

# *Annual Parochial Church Meeting*



ST MARY'S REDBOURN

*Wednesday 25th April 2018*

*8.15 pm*

*St Mary's Transept Hall*

# SIDESPERSIONS 2018

Sue Ashton + \*\*  
Julie Beaman \*\*  
Janet Biggs  
Isobel and Damian Cranmer  
Derek Crouch + \* / \*\*  
Louise Emmins  
Celia and David Forbes  
Janet Godley  
Ralph Goold  
Brian Hayward  
Margaret Jewell \*\*  
Janet Lang \*\*  
Alan and Edna Lindfield \*  
Natalie Marsh  
Sue and Jim May  
Penny McAdam \*\*  
Dick Morgan  
Ann Palmer  
Judith Sandell  
Alan + \*\* and Angie Simkins  
Susan and Anna Stacey  
Sue Taylor  
Simon Taylor  
Margaret Tillyer  
Jill Whitehouse + \*\*  
Mollie Williams + \* / \*\*  
Allyson and Rod Woodhouse

\* Sidespersons who have also agreed to act as reserves.

\*\* Sidepersons for Baptism services.

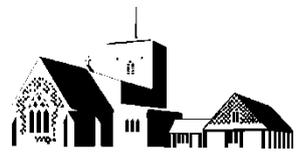
The + sign signifies that what follows is in addition to a regular monthly duty as a sidesperson

*Sue May and Paul Vernon*

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# THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



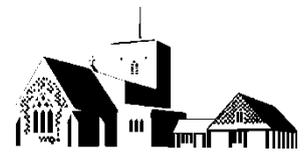
**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS  
to be held on Wednesday 25th April 2018, at 8.15 pm  
in the Transept Hall of St Mary's Church**

## **AGENDA**

### **Opening Prayer**

- 1 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th April 2017**
- 2 Election of 2 Parochial Churchwardens**
- 3 Election of up to 2 Deputy Wardens**
- 4 Chairman's Closing Remarks**

# THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26th APRIL 2017

**Present:** The Vicar, The Curate, one retired member of the clergy and 50 Parishioners.

The Vicar opened the meeting at 8.20 pm with a prayer.

### 1) Minutes of the Meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> April 2017

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

Proposed by: Stephen Gell      Seconded by: Brian Hayward      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 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

Proposed by: Rosalie Hayward      Seconded by: Jill Whitehouse      Passed: Nem Con

### 3) Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

#### Churchwardens

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Paul Vernon	Alan Lindfield	Louise McPhee
Sue May	Rod McPhee	Stephen Gell

#### Deputy Churchwardens (Provision made for a third appointee)

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Stephen Gell	Alan Simkins	Mollie Williams
Alan Simkins	Stephen Gell	Liz Wood
David Mitchell	Stephen Gell	Celia Forbes

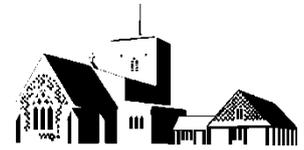
The above were elected Nem Con.

### 4) Vote of Thanks

The Vicar recorded the thanks as a church to the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens. Their work has been greatly appreciated and of immense value. The Vicar looks forward to working with those newly elected in the coming year.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.29 pm.

# THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN

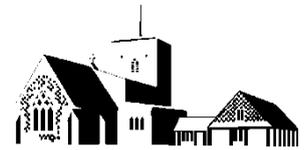


## THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING to be held on Wednesday 25th April 2018, at 8.15 pm in the Transept Hall of St Mary's Church

### AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 26th April 2017**
- 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 2017**
  - 7 A Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments**
  - 8 A Report of the Ministry and Witness of the Church throughout 2017**
- 9 Election of up to 7 Representatives to the Parochial Church Council**
- 10 Election of 1 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 26th APRIL 2017 IN THE TRANSEPT HALL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

