



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Celebrating the Life of our Church

Wednesday 26th April 2017

8.15 pm

St Mary's Transept Hall

SIDESPERSIONS 2017

Name	Telephone
Sue Ashton	620276
Julie Beaman **	792123
Janet Biggs	792289
Barbara Corbett **	792738
Isobel and Damian Cranmer	626495
Derek Crouch * / **	629768
Louise Emmins	793616
Celia * and David Forbes	794062
Janet Godley	794267
Ralph Goold	792716
Brian Hayward	792982
Julie Henman **	794889
Alan and Edna Lindfield *	792159
Natalie Marsh	07989 504108
Sue and Jim May *	794676
Dick Morgan	792166
Ann Palmer	792108
Alan and Angie Simkins	792151
Susan and Anna Stacey	794800
Sue Taylor	793820
Simon Taylor	792808
Margaret Tillyer	794639
Jill Whitehouse **	01442 394691
Mollie Williams	791944
Allyson and Rod Woodhouse	01442 254003
Rosemary Woodhouse **	792668

* Sidespersons who have also agreed to act as reserves.

** Sidepersons for Baptism services.

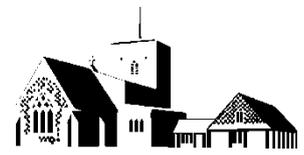
Sue May and Paul Vernon

*“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers,
for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”
Hebrews 13. 2*

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THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS to be held on Wednesday 26th April 2017, at 8.15 pm in the Transept Hall of St Mary's Church

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

1 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th April 2016

2 Motion:

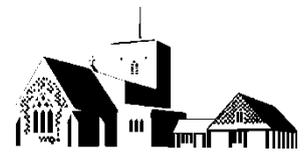
‘That the requirement of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 that a churchwarden may serve for a maximum period of six terms of office (six years) as churchwarden of the same parish will not apply for the elections for Churchwardens at St Mary, Redbourn to be held on 26th April 2017’

3 Election of 2 Parochial Churchwardens

4 Election of up to 2 Deputy Wardens

5 Chairman's Closing Remarks

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 2016

Present: The Vicar, one additional retired clergy person and 48 Parishioners.

The Vicar opened the meeting at 8.15 pm with a prayer.

1) **Minutes of the Meeting held 29th April 2015**

The Minutes of the meeting were read, approved as drawn, and signed by the Lay Co-Chairman as a true record.

Proposed by: David Forbes Seconded by: Karen Doye Passed: Nem Con

2) **Motion**

The requirements of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 that a Churchwarden may serve for a maximum period of six terms of office (six years) as Churchwarden of the same parish, will not apply for the elections of Churchwardens at St Mary, Redbourn to be held on 27th April 2016.

Proposed by: Rod McPhee Seconded by: Sam Butterworth Passed: 1 against

3) **Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens**

Churchwardens

Nominee

Sue May
Paul Vernon

Proposed by

Mollie Williams
Grace Sawyer

Seconded by

Doris Cheetham
Jonathan Goodchild

Deputy Churchwardens

Nominee

Stephen Gell
Alan Simkins

Proposed by

Alan Simkins
Stephen Gell

Seconded by

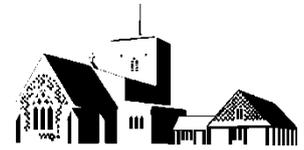
Rosalie Hayward
Mollie Williams

The above were elected Nem Con.

4) **Vote of Thanks**

The Churchwardens and deputies for the past year were thanked. Appreciation goes especially to Sue and Mollie for their continued smooth running of the church. Mollie is standing down this year after six years of service. A bouquet of flowers was presented as a small token of our appreciation.

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN

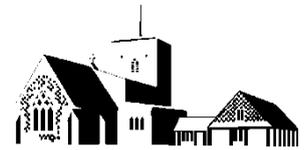


THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING to be held on Wednesday 26th April 2017, at 8.15 pm in the Transept Hall of St Mary's Church

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27th April 2016**
- To receive and discuss**
 - 3 The Electoral Roll**
 - 4 A Report on the Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council**
 - 5 A Report on the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod**
 - 6 The Annual Report & Financial Statements 2016**
 - 7 A Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments**
 - 8 A Report of the Ministry and Witness of the Church throughout 2016**
- 9 Election of 6 Representatives to the Parochial Church Council**
- 10 Election of 4 Representatives to Wheathampstead Deanery Synod**
- 11 Appointment of Sidespeople**
- 12 Appointment of an Independent Examiner to St Mary's Church**
- 13 Any Other Business**
- 14 Chairman's Closing Remarks**

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27th APRIL 2016 IN THE TRANSEPT HALL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Present: The Vicar, one additional retired clergy person and 48 Parishioners.

The meeting opened at 8.28 pm under the chairmanship of the Lay Co-Chairman.

Apologies for Absence: Peter Hansford, Janet Lang, Jan Nelder, Isobel and Damian Cranmer, Lois and Robin Smith, John Davie, Jonathan Wood, Angie and Alan Simkins, Mike Wood, Jane Taylor, Claire Gibbs, Dick and Wendy Morgan, Janet Biggs, Sandra Cresswell, Andrew Doye, Grace Sawyer, Cyril Harling

Booklets containing the minutes of the previous APCM, the various reports and the Accounts for 2015, were available for perusal before the meeting, either by e-mail wherever possible, and by hard copy in Church.

1) Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th April 2015

The minutes of the meeting were read and approved as a true record, and were signed as such by the Chairman of the meeting. There were no matters arising.

Adoption of the minutes

Proposed by: Brian Hayward

Seconded by: Paul Vernon

Passed: Nem Con

2) Electoral Roll

The report had been circulated within the APCM booklet and was accepted Nem Con. Jim May was thanked for his continued work in maintaining the records.

3) PCC Report

This report was also circulated within the APCM booklet and was accepted by the meeting.

4) Deanery Report

The Deanery Secretary's report had been circulated within the APCM booklet. Our thanks are due to the Redbourn representatives on the Deanery Synod.

5) Treasurer's Annual Report and Financial Statements for 2015 audited accounts

A full set of accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's verbal report is included below as it gives a full explanation of the financial position during the year in relation to the audited accounts. Thanks were conveyed to our Treasurer, Brian Hayward, and our Independent Examiner, Ruth Hughes, for their work throughout the year.

PCC Accounts to 31st December 2015

The accounts for the year ended 31.12.15 have been circulated. These are in the usual format as per previous years and conform to the requirements of the Church Accounting regulations and the new Charities Act 2011 which came into effect on 4th March 2012.

Pages 1 to 3 comprise the Annual Report by the Vicar in his capacity as Chairman of the PCC.

Page 4 is the Independent Examiners Report which will be signed by Ruth Hughes.

Page 5 is the summary of our income (entitled Incoming Resources) and Expenditure (entitled Resources Expended) known as the Statement of Financial Activities or SOFA. This reveals a total income for the year of £277,633 and total expenditure of £256,144 resulting in a surplus for the year of £21,489. To this figure is added the gains on investments held by the Diocesan Office of £192 and a surplus of £20,000 arising from the revaluation of the cottage making a total surplus for the year of £41,681. However it must be appreciated that the significant increase in the value of the cottage does not result in cash unless we sell the cottage!

Page 6 is the Balance Sheet for the year at 31st December 2015. Debtors include Income tax recoverable of £8,622, prepayments and accrued income of £3,527 and other debtors of £43,887. Deposit funds include £89,017 with CBF C of E Funds and £15,757 with Nationwide. Liabilities include deferred income and accrual of utility and other costs including creditors of £36,863. Pages 7 and 8 outline the Accounting policies adopted by the PCC which are unchanged.

Pages 9 and 10 provide a detailed breakdown of our income and expenditure which was summarised on page 5. You will see that total giving under the heading of Donations on page 9 came to £98,195 compared to a figure of £93,219 in 2014. The term "Donations" used in the accounts here covers all the collections from Stewardship which includes Standing Orders and the blue envelopes. This figure reflects an increase in giving of some 5.3%. Tax recoverable on the total giving was £26,314 compared with a figure of £24,764 in 2014. Sundry donations of £24,689 include such items as Funeral donations, and contributions to activities such as Fellowship Afloat, Searchlight suppers and revenue from Coffee on the Common

Adoption of the Accounts for 2015

Proposed by: Rod McPhee

Seconded by: Sam Butterworth

Passed: Nem Con

6) A Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

The Churchwardens' Report was included in the booklet. This and all other reports in the booklet were accepted en bloc by the meeting.

7) A Report of the Ministry and Witness of the Church throughout 2015, given by the Vicar, the Reverend Will Gibbs, is printed in full below:-

I have great pleasure in giving my report on the Ministry and Witness of St Mary, Redbourn for the calendar year 2015.

Adrian Plass, the Christian writer and humourist, once memorably described a ‘pillar of the church’ as something that hold things up and obscures vision. I hope that can’t be said of any of us!

Rather, I would say that life as part of St Mary’s Church is about being load bearing and load sharing.

