indulge in croissants, pains au chocolat, and other delights, has flourished during the last year, thanks to Jenny Winslade and her dedicated team of helpers. I am particularly grateful to them for all their hard work. I would also like to thank Mary Summers and Debbie Brown who nobly clear up after this feast, while we 10 o'clockers get ready for the service.

I am happy to say I have been able to return to the team, and Breakfast Goes On! I wouldn't call it healthy, on the eating front, although there is yogurt and fruit, washed down with coffee or tea, accompanied by porridge and boiled eggs, and topped off with croissants, pains au chocolat (or aux raisins!), cheese, ham, toast and more toppings than we have shelf space for. Payment is by voluntary donation, and any surplus is handed over to church funds. So 'it's all good then!' Do Come.

Sue Oldrey

Rev Lynne's Report

2016 was a difficult year for members of St Mary's, as we lost a number of our faithful people and family members. At the time of writing (March'17), Andrew's father has also died. Do continue to uphold Andrew and his family in your prayers in the coming months, along with all who have been recently bereaved. I, too, lost my Mum who died last May aged 101. Though sad, it was a blessed release as she had struggled with dementia for about 12 years.

In West Moors we have a Dementia Action Group trying to find ways to make our village 'dementia friendly' by raising both awareness and also funds for research into this disease. We, as a church, are playing our part and last August we registered with Alzheimer's UK as a dementia friendly church, committed to making a difference to the lives of people with dementia and their carers. Knitting Twiddle Mitts really took off and we have so far made something close to 200. A massive thank you to all our knitters who have helped to ease the anxiety and agitation that can come with dementia. We are now looking at providing a regular, short worship service, to help those with dementia keep in touch with their spiritual connections.

It's good to see more members joining home groups. This is one of the best ways to get to know a few other people well and to grow in faith and confidence through Bible study in a safe, friendly and informal setting. I would encourage every member to be part of a group.

In November a dozen of us ventured down to Branksome for another Quiet Day of guided prayer and reflection. And more recently, as the 'pray' part of our '**Pray, Serve, Grow**' mission statement, we held a Prayer Workshop in the church hall which was well received. A comment shared at a recent diocesan day on Exploring Prayer said: *"Prayer leads to growth. We can only grow if we are people of prayer."* On the horizon there is the possibility of us venturing into Prayer Walking in the near future, with our brothers and sisters from the other West Moors churches. Do listen out for this and get involved if you are able.

I think it is fair to say that Adrian and I are now feeling well established and at home here in St Mary's, West Moors. Thank you to Andrew for his leadership and partnership in our sharing in the ministry here. My thanks to you all for your continued love, support and encouragement as together we share the good news of Jesus with the people of West Moors.

VICAR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The years pass quickly in retrospect – this now completes my twelfth in the parish. I wish to offer sincere thanks to all the team who work well together to provide the ministry and mission of the parish through the church. In September I took on the additional role of Rural Dean of Wimborne after five years as Assistant. I would particularly like to thank Rev'd Lynne Morris for all her support and also to Noel and Gillian in their role as Church Wardens especially Gill as she completes six years of this special service to us all. So much has been accomplished and all bodes well for the future. We also have much to celebrate in the ministry of our LLM, Tony and LPA's (Pam, Mike & Liz, Jan, Dawn, Dorothy, Sue & Stuart).

Thanks also to our PCC Secretary Julie, Treasurer William and PCC members and Sacristy and Servants of the Sanctuary. Valerie our Organist has had an outstanding year in the various musical events. Thanks also to Cliff and Jean and our Choir – we all appreciate your musical offerings.

I continue as a Chaplain to Dorset Police and Assistant Chaplain to The Great Dorset Steam Fair. I serve on the Archdeaconry Premises Committee, Stewardship Committee and Deanery and Diocesan Synods. I am a Shareholder of The Heath Academic Trust (includes St Mary's CE First School) and Trustee of Coach in the Community.

Our Archdeacon, Venerable Antony Macrow-Wood carried out a full inspection of the parish a few months ago and has complimented us on our stewardship and management of the parish. In this era of increased regulation it is good to know that we are fully compliant in terms of Accountancy, Health & Safety, Hygiene, Safeguarding, Electrics, Fire Extinguishers, Asbestos etc. In many ways we are ahead of other parishes – we have recently obtained our Bronze award for Eco-Church.

I have to record this past period as quite a sad time in the unusually high numbers of funerals, with the loss of many beloved parishioners. We are thus pleased to welcome new active members and as always are hopeful of more. Bells and Biscuits is thriving at present and Messy Church continues to provide outreach to young families under the creative leadership of Isobel.

My thanks also to all who exercise roles of leadership and support for all our many activities – almost everyone is involved!

On Easter Saturday Bishop Karen (of Sherborne) will Confirm four of our COSMIC's – Isobel, Ailsa, Marc and Luc together with some candidates from the Deanery. Thanks to Sarah and our leaders.

We can look forward to the arrival of Ruth Wells and family (Nick, Esme & Eden) in the summer as she begins her time here as Curate-in-training. We will arrange transport to Salisbury Cathedral to attend her Ordination.

Finally, my thanks to my dear wife Zahra for all her hard work and loving support to me and you all.

Rev'd Andrew J W Rowland