**Present:** The Vicar, The Curate, one retired member of the clergy and 50 Parishioners.

The meeting was chaired by the Lay Co-Chairman, Keith McAdam

**Apologies for Absence:** Janet Biggs, Lois & Robin Smith, Catharine & Simon Pusey, Judith James, Sarah & Gordon Cameron, Chris Little, Ken & Pat Lacey, Dick & Wendy Morgan, Julie & David Beaman, Cyril Harling and Sam Butterworth

Booklets containing the minutes of the previous APCM, the various reports and the Accounts for 2016, 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 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016

The minutes 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: Kay Vernon      Seconded by: Sue May      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 so diligently keeping the record for another year.

### 3) PCC Report

This report was also circulated within the booklet and accepted Nem Con.

### 4) Deanery Report

The Deanery Secretary's report was also contained in the booklet. Thanks are due to the Redbourn representatives on the Deanery Synod.

## **5) Treasurer's Report**

A full set of Accounts for 2016 were circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's verbal report is included below as it gives some explanation of the financial position during the year in relation to the audited accounts:

### **PCC Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016**

Fees for weddings and funerals of £20,451 was an increase of 16% over 2014. An amount of £7,678 was paid to the Diocese.

Page 10 details our expenditure.

The parish share of £104,615 was paid in full which reflects an increase of 2.9%.

Expenditure on utilities at £7,767 compares with a figure of £7,981 in 2014. A new gas boiler was installed during the year.

Fund raising expenses relate to catering for various functions and the purchase of Fairtrade goods for sale.

I would like to record our sincere thanks to Jim May who not only undertakes all the work associated in the role of Covenanting Officer but also undertakes all the work involved with the weekly collections and banking ably assisted, I believe, by Sue! Jim also manages the Common Round Accounts! Not to mention the very significant work he has taken on as Project Manager for all our building work.

Also my sincere thanks to our Independent Examiner, Ruth Hughes for her invaluable work on the accounts at the end of the year and her assistance to me in producing the final drafts. You will appreciate that the accounts have been somewhat more complicated this year with all the building work that has been undertaken. Thank you.

Adoption of the Accounts for 2016

Proposed by: Mollie Williams Seconded by: Peter Hansford Passed: Nem Con

Brian Hayward announced his retirement as Treasurer, after 16 years of service. Rob Jones has kindly agreed to take Brian's place.

## **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 2016, 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 2016.

Francis Chan, the American preacher once famously said:

“Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don't really matter.”

As I look back on 2016, I don't think of failures – although as reflective practitioners we can always call to mind a small handful of things that could have gone better – but rather I think it has been a year when we've succeeded at many of the things that really matter as a church.

It has been a year of gifts and blessings, and it started as such with a magnificent and inspiring performance of 'Amahl and the Night Visitors,' the opera about the Magi which tells of the transforming presence of those who bear gifts.

This set us in good store for a Stewardship Campaign in January and I was once again moved by a prayerful and generous response from our congregation. In the latter part of the year we focussed on the other side of Stewardship by paying attention to the time and talents we offer in the service of Christ. We had some modest success in encouraging new involvement in the various activities and groups but it is something we need to pay close attention to in the future if we are to continue to offer all that we value so dearly at St Mary's, whilst at the same time exploring new initiatives and possibilities.

All of which, speaks of a key hallmark of life here at St Mary's – of a ministry that is active, and shared.

This can be seen clearly in our worshipping life. We continue to offer a breadth and depth to the worship of God offered in our beautiful church and I am grateful to those who change the church frontals, who launder our vestments and linen, to our sacristans, servers, church cleaners, flower arrangers, sidespeople and so many others who play a part in ensuring that what we offer is of a high quality, and reverent and fitting. Much of their work is unseen, but never unappreciated, and we record our sincere thanks to every one of them.

But most of all I want to acknowledge the offering of manifold gifts and a generosity of time by members of our Wider Ministry Team. In Lois, Kay, Bishop Robin and Christine we are enormously blessed by their preaching, pastoral care and the prayerful way in which our worship is led. We are all most fortunate to receive this ministry, as am I to be able to count on them as cherished colleagues.