Rather than an obscured vision, our vision is expressed clearly and directed confidently by our Mission Action Plan, which is coming to the end of its four year life this spring. Using that plan we have been able to think strategically about what it means to be the Body of Christ in this place, how we can do that more faithfully, effectively and imaginatively and how we can share our faith with others. In the next couple of months we will have the chance to review that plan, to evaluate what has gone well, which areas need further energy and effort and what else we might seek to do and be, guided by the Holy Spirit at work in us.

We don’t have pillars but we do have a lot of stalwarts, who continue to play a valued, varied, committed and generous part in the life of our church and the year 2015 bears powerful testimony to that.

As always I begin with our worship of God, which is our primary calling as Christians. Whatever else we do or don’t manage to do, or to be involved in, our place in the worshipping community is our highest priority and expression of what it means to be people of God. In terms of styles and times of worship, we continue to enjoy variety and choice on Sundays at St Mary’s with our reverent 8 am Prayer Book communion each Sunday, and an additional service at 12 noon on the first Sunday of each month, albeit for a rather more select few than we would chose, our vibrant 9.30 am Sung Parish Eucharist and a varied pattern for our Sunday evening worship including Choral Evensong, Healing services, worship drawing on the Celtic, Taizé and Choral traditions, some more modern styles of worship and our shared services with Churches Together. Attendance at our services remains buoyant and we continue to experience great joy in welcoming many occasional worshippers and visitors to our Christmas and Easter services, challenging us as to how we might encourage them to become part of our regular worshipping life more frequently. Easter 2014 saw more in church for our services than we can remember, but this was no one-off and the number was slightly improved upon for our Easter celebrations last month.

I am mindful that our time of worship represents the visible ‘tip of the iceberg’ and I continue to be profoundly grateful for the involvement and efforts of so many who play a part in preparing for our services.

These include our sacristans, our textile group and those who launder the vestments and change the altar frontals, Jonathan Goodchild and our choir, those who clean the church and decorate it so beautifully with flowers (which are regularly commented upon and admired), as well as our churchwardens, sidespeople and servers. All these people represent a large investment in terms

of time and skill and I record our thanks to them – for only the best is ever good enough for God and you help us to offer that.

Being a Parish Church brings with it responsibilities as well as privileges and 2015 proved to be another busy year for occasional offices with 24 baptisms celebrated and 8 marriages solemnised as part of the ministry offered here. There were 14 candidates – adults and young people – who were Confirmed in a moving and joyful service in May 2015 led by Bishop Robin.

Less happily 39 funerals or memorial services took place last year, including 13 burials and 36 interments of cremated remains. We have entrusted into the care and keeping of God some cherished members of our church family and wider community, among them:

Linda Smith, Ron Henry, Peter McCarthy, Phyllis Smith, Mavis Winch, Joanne Woods, Connie Fiddler, Ron Such, John Richardson, Gill Gear and Jackie Osborne. We also said a fond farewell to Anne Hart, former reader here at St Mary's, and to her husband, Canon Dennis Hart, whose humility, wisdom and wit we miss enormously.

During 2015, four members of our church were approved to train as Lay Leaders of Worship and it has been inspiring to see them grow in skill and confidence as they have undertaken their training and developed their skills in planning and leading non-Eucharistic services.

Our Local Ministry Development Team was mandated for a four year period as part of our Patronal Festival celebrations in September. Jeanette Gosney, the Diocesan Parish Development Officer, came to preach and to conduct the mandating ceremony and it was also the perfect occasion for Bishop Michael, Bishop of Hertford, to make the first of what I hope will be many visits by him to Redbourn. Both commented on the vibrancy of our church and the warmth of welcome they received from you. Bishop Michael followed this time with us forty eight hours later with half day pastoral visit to our Parish. During it he and I shared an assembly at the Infants School, highlighting again what warm and cordial relations we enjoy with all our schools, and he shared time with the Local Ministry Team and Churchwardens before leading an extended Bible study and vision sharing exercise with our PCC.

Our Local Ministry Development Team continues to be a very central cog in the machine, with members taking a lead in our ministry with small groups, Coffee on the Common, home visiting and pastoral lunches, cooking and delivering meals at times of illness and need, baptism and wedding preparation, stewardship, Home Communion, teaching and discipleship and our ministry to, and among, children and young people.

Last year, as in recent years, we set aside time in the key seasons of Lent and Advent to offer additional opportunities for worship, prayer and study. In Lent, Lucy led an excellent series on different theories of the atonement followed by Compline, several members of the congregation shared their faith story, and we looked at the lives and writings of five women of faith, and reflected on key stories from Luke's Gospel. We enjoy some of the Lent programme with our brothers and sisters in Christ from the other churches in Redbourn, and a particular highlight was the performance in St Mary's of a one-man passion play – 'An Impossible God?' by Mark Topping. In Advent we valued a Quiet Day led by Andrew Doye and the opportunity for a Tuesday evening series of addresses on The Canticles.

This coming Advent we are looking forward to a very exciting innovation with a Living Advent Calendar. Early evening each day we will go through a different door of a building or place in the village to see something or experience something to inspire and delight. Look out for the publicity for this coming out soon. It should be amazing!

I have already mentioned our friends in Churches Together but, alongside them, I must also make mention of the Russian Orthodox congregation that continues to worship at St Mary's once a month. These are gracious, holy, prayerful people who are a joy to have around and we are blessed by our friendship with them. I am delighted that they have accepted an invitation to come as a congregation and join us for our Patronal Festival on 11 September, later this year.

St Mary's has hosted a number of other congregations during the course of the year, with several parishes enjoying our church and facilities for a Quiet Day or an Away Day, including the chaplaincy team from Luton Airport. We have also welcomed a couple of visits from local history groups, the St Albans Branch of the Prayer Book Society joined us for evensong and, oh, there was also the Archbishop of Canterbury who came to Redbourn for a breakfast I hosted for senior business leaders in the region.

All of this is mentioned as part of the important ministry of welcome and hospitality offered by our church, some of it seen and some of it perhaps less obvious and known. Our ministry of welcome and hospitality is also expressed in Coffee on the Common, which remains such a valuable part of what we do. But we do need some more people to help with this on a regular or occasional basis. The selection criteria are very rigorous – you've got to be able to boil a kettle and smile. That's it! So do please speak to Sue May if you could help us with this, which is valued so much by young and old alike who come to the cricket pavilion for friendship and fellowship.

Much of what I have said so far has been about the 'what' and 'where' but I want to spend a moment to reflect on the 'who'. We continue to be greatly blessed in not only an active laity but a ministry team with huge gifts and a generosity in sharing them.

I'd like to say what a joy it is that we receive the ministry of Christine Farrington, Bishop Robin and Lois, Mark Cresswell and Kay Vernon. They are great colleagues to me and widely appreciated by us all. Thank you.

It was a huge pleasure to witness the licensing of Mark and Kay at Hertford last June, with Mark completing his reader training and Kay formally transferring her ministry to this diocese from the Willesden area of London. Also in the June we said our fond farewells to Revd Jan Goodair as she moved to be nearer to her family members in the North. She offered huge encouragement, pastoral support and thoughtful preaching as well as making a significant contribution to the choir. We miss her much but I am still in touch and she has settled well and is very happy.

In July, we reached the moment to say a sad goodbye to Lucy and her family, as they moved to Flitwick for the next chapter of family life and her ministry. In her three years with us she gave so much time, energy and enthusiasm to her thoughtful ministry amongst us and we record our sincere thanks to her, as we do to Anthony, Jamie, Ellie and Libby for their own participation and contribution to our church life. It was good to see so many from Redbourn travel on the coach to share in Lucy's Induction Service on 1 September and see her warmly welcomed and so happy.

We're absolutely delighted to have opportunity to support and encourage another curate in training only a year after Lucy's move and we look forward very much to welcoming Tim our new curate in early July, Sophy his wife and their little baby when it arrives – also sometime around then! It could be a busy summer for them, I think.

In the next couple of months we will have to say some very sad farewells to Mark and Sandra Cresswell and they move to Suffolk for a new adventure in their ministry and discipleship. I don't want to pre-empt what I'll say then but suffice it to say we will miss you both so much. But we mustn't be selfish when they, or any others, come alongside for a time and then move on to express their calling in other places. Any sense of loss we might be tempted to feel can more than be counteracted by a strong conviction that they and Lucy, Jan and anybody else we say farewell to will be serving God in new ways and in places where they will be a huge blessing. And their leaving gives space for others to step up and grow into the roles they must hand on to someone else...

On which note, I want to make mention of the fantastic year that 2015 has been for young people at St Mary's, much of it through the encouragement and leadership of Sandra working with a large team of others. In an oversubscribed Summer Holiday Club, our excellent Sunday morning groups, in Bears and Prayers, eXcite Messy Church, Gospellers and a sailing weekend our children and young people are well provided for, valued and encouraged to grow in faith alongside us.

I have deliberately not mentioned money until now but we continue to be indebted to Mike Wood, our Treasurer Brian Hayward, Sue and Jim May and the stewardship committee for the work they do with Stewardship Giving and our finances more generally. They do a fantastic job but they can only do this because of the committed and generous stewardship of members of our congregations.

And as we have freely received, so we ensure that we also are generous in what we give to support others. The CFC had another excellent year raising £7800 to help former service personnel suffering with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Alongside that we continue to collect items for DENS foodbank and give to a number of other charities and good causes.

And speaking of giving, a cost which comes as much by way of time as anything is the care for our churchyard which looks better than ever and we record sincere thanks to David Swift and all the team of churchyard mowers and gardeners for their efforts, skill and dedication. It is hugely appreciated by us and the people of Redbourn.

If the outside of the church looks good, so too does the inside and in particular this building. Jim May has worked extraordinarily hard to mastermind efforts over the past twelve months with our ancillary buildings. A few items of snagging have been attended to, as well as significant work to completely replace and reconfigure the kitchen here, the Transept flooring, new lighting in this room and some internal redecorations. Alongside this Jim has given huge swathes of time, very considerable thought and meticulous care over the redevelopment of the Old Church Hall which comes next. We have our pre-contract meeting tomorrow and look forward with great anticipation to seeing progress in the coming months.

We record our thanks for the work of the Friends and in particular for their generosity in part funding the work I've mentioned in the Transept to the tune of £5000 and paying the £12500

for a brand new boiler in church. Without their generosity the accounts we received a few minutes ago would have read very differently.

On a personal note, I decided to pass the Rural Dean's baton on in the autumn having fulfilled the five year term of office. This has allowed me to take some other opportunities for my own personal growth and development. I was somewhat surprised and delighted to be elected to the General Synod of the Church of England, I attended a superb albeit intensive course for five and a half days on Transforming Church Conflict and I am privileged to support and mentor two recently appointed incumbents in the Diocese. None of these things, and indeed any of the ministry we share in, would be possible without your backing and also the fantastic support and patience of Claire, Olivia and Darcy. I take none of that for granted, I can assure you.

I began with a quote and I finish with another, this time from Russell Barry, a revered Bishop in the Church of England in the mid twentieth century. He says this:

“Religion that is not embedded in the common life too soon degenerates into religiosity, and an inward-looking Church is a dying Church.”

I hope that in this report I have been able share with you something of our everyday life as we serve God and his people as an outward facing people of service and prayer, and it continues to be the greatest privilege to do this as your Vicar.

8) Election of 5 representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Five places are available for a period of three years.

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Stephen Gell	Alan Simkins	Rosemary Woodhouse
John Searle	Mollies Williams	Celia Forbes
David Mitchell	Keith McAdam	Celia Forbes
Louise McPhee	Julie Henman	Keith McAdam
Brian Hayward	Mollie Williams	Doris Cheetham

The above were elected nem con.

9) Appointment of Sidespersons

The names had been circulated within the booklet prior to the meeting. The names of Karen and Andrew were added to the list as reserves.

Adoption of the Sidespersons:-

Proposed by: Stephen Gell Seconded By: Pat Lacey Passed: Nem Con

10) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ruth Hughes was thanked for all the work she put in to help provide the set of Accounts for the year, and for the assistance she offers to the Treasurer throughout the year. Ruth indicated that she would be happy to continue in her role for a further year.

Appointment of Independent Examine approved by the meeting nem con.

11) Any Other Business

There were no further matters raised.

12) Chairman's Closing Remarks

Keith McAdam thanked Will for his inspirational leadership at St Mary's. His encouragement within the whole community is second to none. The wealth of services available at Lent and Advent gave opportunity for everyone to be able to participate fully. The training he provides to others is very important and will be increased again when the new Curate starts at St Mary's. We are very fortunate to have Will and his family in our midst. Thank you from all of us.

Will thanked Keith for his kind words, and then invited the newly elected PCC members to serve the wine!

The meeting closed with a prayer and the Grace at 9.15 pm.

LAY CO-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2016

As Lay Co-Chair, it has been a privilege to support the Vicar in conducting the business of the PCC and its Standing Committee, which provides an oversight of the many activities at St Mary's. Much appreciation for the Secretary to the PCC, Celia Forbes.

Over the last five years we have regularly kept track of progress in achieving our goals in the Mission Action Plan (MAP), focusing on three broad areas: 1) worship at St Mary's and building personal faith; 2) being an outward looking church and creating community hubs; and 3) expecting church growth and developing leadership of all ages. The MAP provides a dynamic five-year vision for our faith community, and we are now in the process of creating a new MAP for St Mary's. Following discussion at the PCC, an invitation was sent to everyone on the Electoral Roll to be involved in a participatory process of appreciating what is currently happening in our community and coming up with a vision for St Mary's in 2021. A second Village consultation meeting in the Village Hall, attended by 50 people from a wide representation of interests, was an opportunity to contribute imaginatively to a vision of Redbourn in 2021 and to influence the Strategic Plan for St Mary's as the Parish Church within the Redbourn Community; a plan that allows people with different backgrounds, creeds and cultures to work together to make Redbourn an even better place to live and work and bring up our families. A major challenge has emerged: how can we best meet the many aspirations expressed for serving a larger population? The implications and the challenges are far-reaching.

We all feel proud of our lovely Church that has served the Redbourn community for over 900 years and our beautiful churchyard, so caringly maintained by David Swift and the committed churchyard team. A major project over the last year has been to renew the space of the old church hall. We appreciate the dedicated service of the Church Wardens, Sue May and Paul Vernon, the ancillary buildings committee led by Jim May and the Friends of St Mary's in their roles of maintaining our treasured resources.

The Advent and Lent programmes have been engaging and well attended again this year; a real tribute to the vision and energy of Will and his team. Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals remain a major responsibility for our Parish Church and a great opportunity. Coffee on the Common,

Teddy Tots, Mothers' Union, Caring Cooks, Redbourn Festival Chorus, Daycare Centre, Holiday Club and Spotlight groups and more...all serve the wider community in Redbourn. What is God calling each of us to, for the future?

We are indeed fortunate to have such a talented wider Ministerial team. Tim Vickers, (with Sophy and Jem), has made a big impact in his Curacy in St Mary's. Kay and Paul Vernon have brought their considerable ministerial and musical talents to St Mary's. Aren't we privileged to have Christine Farrington, Bishop Robin and Lois Smith here too?

This is an opportunity again to acknowledge and thank Will on behalf of the St Mary's family and to appreciate Will and Claire, Olivia and Darcy as a family. We are indeed fortunate to benefit from his leadership and ministry in the Parish. He has had a new role on the General Synod this year. Will's leadership extends widely, with strong community involvement, as we seek to allow God's love to transform our local community.

Keith McAdam – Lay Co-Chair

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016

The elected period of the Parochial Church Council runs from April to April, and the statistics mentioned in this report relate to those dates.

The full PCC has met six times during the year, and the Standing Committee three times. Those on the Council are:-

The Chairman	The Vicar, The Revd Will Gibbs
Assistant Curate	The Revd Tim Vickers
Lay Co-Chairman	Keith McAdam
Churchwardens	Sue May and Paul Vernon
Deputy Churchwardens	Stephen Gell and Alan Simkins
Licensed Reader	Kay Vernon
Deanery Synod	Ralph Goold, Jill Whitehouse, Julie Henman
Deanery Lay Co-Chairman	Peter Hansford
Stewardship Chairman	Mike Wood
Plus elected members of the PCC	

Record of members' attendances at meetings:

	Full PCC	Standing Committee
The Vicar	6/6	3/3
The Assistant Curate	3/4	0/2
Doris Cheetham	4/6	
Karen Doye	4/6	
Celia Forbes	5/6	3/3
Stephen Gell	6/6	2/3
Ralph Goold	3/6	
Peter Hansford	4/6	
Brian Hayward	5/6	3/3
Julie Henman	4/6	
Jim May	6/6	3/3

Sue May	6/6	3/3
Keith McAdam	6/6	1/3
Louise McPhee	5/6	
Rod McPhee	4/6	
David Mitchell	2/6	
John Searle	6/6	
Michelle Parry-Slater	5/6	
Alan Simkins	3/6	3/3
Steve Smith	6/6	
David Swift	4/6	2/3
Kay Vernon	5/6	
Paul Vernon	4/6	3/3
Jill Whitehouse	4/6	
Mike Wood	5/6	2/3

Offices held by members for the year 2015/16

Lay Co-Chairman	Keith McAdam
Treasurer	Brian Hayward
Secretary	Celia Forbes

Chairpersons of Sub-Committees

Stewardship	Mike Wood
Ancillary Buildings	Jim May
Churchyard	David Swift
Charitable Finance	Stephen Gell

Although currently not a member of the PCC, Ailsa Hulme is Co-Ordinator of Youth Work.

Members' attendance at meetings has been good, ranging from a low of 68% to a high of 84%. Attendance at Standing Committee meetings continues to be very good with few absences.

The Mission Action Plan has drawn to the end of its four years duration, and considerable time and thought has already been given to our future plans. It is hoped that discussion between the PCC and the further congregation will finalise plans in the near future.

We were delighted that the Revd Tim Vickers joined the ministerial team during the year, and many of the congregation were able to attend his Ordination at the Abbey in July, and his further welcome to St Mary's at the Patronal Festival in September. We hope that Tim, Sophy and Jem will find their time with us fulfilling.

Following the departure of Mark Cresswell and Anthony Davis last year our website was left without a full time manager. We are pleased and grateful that Kate Ford has taken on the job, has revamped the website, and has introduced new features. The newsletter is once again being circulated by e-mail. Our printers continue to provide their flawless back room service, and although their presence is not now seen working in the vestry, we do appreciate their commitment. Minutes of the PCC and Standing Committee meetings continue to be displayed in the Church Porch, and it is hoped to resume their publication on the Church website very soon.