But there is another person who I must mention at this point and that is, of course, our curate Tim. It was a joy for many of us to attend his ordination as Deacon in early July, and to formally welcome him and Sophy and Jem into our church family as a key part of our Patronal Festival celebrations. I am enormously fortunate to have a day-to-day colleague whose thoughtful ministry, competency and mature spirituality radiate far beyond his relatively short time in formal public ministry and I know that we all have much to give thanks to God for in Tim. It will be an exciting time for us, as it will be for you, as you prepare to exercise a priestly ministry amongst us from the summer.

That is something about ordained ministry but alongside this we continue to be a church that sees baptism as the primary commission to ministry. We were privileged to be able to share in Jem's memorable baptism here at St Mary's in October – I wonder where that will take him in his journey of faith and discipleship? We watch in hopeful anticipation...

For four members of our church, their baptism and a deepening of faith and willingness for this to be expressed publicly has been demonstrated in their training and commissioning at Pentecost as Lay Leaders of Worship. It has been really good to see them grow in confidence as they lead non-Eucharistic worship in a variety of imaginative, prayerful and creative ways.

Shared ministry also comes to the fore in the work of the Local Ministry Development Team and following the new mandating of the team in 2015, they have continued to play a key part in our work of hospitality and welcome, including Coffee on the Common, ministry to baptism families and wedding couples, our pastoral care – including the very special Pastoral Lunches which have been such a boon for the elderly, bereaved and isolated, our Caring Cooks who provide and deliver home cooked meals when needed, and in leading and guiding our Spotlight small groups.

Whilst on the subject of pastoral care I must make mention of two further things which are a cause for rejoicing. In 2016 the Day Centre celebrated its 30th anniversary and it continues to provide such care, support, friendship and a rich variety of activities and entertainment to those attend. It bears strong testimony to those who had the vision and saw the need all those years ago that still bears fruit and is so valued by elderly in our community today.

The other area of enhanced pastoral provision comes through the training of members to form a Pastoral Visiting Team known as the St Mary's Visitors. This initiative is being led by Tim and is still in its infancy, but I know it will bear similar fruit to the Day Centre in extending the range and areas of pastoral care and support amongst our congregation and for the wider community.

It has been a great joy to welcome Derek and Rachel Snow to St Mary's during 2016. Derek came to us on an extended placement as he undertook a period of discernment to explore ordained ministry. His wife Rachel has also been exploring ministry, and having originally been on placement in Bovingdon, has subsequently joined us here at St Mary's so that she and Derek can be in the same place. Rachel went to a ministerial selection conference in May and was recommended for ordination training. Very sadly, Derek was not recommended at his selection panel and it has taken a time for them to pray through this. Derek is still listening and praying about what God might have in store for him whilst Rachel will begin her ordination training this September.

Both continue to enrich us with their involvement at St Mary's and the openness with which they have embraced us as a church in a very different tradition to their own has shown great maturity and a generosity of spirit. Both Rachel and Derek attended our enjoyable Parish Weekend Away when we considered the seasons of our spiritual life using Vivaldi's Four Seasons and Derek helped to plan our prayer meeting during the national 'Thy Kingdom Come' week of prayer initiative from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Whilst it has been good to welcome Tim, Sophy and Jem and Rachel and Derek, we have also said some goodbyes and thanks. In fact three on one day, as we marked Cyril Harling becoming readers Emeritus after over 50 years of faithful ministry here, we said a sad farewell to Val Simmons moving to be closer to her family in the West Country and a goodbye and thank you to Mark Cresswell as he and Sandra moved to Suffolk. We said our specific thank you and goodbye to Sandra in the summer as she came back to lead our Holiday Club for the last time.