The work on the Transept improvements and extensions has now finished, and Jim May is giving all his attention to the development of the Old Church Hall. This should be completed in the summer of 2017. The whole venture has not been without unforeseen problems and extra costs and we are very grateful to Jim for his diligence and attention to detail on the project.

Rosemary and Geoff Woodhouse continue to manage the Transept most efficiently for which we thank them.

Our newest initiative, which, although envisaged in 2016, has only just been commissioned in 2017 is the new Pastoral Visiting Team. The booklet therefore includes a report on progress so far.

Our thanks are also due to Ailsa Hulme who has taken on the overall responsibility of the Youth Work at St. Mary's. This is a challenging task to which she has risen boldly, to carry on from where Sandra Cresswell left off.

Celia Forbes – Secretary to the PCC

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – APRIL 2017

The Electoral Roll has been revised this year in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

- ❖ In April 2016, there were 291 persons on the Electoral Roll.
- ❖ During the year, 13 left and 16 persons joined the roll.
- ❖ The nett effect of this is that the total has risen by 3 in the last year.
- ❖ Thus there are 294 persons on the new Electoral Roll.

Of these 294 people, 47 live outside the parish. Last year, 45 lived outside the parish.

Jim May – Electoral Roll Officer

WHEATHAMPSTEAD DEANERY SYNOD 2016

Wheathampstead Deanery, one of the smaller deaneries in the diocese, covers the nine parishes and eleven churches in Harpenden and the surrounding villages. Deanery Synod is made up of parish clergy and parish lay representatives elected every three years according to the numbers on the electoral roll, together with members of Diocesan Synod (who are also thereby members of Deanery Synod and their PCC).

It meets three times a year under the leadership of the Rural Dean and Lay Chairman, and provides a forum for discussion of current issues within the deanery and beyond, as it receives regular reports from Diocesan and General Synods. Synod meetings open with prayers led by the host parish which also has the opportunity to talk about its life and work. One soon realises the individual nature of every one of the parishes in the deanery. An Ascension Day service and Deanery Evensong in the autumn provide opportunities for us to worship in different churches across the deanery and to build relationships with other congregations.

Last February Synod heard about a major building project undertaken by St. Mary's, Redbourn in response to a growing church family, particularly young people. Mr. Jim May expertly guided us through the stages of consultation, getting planning permissions, funding and project

management, all of which had been time-consuming but rewarding. Their experience may well prove helpful to other parishes considering works, large or small.

Updating our Deanery Mission Plan (MAP) was the topic for our next meeting held in the Palladian church of Ayot St. Lawrence on a perfect summer evening (do make a visit if you have never been). Synod members divided into groups to work on different strands and many useful suggestions were made to encourage parishes to work together and to communicate better.

Building on that meeting – and on Bishop Michael’s visit (see below) – Canon Tim Lomax, Diocesan Director of Mission, came to speak on *Making New Disciples*, probably the most challenging part of Living God’s Love, especially amidst today’s rapidly changing culture and lifestyles. He encouraged us to seek ways to grow the faith of children and young people, to offer courses for enquirers and journey with other people in conversation, hospitality, worship and prayer, and to reach out and welcome those unconnected with church in new and different ways.

On 7th November the deanery welcomed the Bishop of Hertford who spent a whole day with us (every deanery in the diocese has had a visit from one of the bishops). After visiting Sauncey Wood school and taking part in an RE lesson, he had lunch with the deanery clergy before meeting some of those engaged in pastoral visiting within the deanery. This was followed by a meeting with some of the young people who are involved with X:site. His day ended with an evening of Celebration & Thanksgiving held at St. Luke’s school in Redbourn where over a hundred church members involved in the myriad activities of our local churches came together to hear an ‘interview’ with Bishop Michael and share experiences with one another. Bishop Michael thanked everyone who contributed to the life of the churches in our deanery and the evening ended with a joyful act of worship and a sense we had got to know one another a little better.

Elizabeth Brown – Deanery Synod Secretary and member of Diocesan Synod

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT FOR 2016

2016 opened with the tower clock and church heating system experiencing some ongoing problems. We’re delighted to report that both were fixed in the early part of the year, and are now carrying out their respective duties without complaint.

The six nave lights (above the clerestory windows) have all been replaced with LED lights, following the fire incident in December 2015.

Other minor maintenance works carried out during 2016 include:

- replacement of one bollard light, one floodlight bulb
- a full electrical survey and PAT testing was carried out and areas of concern fixed
- repair of the safe after someone’s key (no names) got stuck in the lock and we were unable to open the safe one Sunday morning. We took the opportunity to overhaul all three locks

The big highlight of the year was the Quinquennial Inspection. Our architect, Mike Dales, carries out the survey every five years (clue is in the name), and we all pray fervently that he will not undercover any surprises. The headline from his report is that there is some work to be

done, but very little of it is immediately urgent or serious. That being said, we believe it is prudent to stay on top of things and therefore to tackle those parts that could deteriorate seriously without early attention. The PCC will be giving consideration to the priority areas in early 2017. The report's main areas of concern were:

- Drainage around the bottom of the tower
- 9 instances of stonework issues, 7 of which are low enough not to need to hire scaffolding. The architect will be asked if he could give an idea of the cost of the remedial work for this
- Transept roof tiles are in a deplorable state
- Internal decoration of the walls in the church

The problem of loose floor tiles, particularly at the aisle crossing, still awaits a permanent resolution. Regularly re-seating loose tiles on the sand underneath is possible, but only produces a very short-term improvement. We are looking at the best way to find a permanent but inexpensive solution.

The Terrier (a book, not a dog) records all assets of our church, and keeping it up to date is a key responsibility of the churchwardens. Looking forward from 2017, we plan to look into ways we might bring it into the electronic age by transferring its contents into a database.

Moving swiftly from mundane - although essential - maintenance issues, we were pleased to be able to ensure a faculty was granted just in time for Advent so that the wonderful deep damask altar frontal could put in its maiden appearance on Advent Sunday. Our appreciations go to Isobel Cranmer for designing and bringing to life this frontal, the creation of which must have consumed a lot of time and space in her home.

For the larger Christmas Eucharists, we experimented with an extra distribution point for Holy Communion, in an effort to reduce the time taken in this part of the service. The initiative seemed to be a success and we will repeat it at Easter 2017 and probably keep it going forward for services with larger attendance.

We'd like to record our thanks as always to the Friends of St Marys who so often step in to help us with longer-term spending and unforeseen emergency needs. Their support is really appreciated.

We also want to express our continued thanks to the Churchyard team, ably led by David Swift. Their hard work throughout the year is not unnoticed. The attractiveness of the churchyard contributes so much to the life of our church and wider community.

Sue May

Paul Vernon

PASTORAL VISITING TEAM

The Pastoral Visiting Team (to be known as the St Mary's Visitors) was commissioned on 26th March. Each member was given a Pyx as a symbol of that ministry.

Aim

The aim of the visiting team is to provide a structured way of offering pastoral support on behalf of the Church and in the name of Christ, to all who may need it in the village of Redbourn. The idea is for it not to be dependent on any one person. We will start small and softly, but as we get better organised we hope that this will be advertised locally in the village. We may not always talk about God or pray, but this will be very much a part of this ministry offered.

Recruitment and safeguarding.

Each member was recruited after careful consideration and discussion between Will and myself and then the person involved, to make sure we had the right people and that they felt that pastoral ministry was part of their ministry and calling. All have been DBS checked, have covered safeguarding as part of training and will be required to go on Diocesan Safeguarding Training. There is also a Pastoral Visitor Role Description, and a set of guidelines (still to be finalised but to be brought for approval by the new PCC).

Currently there are ten members: Albert Joly, Doris Cheetham, Julie Beaman, Julie Henman, Jill Whitehouse, Mollie Williams, Ian Ashton, Sue Ashton, Revd Will Gibbs and Revd Tim Vickers

Training

All have undertaken the 5 week Diocesan Pastoral Training Course 'Principles and Practicalities' which was held at the Curates house on Mondays from 16th January to 27th Feb, apart from Ian and Sue Ashton who had previously undertaken this course. This course will be a requirement for all future visitors.

This training involved the following subjects:

1. Called to care: pastoral ministry and Christian discipleship. This explored the pastoral ministry of all us to care for others in Christ's name and our motivations for doing so,
2. The Pastoral Encounter: building relationship. This session looked at what it means to be made in God's image, those whom we visit and why, and some time on practical listening skills.
3. Talking About God: praying with people. Here we explored how and when to explicitly bring God into the situation, and how to pray for people, with some practical exercises.
4. Challenging Encounters: dealing with difficult situations. We explored loneliness and bereavement, some of the challenges for a visitor and exploring our prejudices.
5. Safe practice: confidentiality, communication and accountability. In this session we looked at how to keep ourselves safe.

Ongoing training

We will meet quarterly to discuss visits and also to receive bite-sized training on various issues concerning pastoral visiting, as well as diocesan training on the issue that may be relevant. Training will be organised by Revd Will Gibbs.

Structure and process

The group will have a coordinator who will be the point of contact (with own email) for arranging any visits or for prayer requests. As we become more established this will be advertised in Common Round, via the website and in church. At the moment this is Revd Tim Vickers. The coordinator will then allocate visitors to a person in need based on their skills and availability.

The group will meet quarterly to review visiting, and to formally record how often visits have been made, and as a point of support. These minutes will form the main record and will be stored securely in the parish office. In between meetings Revd Will and Revd Tim will offer support and advice as required.

What next

A more detailed set of guidelines will be brought to the PCC for approval, but in the meantime if anyone has any questions?

The Revd Tim Vickers – Coordinator

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

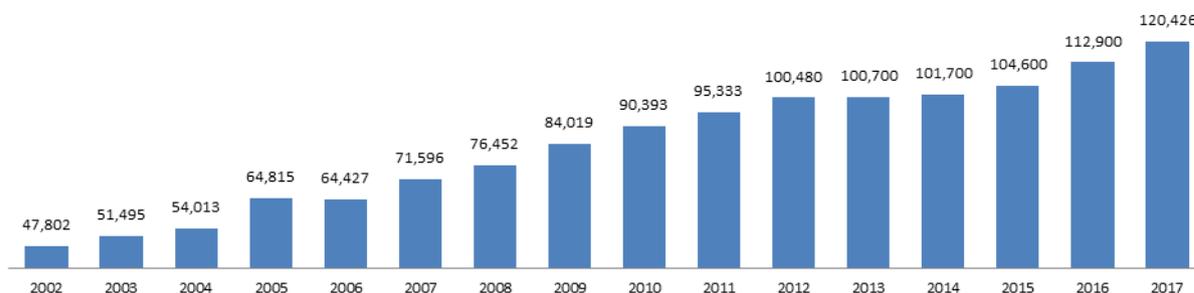
For the first half of 2016 the Stewardship Committee again focused on encouraging everyone to prayerfully consider their level of giving to St Mary's. After the summer our efforts turned to the other "T"s to inspire everyone to utilise their Time and Talents to the benefit of our Church.

In January we held an appeal to increase our Planned Giving by £8,300. This target was to cover the exact increase in our Parish Share which totalled £112,900. A powerful sermon by the Vicar was supplemented with a leaflet entitled "**Parish Share Explained**" which provided information about what the Parish Share covers and why we need to play our part in its funding. It also set out the challenge for everyone.

We had a positive and generous response from the congregation which was tracked over the following weeks by a large thermometer on the doors into the Transept Hall. We reached our target in April which was a fantastic effort from everyone.

Continuing to meet our Parish Share is a key focus for us as a Church. It is a large amount of money, but we see a huge amount in return, not just for St Mary's but in our contribution to the wider church ministry. You will see from the graph below that the Parish Share has grown a lot over the years and continues to do so leaving us with a similar challenge for 2017.

Parish Share 2002-2017



The Patronal Festival, held in September, was again a great success. Following the service we were treated to an amazing "Bring and Share" lunch. Once again, the generosity of our Church shines through. After lunch we had time to enjoy the sunshine, bouncy castle and a bar provided by the Friends of St Mary's. The afternoon continued as we returned to the Church for a wonderful concert by the Dagnall Community Choir.

Our final activity for the year was a "Time and Talents Day". On a Sunday morning in November there were 20 stalls explaining the various activities that take place in the Church. The leaders decorated their stalls with items of information about the specific activity. A leaflet accompanied the event which contained a map of the stalls and a graphic of all the activities that take place in the Church. We had a good response with a number of people signing up to join in with an activity. We always need more people to help with these incredibly important activities within the life of St Mary's, so this is an ongoing task.

Welcome Book and Photographs – Sections of the Welcome Book were again updated during the year and new photos added. We print quite a few of these books during the year so they are obviously of value to new and existing members of our Church and also visitors. The photos of our valued activity leaders are also on the wall in the Library Area of the Church and on the Stewardship noticeboard.

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee I would like to thank all those who give so generously of their time, talents and treasure.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

Michael Wood – Chairman

LAY LEADERS OF WORSHIP

This year, Rod McPhee, Peter Hansford, Sue May, and David Forbes were all licensed as Lay Leaders of Worship.

We have all now undergone at least 4 sessions of training in the theory and practice of leading services of all types. As licensed LLWs we are now able to assist and lead in non- Eucharistic worship in St Marys.

The designation of LLW will only apply to St Mary's.

The Training has certainly been enjoyable, if not, in a few cases, taking us outside our usual comfort zones!

We have now had the opportunity to lead various services, particularly on Sunday Evening Services, and have given talks at other Services. During peak times of the year we hope to be able to ease some of the liturgical burden from Will, and widen the number of approved leaders of worship in St Marys.

David Forbes – on behalf of the LLWs

CHURCHYARD SUB-COMMITTEE

I am pleased to report that slowly but surely we are continuing to maintain and improve the appearance of our wonderful Churchyard.

Our small group of volunteers together with the regular help of young offenders from the Probation Service have now managed to reclaim most of the Churchyard, all graves are now accessible and we have a clear view through the graveyard.

During the year we have managed to clear areas not seen for many years. We have dug topsoil (approximately ten ton) from our compost heap and used it to level areas of the old graveyard.

I am truly grateful to everyone who helps with our work and would personally like to thank Rosemary and Geoff Woodhouse, Michael Darvell and Mike Thain for their continued support.

Our flower beds and Rose Garden are beautifully maintained by Ursula Bradley, Carol Dawson, Ken Smith, Claire Farquar and Wendy and Dick Morgan. These areas are a credit to them and I thank them all.

Our Churchyard is an ongoing challenge and we do need help to keep it maintained, please consider joining us as an individual or as part of a group. Check the Church news for dates of our operation Churchyard.

David Swift – Chairman

THE CHARITABLE FINANCE COMMITTEE – CFC

Our 2016 appeal was launched on April 17th at the 9.30 Service with a presentation by Cathy Bolshaw from Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled, our Charity of the Year, assisted by Diane Goodchild and Amanda and Toby Stansfield. After the Service, those attending were able to go outside to meet two of the ponies, Cody and Tonto. We have been delighted by the enthusiastic and generous response of St Mary's congregation and, over the year, we raised £16,169, which Gaddesden Place intend to put towards a new 'Mule' tractor and shed.

A major contributor to this total was Claire Gibbs' sponsored swim, a remarkable achievement in itself, when, over two days, she swam a distance equivalent to a Channel crossing. Other fundraising activities included 'Carols and Beer' in December 2015, a Quiz Night at The Cricketers and collections made at Living Advent Calendar events in 2016. As always, the CFC are most grateful for all the initiatives undertaken on behalf of our chosen charity and for generous individual donations. We have also encouraged members of the congregation to register with Give as You Live, a scheme whereby a small donation is given to a chosen charity each time an online purchase is made.

Practical support for Gaddesden Place was provided on 24th August, which turned out to be the hottest day of the year, when an all-age working party of 17 people from St Mary's undertook a number of tasks at the Riding School, including annual cleaning tasks, weather proofing and weeding.

We benefited from a retiring collection (and proceeds from the Vicar's ice-cream stall) when we were, for the second year running, entertained by members of the Dagnall Community Choir, in a concert of popular and classical favourites which concluded our Patronal Festival Celebrations.

We were pleased to be able to revive a St Mary's tradition when we organised a Harvest Supper on September 30th. The meal was based on pies provided by the firm 'Pieminister' and was accompanied by a pub-type quiz. The occasion was deemed to be enjoyable and we hope to organise the event again in future years.

Our support for DENS (Dacorum Emergency Night) Shelter continues in the form of the food-bank box, which is kept in the Baptistery. Donations, which include those collected at Redbourn Co-op, are delivered to DENS by a team of drivers on a weekly basis.

Stephen Gell – Secretary of the CFC

eXplore – MESSY CHURCH

In the Summer of 2016 our monthly eXplore Messy Church closed. This was not a decision that was taken lightly but after much thought and prayer. The numbers had proved to be quite small, and variable, and this was making the planning and leading of the sessions quite difficult. It is also a very 'labour-intensive' format and we became increasingly aware that a huge amount of time was being given by our dedicated team which wasn't always repaid in terms of the numbers coming along. Far from being despondent by this, I think it shows a confidence that as a church we can reflect critically, and can stop doing things as well as starting new ones. I think that this was definitely an example of an activity that 'flourished for a season' and I want to record our sincere thanks to Sue May and the whole Messy Church team who gave the children and their adult carers attending such a positive and fun experience during our sessions. Thank you.

ANCILLARY BUILDINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

Our main focus this year has been on converting the Old Church Hall to residential accommodation. Tenders were received and the contract was awarded to the lowest bidder (Clairmark Ltd). Work started in the summer, starting with the roof. Once the old tiles had been stripped off, it was discovered that a lot of the roof timbers were rotten, so new roof timbers were required, adding to the cost. Then, in clearing the vegetation from the outside, it was discovered that ivy roots had penetrated one wall to such an extent that it would be impossible to remove them without risking the wall falling down. So it was rebuilt on top of a new 3-foot concrete foundation, which effectively buries any remaining ivy roots in that area. Then, when the old floor boarding was removed, we found that the floor joists were rotten. So these were removed in readiness for a new concrete floor. Meanwhile, redundant window and door openings have been bricked up and new windows fitted. So, we are almost ready to start on the internal work and the drainage, which we hope will be complete by next summer. The project will have cost more than we had expected, but will still deliver a valuable asset to the PCC, capable of generating income for years to come.