Sandra has been an inspiration to adults and young people alike in the way she has championed the needs and provision for our children and young people. All of this would have wilted or stopped in many churches with such a key leader leaving, but such was Sandra's care and desire to see this continue and flourish that it has. Our Sunday children's groups continue well and two particular highlights in 2016 would be the Holiday Club and the sailing weekend to

Fellowship Afloat. In September Bears and Prayers had a makeover, becoming Teddy Tots, and there are sometimes close to fifty people coming on a Friday morning these days. It is another example of how small refinements can make a big difference to our mission and ministry and also the way in which a whole number of people have stepped up and shared in our children's and youth work in recent times. We are truly grateful.

On the subject of hellos and goodbyes, 2016 proved to be another busy year for occasional offices with 27 baptisms and 8 candidates were prepared for their First Communion which they shared in for the first time at the beginning of December. There were also 13 joy-filled weddings here during the course of the year.

Always more saddening and difficult is our funeral ministry and in 2016 there were 37 funerals or memorial services, 17 burials, 31 interments of cremated remains. We entrusted to God some dear and precious souls, among them Mary Harmer, Eileen Roberts, Lilian Cowland and Kathleen Mead as well as Siegfried Pietzsch, the respected craftsman and wood carver responsible for the rood statues in our church and various other furnishings that decorate our church.

In a similar vein we were delighted to dedicate a set of new altar kneelers for the communion rail given in loving memory of David Canon, a magnificent addition to our church and a fitting tribute to his fond memory. These were the product of many, many hours of skill and devotion from members of our Textile Group, and a few other kind souls, who lovingly and skilfully stitched these, superbly masterminded and coordinated by Barbara Corbett. We are hugely grateful.

Whilst on the subject of remembering, another couple of events stand out in my memory. Firstly, tolling the church bell daily around Remembrancetide to acknowledge all the places in the world where there is war, conflict and unrest in our own time. This quiet and moving act of witness gained considerable interest through social media and was greatly appreciated. It was yet another reminder of the importance of good communication and I want to pay tribute to Kate Ford for her excellent work in maintaining our website, our social media profile and circulating our electronic newsletters.

The other significant time of remembering was our Annual All Souls' Service as we commemorated those who had died in recent years and our own loved ones departed. The service this year was further enhanced by the beautiful and highly effective music composed by Kathy Goodchild especially for the occasion.

That service was yet another reminder of the valued ministry offered by Jonathan, his fellow organists and musicians, and all the members of the choir in playing such an important part in our worshipping life. Our monthly Choral Evensongs have been of a very high standard musically and we record our thanks to Damian Cranmer who has given much time, research and thought in providing a monthly commentary on the featured music for our website.

Our 6.30 pm services have continued to see a range of styles of worship from Choral Evensong, to Taizé services, more informal worship and Healing Eucharists, using different parts of the sacred space of the church as well as a variety of styles of prayer and music. We greatly value the opportunity to worship alongside our brother and sisters in Christ from the other churches in Redbourn between Christmas and Lent and during the summer as well as some of the others in which we share our faith and encourage one another through our Lent programme, The Good

Friday Walk of Witness, a regular Bible study group at New Forge Place and other key events such as the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christian Aid Week and Pentecost. We were sorry to say farewell to the Revd Linda Woollacott at the end of July. She has been a good friend to us at St Mary's and a faithful minister among the people of Redbourn as well as to the Methodist congregation itself.

I have continued to fulfil several roles outside of our church life, as a Trustee of the Redbourn Care Group, The Bishop of St Albans' representative and deputy chair of Governors for a school in Bushey, a member of the national executive of the Anglican and Eastern Churches Association fostering strong relations between Anglican and Orthodox Churches and as a member of the General Synod of the Church of England. These roles have only been possible because of the secretarial support and quiet efficiency of Wendy Cruickshank for which I am sincerely grateful.

2016 saw us coming towards the end of the lifespan of our Mission Action Plan and Sam Machell, Doris and David Cheetham's grandson, helped us to celebrate some of our successes in a creative short film. As we have reviewed the plan further under the expert facilitation of our Lay Chair, Keith McAdam, it has been good to see not only how much has been achieved but where many new possibilities and opportunities lie. One of many of the significant areas of achievement on that Mission Action Plan has been the improvements to our ancillary building – out Transept, the mower store, church office and the ongoing development of the Old Church Hall. None of these projects would have been possible but for the incredible time and dedication of Jim May in particular.

We look forward to evolving our new Mission Action Plan in the next couple of months. I have no doubt that it will express a confident church that seeks further ways to grow and to embrace our calling to and amongst the people of Redbourn, and beyond.

One of the ways that we have sought to give and serve has been in our work through the Charitable Finance Committee, the CFC. Last year we were privileged to support Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled – a fine choice that is not only a local charity but one that has links with several key members of our church. We enjoyed some excellent events including a superb Harvest Supper and Quiz, and people were so generous in their sponsorship of Claire as she fulfilled a long time ambition to swim the equivalent of the Channel. I'm still not sure how she did that, although being married to her, I do know she is an incredibly determined person! The upshot of all of this was an insight into their excellent work through a group working party to their stables and we were able to present a cheque at the end of the year that far exceeded the £7500 target we had set, to the tune of £16,000.

There are two more events that I'd like to mention that highlight the importance of being a church that serves our local community. In the spring, The Friends of St Mary's held a hugely popular and successful Dog Show in the Churchyard. It brought many new people into the grounds, raised a very impressive sum and once again served to remind us how grateful we are for the fundraising, support and generosity of The Friends in our care of the Church and Churchyard. Mention of the latter is also an opportunity to thank David Swift and a large team of hard working volunteers who care for the church with mowing, weeding and gardening.

Lastly, I'd like to mention the unforgettable Living Advent Calendar last December. None of us will forget the treats and surprises that were served up night after night to huge crowds as we

journeyed towards Christmas. It was the brainchild of Pam Hansford and we hope very much it might have a reprise, if not annually then every few years at least. At its heart was a coming together of church and village, young and old, friends and strangers – all that we could hope for in good outreach and witness.

There has indeed been so much to celebrate in the past year. Never with complacency, I hope, but rather with a sure hope that God is blessing us and guiding us as we continue our pilgrimage of faith and as we strive serve Him as the one who is at the heart of our lives and our church family.

One writer and preacher suggested that:

“Life is wasted if we do not grasp the glory of the cross, cherish it for the treasure that it is, and cleave to it as the highest price of every pleasure and the deepest comfort in every pain. What was once foolishness to us – a crucified God – must become our wisdom and our power and our only boast in this world.” – John Piper

I hope that in this report I have been able share with you something of our everyday life as people of the Cross, who also walk confidently carrying the hope of the Risen Christ. It feels like that to me.

As we serve God and his people as an outward facing people of service and prayer, it continues to be the greatest privilege to do this alongside you as your Vicar. *Laus Deo*

## **8) Election of six representatives to the Parochial Church Council**

Five places are available for three years, and one for one year.

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Ailsa Hulme	Sue May	Jill Whitehouse
Rob Jones	Jim May	Doris Cheetham
Julia Jeffs	Peter Hansford	Sue May
Jim May	Celia Forbes	Jill Whitehouse
Michelle Parry-Slater	Alan Simkins	Jim May
Ralph Goold	Julie Henman	Keith McAdam

Proposed by: John Searle

Seconded by: Paul Vernon

Passed: Nem Con

## **9) Appointment of Sidespersons**

The names had been circulated within the booklet prior to the meeting. One additional name was added, i.e. Judith Sandell.

Adoption of Sidespersons

Proposed by: Kay Vernon

Seconded by: Wendy Cruickshank

Passed: Nem Con

## **10) Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Ruth Hughes was thanked for all the hours she spends in final production of the Accounts each year, and for the assistance she willingly gives to the Treasurer. Ruth indicated that she will be happy to be appointed for a further year.