Jim May – Chairman

THE MOTHERS' UNION

Our theme for 2016 was 'A celebration of Faith' and this theme was carried throughout our year starting with our Epiphany Ecumenical Carol Service in January, when we were joined by members of other Church Groups in Redbourn, the Russian Orthodox Church and our MU friends from Harpenden. Will talked to us in Lent on "Taking the Wilderness Seriously" and we joined in the Methodist Church service for Women's' World Day of Prayer. David Cheetham gave a talk on 'Monastic Christians Today', and Bishop Robin talked to us in Advent on 'All the Saints'.

More secular topics covered were Teaching in a Prison – a fascinating talk by Pam Hansford, Birds of the Ver Valley by John Fisher and the work of the Hospice of St. Frances from one of their Ambassadors.

At a Deanery level it was our year to host the Lady Day Service and we followed this with cake and coffee. A highlight of the year was the Deanery 'Songs of Praise' at St. Mary's Kinsbourne Green, when people explained why they had chosen a hymn, and what it means to them. In November, instead of the Deanery Advent Service, we held a vigil at St. Nicholas for 16 days of Activism against Gender Violence, which was very thought provoking and meaningful.

At Diocesan level, some of us attended the Sharing Day 'Top Tips' at Welwyn, and a highlight was the Diocesan AGM in Stevenage, which was led by the Mothers' Union World Wide President Lynne Tembey. We also had the thrill of being presented by her and our Diocesan President Kim Wilkinson with the award for Best Presented Programme!

Once again we got together with the brownies and guides to make the Christingles. We took over £130 more than last year for this wonderful cause. Our Action and Outreach programmes here at St. Mary's continue. We provide baptism packs and have helped the 'Gospellers' Sunday School Group with funds for the annual sailing weekend. Twiddlemuffs have been knitted for dementia patients at St. Matthews and we are still knitting things required by the diocese.

We had 3 main fundraising efforts this year. On Mothering Sunday we once again raised money to send to Chamnye - £584 - used to buy grain for the village. I continue to keep in touch via email with Samwel their Priest, and send Christmas, Easter and Mothering Sunday cards to our MU Sisters in Christ. In June we held our main MU Fundraiser, and were able to send £141.00 to Mary Sumner House for their work overseas. Barbara Corbett's scheme to raise money on behalf of the whole congregation to buy Christmas Presents for women at St. Albans Women's Refuge – co-ordinated by the Mothers' Union – was a huge success, and we were delighted to be able to hand over 48 presents together with the Christmas Cake that Janet Burdock had decorated as part of her Christmas talk to us.

Jollies included the Annual Supper and Summer Lunch, and a Strawberry Tea after the Wave of prayer in June. Our outing was to The Gardens of the Rose. During that past year we have sadly lost 2 old and dear friends. Eileen Roberts died in October and Kathleen Mead in December. We have 2 new members – Elaine Greenhalgh and Clorinda Goodman. Our present membership stands at 38.

In my fourth year as Branch Leader I have once again been privileged to serve on a first rate committee – all my fellow 'team members' are very committed, hardworking, fun and down to earth. They are wonderfully supportive of me, and I thank them all so much. My thanks to Will, Robin, Christine and Tim for their taking of our services, and an especial thank you to Will for his marvellous support and encouragement to me as Branch Leader.

Our Theme for 2017 is Faith in Action. I do feel that the MU here at St. Mary's is extremely active – and that we will prove this in the coming year.

Mary-Jane Boffey – Branch Leader

BELLRINGING AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Practice nights

Practice nights have been well attended with quite a few visitors joining us occasionally. It is good news that Flamstead now has an embryo band of ringers, thanks to help offered to Father Tom, himself a ringer, from district ringers especially Liz and Mary Hughes plus other Redbourn ringers at some practices. Some of the Flamstead ringers have joined our practices, outing and district activities. We have a new learner, Joe Edwards (son of Ben and Rebecca) who cannot often attend on Tuesday nights as he is only 9 and, but Joe is getting some experience on Sundays and on ringing outings and rang rounds unaided on Christmas Day. Jackie and Gemma continue to improve and Gemma rang for her first wedding this year as well as ringing a quarter peal of Bob Doubles on an inside bell. Unfortunately she broke her arm last week and will not be able to ring for some time. Caroline Snook decided to give up ringing in the summer.

Ringling events

This year there have been a number of events which have raised awareness of bellringing: HM The Queen's 90th birthday, Ringing for England on St. George's Day and for the first time, we registered St. Mary's bell tower on Heritage Open Days and attracted 10 visitors. In November, our new curate, Tim and others, including myself and Diana, took part in a daily act of remembrance of the conflicts around the world by ringing a bell 69 times just before 11 am. Photographs and video were posted live on the church Facebook page. As part of Redbourn's first Living Advent Calendar, the ringers invited an audience to listen to 15 minutes of rounds,

call changes and change ringing prior to Evensong on 18th December. 19 people came up to the ringing room with a further 50 listening outside. The social event of the year was our Christmas meal, once again at The Chequers. We missed Will's good company but it was lovely that our new curate Tim was able to join us.

Service ringing

I think I can say that we have not missed ringing for any Sunday morning services this year and have been able to find a band for Evensong on the 1st and 3rd Sundays, additionally during Lent and Advent, sometimes recruiting the help of improver ringers from another tower and thereby giving them an extra opportunity to practice.

Wedding ringing

We rang for 12 out of the 13 weddings this year which means, that almost all of the couples that married last year requested bells for their special day. This compares with 6/8 in 2015, 13/17 in 2014. We are still having occasional problems timing the start of the ringing at the end of services and would like to go ahead with a CCTV camera, which could probably be funded by the ringers if the cost is reasonable. Jim May has suggested that a system could be installed for around £100.

Quarter Peals

We rang 5 quarter peals, each with a special dedication:

HM The Queen's 90th birthday, a 70th birthday compliment to Mary Rixon and the birth of Jem George Vickers, an 80th birthday compliment to Bishop Robin Smith, George and Diana's 33rd wedding anniversary and finally in thanksgiving for the life of Mavis Huddleston (Mann). Mavis moved into Redbourn and was a ringer at St. Mary's for 2 years around the Millennium. Congratulations to Gemma who rang her first quarter peal on an inside bell in October.

Outing

We had a very enjoyable outing north of Bedford, on September 17th. The towers visited were: Harrold, Felmersham, Odell, Sharnbrook, Bletsoe and Thurleigh. There were 20 of us for lunch at The Bell, Odell, including ringers from the District, one of the Flamstead learners and Keith Farnham joined us which was a lovely surprise.

District

Redbourn hosted a District meeting in September and Tim took the service and joined us for tea, as did the organist, Paul Vernon. The District 6 bell Striking Competition was won by the Hemel ringers, who entered 2 teams and took first and second place with Apsley third. The standard of ringing was very high and the Redbourn team rang well but were up against stiff opposition.

Thanks

I would like to thank Gemma for her work as Treasurer, Mary for her efficiency as secretary and Andrew for looking after the bells and ropes and last but not least, our Ringing Master, Liz for continuing to train and develop the band, with help from Diana and Mary. I took over from Liz as Tower Captain in 2006 and after 11 years, feel that now is the right time to step down if someone else is willing to take over the general tower administration. I will finish by thanking all of the members of the band for their dedication and enthusiasm and Will for his continuing support and wish everyone a successful year ahead as far as bells and life in general is concerned.

Pauline Ridgwell – Tower Captain

THE LOCAL MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT TEAM

Members: Julie Beaman, David Forbes, Will Gibbs, Julie Henman, Penny McAdam, Sue May, Kay Vernon, Jill Whitehouse, Tim Vickers and Mike Wood.

2016 has seen the LMDT gain another very welcome new member in Tim, our Curate.

We have continued the trend of fewer monthly meetings this year, but the varied work of the members of the LMDT has continued. Caring cooks, Parish lunches, Holy Communion in various Care Homes, Pastoral visits, participation in Services, Holy Baptisms and Marriage Preparation, all show the variety of ways in which the LMDT is involved in Parish life.

We have also had an LMDT half day at Knebworth where Bishop Michael confirmed the latest, more relaxed approach to LMDTS throughout the Diocese. There will not be any more formal renewal of licensing for existing LMDTS; but we were all encouraged to continue to grow and develop our skills particularly in welcoming and encouraging new members of our congregations.

David Forbes – Member of the Local Ministry Team

SPOTLIGHT SMALL GROUPS

The Spotlight groups continue to give an opportunity to share and encourage our faith journeys with one another in small groups, meeting every other week in term time. We are not all from St Mary's. The Tuesday morning group meets in New Forge Place and includes some who live there and others from the village. Other groups meet Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Each group chooses what it would like to focus on. We have had interesting and fun discussions on, 'Knowing myself, Knowing my Calling', others the Lectionary, others around the fresh approach of the Rob Bell videos.