Appointment of the Independent Examiner approved by the meeting Nem Con.

### 11) Election of 4 Lay Persons to the Deanery Synod

<b>Nominee</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>	<b>Seconded By</b>
Julie Henman	Mollie Williams	Ailsa Hulme
Jill Whitehouse	Mollie Williams	Ailsa Hulme
Michael Wood	Rod McPhee	Paul Vernon
Rod McPhee	Michael Wood	Paul Vernon

Proposed by: Ken Smith      Seconded by: Peter Hansford      Passed: Nem Con

### 12) Any Other Business

**Safeguarding Requirements** – There have been significant amendments to the requirements under the Church Laws. A new statement of needs was read out to the meeting. Registration for those people dealing with vulnerable persons, i.e. children, the elderly etc. takes place every five years on a rolling programme, with training being updated every three years. Thanks to Liz Wood for taking on the position of Safeguarding Officer so ably.

### 13) Chairman's Closing Remarks

Keith McAdam thanked the Vicar for his prayerful and faithful service to St Mary's and the wider community. We look forward to the future with enthusiasm. The PCC are looking at producing a new Mission Action Plan in the next few months. We very much appreciate the support given to Will and the Church by Claire, Livvy and Darcy. Thank you from us all.

The meeting closed with a prayer at 9.30 pm, followed by refreshments served by the new PCC members.

## LAY CO-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2017

It is a privilege to support the Vicar in conducting the business of the PCC and its Standing Committee. Ably assisted by the Secretary to the PCC, Celia Forbes, these statutory bodies provide an oversight and record of the many activities at St Mary's.

Our 2017-21 Mission Action Plan (MAP) has been approved and provides a dynamic five-year vision for our faith community. Resulting from an extensive consultative process both within St Mary's and involving the wider Redbourn community, it remains an active document, regularly being monitored and revised. We trust that this participatory process has delivered a vision 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. We have only started to grapple with how to respond to the challenge of the expansive developments in Hemel Hempstead. The implications are far-reaching.

Our strategic plan continues to focus 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.

Our lovely Church has served the Redbourn community for over 900 years and it needs constant oversight and necessary repairs, both for the church and the transept. Maintaining a beautiful churchyard is a demanding job, faithfully led by David Swift and the committed churchyard team. The refurbished old church hall is now a very comfortable two bedroom bungalow, providing considerable capital appreciation and a necessary rental income. 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 well attended again this year; a tribute to the vision and energy of Will and his team. Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals remain a major responsibility and opportunity for our Parish Church. Coffee on the Common, Mothers' Union, Caring Cooks, Redbourn Festival Chorus, Daycare Centre, Holiday Club and more, all serve the wider community in Redbourn. Teddy Tots welcomes many new faces to St Mary's - babies, toddlers, parents/ grandparents and carers. Spotlight groups bring people together midweek to share and support their day-to-day faith journeys.

We acknowledge and thank Will (and Claire, Olivia and Darcy, as a family) on behalf of the St Mary's family and appreciate and admire his leadership and ministry in the Parish. Will continues to serve on the General Synod and his leadership extends widely, with strong community involvement, as we seek to allow God's love to transform our local community. Special thanks to our talented wider Ministerial team including our curate Tim Vickers, Kay Vernon, Christine Farrington, Bishop Robin and Lois Smith, through whom we have a remarkable group of gifted and imaginative leaders of our faith community. We are delighted that Rachel Snow has joined us for her ordination training. Our four Lay Leaders of Worship (Sue May, David Forbes, Rod McPhee and Peter Hansford) augment the team. We'll miss Peter and Pam Hansford as they settle in Brighton, after many years of active involvement in Redbourn and St Marys.

*Keith McAdam – Lay Co-Chair*

### **PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2017**

The elected period of the Parochial Church Council runs from April to April each year, 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 Rev'd Will Gibbs
Assistant Curate	The Rev'd Tim Vickers
Lay Co-Chairman	Keith McAdam
Churchwardens	Sue May and Paul Vernon
Deputy Churchwardens	Stephen Gell, Alan Simkins and David Mitchell
Licensed Reader	Kay Vernon
Deanery Synod	Ralph Goold, Jill Whitehouse and Julie Henman
Deanery Lay Co-Chairman	Jim May
Stewardship Committee	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	3/6	3/3
Celia Forbes	4/6	3/3
Stephen Gell	6/6	3/3
Ralph Goold	3/6	
Peter Hansford	1 /2	
Brian Hayward	6/6	
Julie Henman	6/6	
Julia Jeffs	5/6	
Rob Jones	5/6	2/3
Ailsa Hulme	4/6	0/3
Jim May	6/6	3/3
Sue May	6/6	3/3
Keith McAdam	4/6	2/3
Louise McPhee	4/6	
Rod McPhee	4/6	
David Mitchell	5/6	2/3
John Searle	6/6	
Michelle Parry-Slater	6/6	
Alan Simkins	5/6	3/3
Steve Smith	5/6	
David Swift	4/6	3/3
Kay Vernon	5/6	
Paul Vernon	5/6	2/3
Jill Whitehouse	6/6	
Mike Wood	4/6	3/3

## Offices held by members for the year 2017/18

Lay Co-Chairman	Keith McAdam
Treasurer	Rob Jones
Secretary	Celia Forbes

## Chairpersons of Sub-Committees

Stewardship	Mike Wood
Ancillary Buildings	Jim May
Churchyard	David Swift
Charitable Finance	Stephen Gell
Youth Work	Ailsa Hulme

Members' attendances at meetings have continued to be good, ranging from a high of 88% to a low of 76%. These percentages are higher than the previous year. Attendance at Standing Committee meetings continues to be very good, with few absences during the year.

The Mission Action Plan is well under way and participation from outside the PCC has continued. The Draft Plan has been produced, and the co-ordinators for the numerous points in the plan are being sought.

Kate Ford has done an excellent job in revamping our website, keeping it up to date with news and pictures and forthcoming attractions. We have our own page on Facebook as well as a page with news of 'Coffee on the Common'. A newsletter continues to be circulated by e-mail. Our printers continue to provide an excellent back office service. Although with the provision of the new Church Office the 'boys' are not so visible, their work is of immense value to us all. Minutes of all PCC and Standing Committee meetings are displayed in the south porch as well as being published on the website.

A debt of gratitude is owed to Jim May and his fellow members of the Ancillary Buildings Committee for the completion of the building works renovating the Old Church Hall. Members of the congregation were offered a guided tour before the premises was let to the new tenant.

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

Finally, we were very sad to bid farewell to Peter and Pam Hansford in the summer, and we wish them a very happy retirement on the coast. Peter has played a very big part in the life of St Mary's for a long time, as well as being Lay Co-Chairman of the Deanery Synod. Pam, although not a regular member of our congregation, was the instigator of the Living Advent Calendar in 2016 – a hugely successful project which she will always be remembered for.

*Celia Forbes – Secretary to the PCC*

### **ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – APRIL 2018**

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

- ❖ In April 2017, there were 294 persons on the Electoral Roll.
- ❖ During the year, 14 left and 1 persons joined the roll.
- ❖ The nett effect of this is that the total has fallen by 13 in the last year.
- ❖ Thus there are 281 persons on the new Electoral Roll.

Of these 281 people, 45 live outside the parish. Last year, 47 lived outside the parish.

*Jim May – Electoral Roll Officer*

### **WHEATHAMPSTEAD DEANERY SYNOD 2017**

Wheathampstead Deanery Synod meets three times a year under the leadership of the Rural Dean, the Revd Richard Banham, Rector of St. Helen's, Wheathampstead, and the Lay Chairman, Mr. Jim May. It is made up of parish clergy and a number of lay representatives elected according to the size of the parish, as well as members of Diocesan Synod (who are also thereby members of Deanery Synod and their PCC). Your representatives will have the responsibility of voting for members of the new Diocesan Synod during this summer of 2018.