A few of us attended a four session Diocesan course in Watford, 'Walking with God's People': thinking about how adults learn, how groups work, the role of the facilitator and facilitating Christian groups.

In September thirty eight people, a mixture of Spotlighters and others, came to the Spotlight Supper. Andrew Doye led us in an imaginative 'Desert Island' reflection.

In November all the Spotlight groups participated in leading a Spotlight Service focused on 'Incredible Gifts', recognising gifts in each other and giving them to God to use.

In July we welcomed Andrew Elliman to give the Annual Starlight Cafe-style talk in the village hall - 'Everest - the five year plan: anything is possible!' In April 2015 he was part of a team which attempted to climb Everest and broke the world record for the highest dinner party in the world. The much engaged audience heard how the plans changed when a devastating earthquake hit Nepal and the Himalayas that very evening. The attendance was 85.

Penny McAdam – Spotlight Group Co-ordinator

YOUTH WORK at ST MARY'S

Sunday Activities

St Mary's has many children who are actively encouraged to take part in Worship and Service by the provision of age appropriate groups. The 1st Sunday in every month is an all age service where children contribute and feel involved helping with prayers and readings.

During the other Sundays we have a range of groups which include **Baby Church** where parents can take their babies to a quiet space or into the Vestry. **Mini Church** is for age two until age four/five and meets in the Choir Vestry where they are encouraged to listen to a story read and acted by Joe the puppet and create various craft activities. Children are normally left in the capable hands of two adult leaders, but this is flexible and parents can stay if they wish. **Junior Church** caters for children from aged four to five up until around year four at school and follows the Lectionary and again has two adult leaders. A varied range of activities awaits them and numbers vary from two to ten. **PALS** take children from Year five and number approximately 8 and enjoy many activities again following the Lectionary.

Gospellers meet bi-monthly and number around thirteen and enjoy many and varied activities one of the highlights being FACT, Fellowship Afloat where nineteen children attended a very exciting weekend.

We are blessed and privileged to have many leaders and volunteers who help support these groups and plan such exciting activities for our young people. So thank you.

We also run Confirmation Classes where young people prepare for Confirmation and gives them the opportunity to think and ask questions about their faith. We also have many children singing in the Choir a wonderful addition to our Worship.

Other Activities

Teddy Tots

Bears and Prayers has been with us for a number of years but after much prayer and consideration it was decided that we needed to change the structure of this and to try to involve parents and carers in a more relaxed setting to enjoy each other's company and to give support. Hours were altered from 10.30 until 12 and we use the transept and frequently take the children into Church for story and singing. Consequently Teddy Tots has grown rapidly and on Friday mornings we average 20 parents with their babies and toddlers. We still include a story and singing, craft, lighting the candle and a prayer and parents tell us that they appreciate this time to meet and enjoy time together. We have also raised funds with our donations for Children in Need, The Children's Society and Nailing Mental Health. The latter was held the Friday before Mothering Sunday where adults were given a free hand massage given by Carla and Leanne and we donated £85.00 to their Nailing Mental Health Challenge. Many thanks are deserved to Kay, Tim, Penny, Mollie, Albert and Amanda who spend time supporting and talking to all the families that come to us.

Holiday Club

Seventy-two children attended the Holiday Club 'Guardians of Ancora' and had a lovely week beginning with a Sunday Service. The children find the week stimulating and gives them time to enjoy discussion, prayer, singing, craft and physical activity supported by some brilliant Young Leaders and adult helpers. This year we held a family BBQ which was very well attended, were blessed with good weather and the use of a bouncy activity. Many thanks to Will

for his culinary skills. We are in the process of organising this year's Club. Again we are blessed to have such a wonderful group of helpers and young adults who give their time and energy to make this such a thought provoking and fun filled week.

Christmas Holiday Club

We had twenty children attend a Saturday Holiday Club before Christmas. They enjoyed singing, stories and activities, which culminated in a Christmas Service the next day. A great time was had by all.

It would be very remiss of me not to mention the loss to us of Sandra Creswell. Sandra was both a driving force and spiritual help to the Youth in Church and to all the Leaders. Her enthusiasm, love of what she did and her ability to give us all a commitment to the nurturing of Children and in understanding Christian values and how we can channel this to support our children was incredible. We know how happy she is in her new life but we miss her and thank her profusely. I would also like to thank all those who give of their time to support and help the Youth of Church, they are the nurturers of our Christian Values and we are very blessed to have them.

Ailsa Hulme – Children's and Youth Work Coordinator

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR

The choir is in good heart and voice. It continues its normal pattern of singing for the 9.30 Sunday service and for a Choral Evensong on the first Sunday, along with other services at Christmas, Holy Week and Easter.

An excellent development in the year has been the website blog on the music at the monthly Choral Evensong. Damian Cranmer came up with this idea, and his blogs are always informative and amusing. It is good to notice some more people coming now to Evensong.

The choir continues to sing a range of music, including some home-produced pieces. In 2016 we sang for the first time an arrangement by Paul Vernon of the Easter carol 'Now the Green Blade Riseth', and also *Music for All Souls* by Kathy Goodchild, offered at the All Souls Eucharist in November. Jonathan too has ventured into the field of composition, with a descant to the second half of the hymn tune Coe Fen. This is known as his Op. 0.5.

The floppy disk drive on the organ, which records the organ playing, malfunctioned this year. Thankfully, churchwarden Paul Vernon came to the rescue and replaced the unit with a modern one, with assistance from Saxon Aldred in taking the console apart.



The junior choir continues in lively mode. We had an outing to the Gravity Force trampoline park in St Albans, organized by Tim, and attended also by Sophy, Jem, Natasha, and Kathy, all of whom kept their feet firmly on the ground.

Jonathan Goodchild

*Organist and
Director of Music*

ST MARY'S TEXTILE GROUP

The ladies of the Textile Group have continued to meet twice monthly throughout 2016. Work has continued on their most ambitious and time consuming project to date, making three green altar cloths for the main altar and the two side chapels. Canvas kneelers for the altar rail were completed during the year and dedicated at a Family Worship service. Although the production of the kneelers interrupted the work on the altar frontals, the ladies enjoyed the opportunity to work on something different.

Barbara Corbett – Group Coordinator

THE FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCH, REDBOURN

Main activities and Fund Raising

The Friends Committee tried to run a range of social activities during 2016 though one event had to be cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.

January A successful and very enjoyable event which raised just over £1987 profit, mainly due to the efforts of Alex Maynard and Will Gibbs bringing in sponsorship from businesses in the village and the efforts of the Committee in selling tickets.

May We held a successful dog show in the grounds of St Mary's Church and this raised a profit of just over £1992. Thanks to Louise McPhee and Alex Maynard for their organisation of the event.

June Unfortunately the Barn Dance was cancelled due to low numbers.

September The Friends ran the bar at St.Mary's Patronal Festival and made a profit of £396.

November A successful quiz night with a difference was held in St Mary's Transept organised by Sally Yates and Wendy Bloisi. This generated a profit of £286.

December St.Albans Round Table again invited us to collect during one evening of their 'Father Christmas' float tour of the village. This proved a very enjoyable evening for those who helped with the collection. We raised a total of £405. Thanks is due to Janis Apsa and Ian Wooding-Jones for their driving skills and assistance!

Projects:

We have spent money this year on lighting for the church

Future Projects:

We are conscious of the need to ensure we have funds to meet the up-coming Quinquennial Inspection which we have agreed to support. We are also diversifying our fund raising activities with a Redbourn Classic Car Show in September 2017.

Personnel:

We have a vacancy for a Chairperson and additions to the committee would be welcome.

Summary:

The Trustees consider this a reasonably successful year, with a number of fun social activities. Regular subscriptions continue to provide a significant part of the income. The Friends are truly grateful for the support from members, both past and present, as we continue in our task of maintaining and beautifying our church building and churchyard.

Wendy Bloisi – Acting Co-Chair

REDBOURN DAY CENTRE

2016 has been an interesting and successful year in which we celebrated our 30th anniversary in style at Redbourn Golf Club. Rev John Pedlar who started the Centre in 1986 joined clients, volunteers and guests for the celebration. Two of our volunteers who were there from the start, Rosalie Hayward and Connie Crawley, were awarded the well-deserved Community Champions trophy at the Parish Centre. Their dedication and that of all the volunteers is admirable.

We started the year with the full complement of 18 clients but sadly Eileen Roberts had to leave because of ill health and later died and Alex Angelow passed away in April after a short illness. After the Easter break Olive Pike and Ray Marsh were welcomed into the fold. Gill Emerton and Tracy Belshaw joined our team of helpers at the same time.

As before we have tried to provide varied and stimulating afternoon activities including games, art and crafts sessions, items of interest (we had a whole afternoon devoted to cats), flower arranging and a celebration of the Queens 90th birthday as well as visiting entertainment. These included a visit from Wild Science (when we were introduced to a gecko, a snake, a rabbit and a guinea pig), John Lough's Barbershop Quartet, the Infants School choir to name a few.

On three occasions, Ash Wednesday, Advent and our anniversary, we joined in the Communion Service in St Marys thanks to Rev Will Gibbs.

Nigel Rushton and his colleague Leigh come from St Albans every fortnight to lead us through a series of enjoyable exercises aimed at promoting flexibility.

Our main outing this year was a boat trip with Waterways Experience. We all thoroughly enjoyed a relaxing cruise along the canal with a fish and chip lunch which we bought from a pub along the way.

Meals continue to be provided by St Luke's School and by the team on duty during half term breaks and inset days.

In October the Practice Nurse from the Health Centre popped in to administer flu jabs to those who wanted them.

The Christmas Lunch at Aubrey Park was a fitting end to a good year.

Thanks to all volunteer helpers, the Care Group for providing transport, St Mary's and everyone else who gives support.

Margie Johnstone

Day Centre Coordinator

THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN REDBOURN 2016

Chair: Revd Will Gibbs.

The Committee for the Churches Together in Redbourn met in January and September 2016. Three Redbourn Churches were represented on the committee, St Mary's Church, the Methodist Church and The Catholic Church of St John Fisher.

Committee Members: Revd Will Gibbs (Chair) Revd Linda Woollacott, (until August), Revd Gillian Hulme, Fr Michael Mannion, Doreen Cosier, Christine Clow (Treasurer), Samantha Statham, Maggy Swift, Sue May and Grace Sawyer (Secretary).

Lent 2016

In Lent 2016 weekly meetings were held in the lounge of New Forge Place, following a series based on the book 'The Things he Carried' by Stephen Cottrell.

Lent Charity Lunches in 2016 were at Redbourn Methodist Church each Friday.

On the five Thursday evenings there were meetings at St Mary's Church on the theme: 'Following the Cross'.

Donations made at meetings in Lent, were welcome, enabling us to send contributions of £250 to both *CAFOD* and to Christian Aid.

The Walk of Witness on Good Friday 2016 began at 11:30am outside the Catholic Church of St John Fisher and about 100 people joined, stopping at the Village Hall Car Park, the War Memorial, and finishing at the Methodist Church. At each of the stopping places, ministers led hymns, readings and prayers. Refreshments were provided afterwards at the Methodist Church.

United Services	January	Service for the Week of Christian Unity
	March	Women's World Day of Prayer
	May	Service for the beginning of Christian Aid Week
	June	Pentecost Praise
	November	Remembrance Service at the War Memorial

Combined Services for Redbourn churches were held during winter and summer on Sunday evenings from Christmas until Lent and from late July until early September.

Easter and Christmas Cards These gave details of services in all participating churches and were distributed to every home in the village. CTR Street Prayer cards were included, and there was response from a numbers of Redbourners.

Subscriptions Each church makes an annual donation to the Churches Together Fund, covering the cost of Easter and Christmas cards, Street Prayer Cards, Carol sheets and towards Lent expenses.

Lent 2017 The programme for meetings at New Forge Place on Wednesday mornings was agreed and will be based on the Book 'The Nail' by Stephen Cottrell. Arrangements for Lent 2017 were agreed at the CTR Committee meeting in September 2016. Details of these and of the Thursday evenings will be in Common Round as soon as they are finalized.

Grace Sawyer - Secretary

ST. MARY'S TRANSEPT REPORT 2016

The Transept Hall, built in 1989, provides excellent facilities for groups and meetings. The improvements to the Transept over the last couple of years have allowed for a better layout and increased capacity, which have been welcomed by the users as well as our own groups and activities.



The flexibility of the Upper Room, used predominantly by our older children's groups, continues to be a great blessing but the room also provides really useful space for small meetings at other times as well.

Did you know that the Transept Hall at St Mary's Church is available for hire at very reasonable rates? During the past year, besides the regular Church use, we have hosted Christening parties, wedding anniversaries, children's parties and a variety of organisations for either formal meetings or social events.

The hall accommodates 50 people for sit down meals and up to 100 for a buffet event. 60 people can be seated for meetings.

The modern kitchen is equipped with a full range of utensils and also includes a washing up machine, water heater, fridge and microwave.

The hall is advertised in the Common Round. Please contact me to make a booking, or if you require further details about availability.

Rosemary Woodhouse – Transept Warden

Telephone: 01582 792668

Email: woodhouse.37@virginmedia.com

ONLINE ACTIVITIES – MEDIA AND WEBSITE REPORT 2016

Our online communications have continued to develop this year, as we share news, event reminders, prayers, articles and charity fundraising messages with members of the congregation via their mobile phones, ipads and computers, as well as raising the profile of the church amongst the local community.

- The **Website** receives an average of **800** visitors per month, and an average visitor looks at **3.35** pages during their time on the website, which is encouraging. Some great suggestions have been made recently for new sections, information and functions to add to the site, and I hope to make some gradual changes over the coming months.

- The **E-Newsletter** was re-launched in June and is sent out quarterly to **193** e-mail addresses from the electoral roll. This comprises news, events, dates for your diary, etc. and has been well received so far.

- The **Teddy Tots Newsletter** is sent termly to **111** families with young children who have attended Teddy Tots or have been baptised at St Mary's recently. We include news about the

forthcoming term at Teddy Tots, as well as services and events coming up which are particularly suited to pre-school children. A fantastic logo was created for us by a Teddy Tots mum who is a professional designer, and this has made the e-newsletter look very colourful and welcoming.

- Our **Facebook** page continues to be a valuable two-way communication channel with members of the congregation and others with a connection with St Mary's - we now have **362** people following the page. Particularly popular posts have included photos of palm crosses being burnt for Ash Wednesday, the recent Pancake Party at the Cricket Pavilion, and once again the most popular post of the year has been a photo of the Vicar at Beer & Carols! The video of the church bell ringing for the #BellsforPeace initiative was watched **1,814** times.

- Our **Twitter** feed has **322** followers, and is a useful tool for connecting with the wider community. Its reach and engagement is much smaller than Facebook, (Twitter sends less than 10% of the traffic to our website that Facebook does) but reaches a different audience.

Photos and video are always incredibly popular on social media, and photos from church events or suggestions of content to share are always appreciated.

Kate Ford – Church Website Editor and Administrator

REDBOURN COMMON ROUND

2016 was another successful year for the production and circulation of the magazine. The number of copies printed each month was 1200, most of these being for regular local orders, additional single copies being sold at St Mary's and in the Post Office and some posted to addresses outside Redbourn.

There were 11 editions during the year, July and August being combined. The price remained at 60p per copy or £6 for the year (11 editions).

Tony Bull led the team of printers. A team of around 50 people distributed the magazine and Ken Smith continued to be responsible for organizing distribution.

Ken, having done this job for 13 years, would like to retire and hand it on to another volunteer.

Jim May is Treasurer and he is responsible for the Classified Advertisements.

Occasional one-off adverts were included in the pages of copy.

Redbourn churches continued to give news and details of services. A wide variety of village activities submitted copy; there was an open invitation to village organizations to do so.

It is our policy to deliver a complimentary copy of the magazine to all new residents.

Those responsible for the production and circulation of Common Round in 2016:

Editor	The Vicar
Treasurer and Classified Advertisements	Jim May
Printing	Tony Bull and Keith Stanley
Collating and distribution	Ken Smith
Co-ordinator	Grace Sawyer

Grace Sawyer – Common Round Coordinator

REDBOURN COMMON ROUND - FINANCIAL REPORT 2016

REDBOURN COMMON ROUND			
INCOME / EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2016			
		2016	2015
Bank Balance Brought Forward	[A]	8,900.02	9,709.04
CREDITS			
Magazine Sales	Distributor	6,059.20	6,234.90
	Postal	115.00	114.00
Post Subscribers Post/pack contribution		269.00	266.00
Magazine Sales Post Office		47.25	84.50
Advertisement Sales		5,860.09	8,081.98
External Services Provided		1,193.88	1,000.98
TOTAL INCOME	[B]	13,544.42	15,782.36
DEBITS			
Printing		4,127.77	3,447.03
Stationery		1,148.46	1,443.13
Sundry Production Expenses		30.00	30.00
Distribution Expenses		282.42	327.84
Machine Rental		1,769.36	1,361.72
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	[C]	7,358.01	6,609.73
NETT MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		6,186.41	9,172.63
Current Account Funds	[D]= (A + B - C)	15,086.43	18,881.67
Transfer to PCC	[E]		-10,000.00
Transfer from Deposit Account	[F]	781.53	
Reversal of previous year debtors and creditors	[G]	-1,041.14	-1,022.80
Provisions - Debtors	[H]	-593.34	
Provisions – Accruals and pre-paid income	[J]	1,373.88	1,041.14
Net Current Account Funds	[K]= (D+E+F+G+H+J)	15,607.36	8,900.02
Deposit Account Balance 31.12.15		15,758.60	15,727.13
Deposits			
Interest 30.06.16		19.59	15.60
Interest 01.08.16		3.34	15.87
Transfer to PCC		-15,000.00	
Withdrawals		-781.53	
Balance 31.12.16	[L]	0.00	15,758.60
TOTAL FUNDS:	[M]= (K+L)	15,607.36	24,658.62
Less Creditors	[N]	-1,373.88	-1,041.14
Plus Debtors	[P]	593.34	
NET FUNDS: December 2016	[M+N+P]	14,826.82	23,617.48
Jim May – Common Round Treasurer			
March 2017			