Synod meetings take place in a different parish each time and the host parish has the opportunity to talk briefly about its life and work. One soon realises the individual nature of

every one of our nine parishes and twelve churches. The deanery joins together for worship on Ascension Day each year, and holds a Deanery Evensong in the autumn. Everyone is very welcome at these special occasions, and indeed at its regular meetings.

Our meeting last February focused on children and young people. Our first speaker was Margaret Pritchard Houston, the new Diocesan Children's Mission Enabler, who gave an overview of the stages of faith development in children, what children's spirituality is and why it matters. They are not empty vessels – God is already working in them, the spark is there. She went on to discuss the importance of storytelling and her synopsis of the Bible as the whole sweep of God's relationship with his people throughout history (beginning *Once upon a time...*) left us breathless and speechless! The second speaker was Mike Palin from the 2:67 Project (from Colossians 2. 6-7) who described the different ways they used to walk with, and inspire, children and young people to grow in faith. In our deanery some 100 primary school aged children meet once a term at *X:cite*.

In July we heard about the work of The Children's Society, and how this had changed since it began in 1881. Today it is a national charity that runs local services, helping children and young people when they are at their most vulnerable, and puts a theological perspective on working for social justice through lobbying MPs.

Synod also heard about Fresh Expressions, which covers many initiatives - Messy Church for example - but is basically 'doing church in places which aren't church'. You may have read elsewhere that our diocese has received money from the Church Commissioners to support its aim of making 8,000 new disciples and 300 fresh expressions of church and 1,200 lay leaders over a decade. At the Deanery Choral Evensong in October the preacher, the Revd Alison Jackson, pioneer minister based at Rye Park, Hoddesdon, explained her role of encouraging fresh expressions of church to non-Christians and those new to faith who were uncomfortable with traditional services. Then in November Luke Lerner, the 'Ragamuffin Chaplain', who among other things is lay chaplain to a couple of Christian biker clubs (and looked the part) spoke about finding God at work in surprising places and building church there. All quite challenging to those of us more familiar with our own parish church and its regular pattern of services.

*Elizabeth Brown – Deanery Synod Secretary*

## **CHURCHWARDENS REPORT FOR 2017**

2017 was a "ticking over" year, with nothing much to report, thankfully...

Having reviewed three tenders to carry out the Quinquennial Inspection (2016) work, the PCC has asked our architect to instruct Hibbitt & Sons Masonry to begin work after Easter 2018. Total cost will be £18,365 + VAT (which we can reclaim), and we are grateful to the Friends of St Mary's for bearing the lion's share of the cost.

Thanks are due to Mike Thain and his team who, at Will's instigation have done a good job of re-seating the floor tiles in the church aisles. We're grateful for the unobtrusive way the work was carried out. Any bride walking down the aisle may well have nerves, but no longer can they be blamed on the wobbly floor.

Repairs to wooden pew backs – thanks to Jan Nelder.

Other routine maintenance – servicing of fire extinguishers, roof alarm and the boilers. New fire extinguishers were provided / replaced where necessary.

This being a quiet year, there are no faculties to report.

At our annual meeting with the Archdeacon or his representative, the churchwardens are usually asked about how our safeguarding is “going”. Liz Wood, as our Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) does an excellent job, and we have worked with her to ensure that, as safeguarding evolves and becomes more rigorous, our responses are adequate and would pass any audit. We have drawn up a list of all activities within the life of St Marys, and have evaluated them for risk potential and reviewed the roles and people involved in putting on those activities. DBS checking is still a base requirement for anyone who is involved with young people and vulnerable adults, but now in addition the diocese is providing training courses and we have worked with Liz to ensure everyone who needs to goes on a course in 2018.

A First Aid course was laid on in December, which 8 people of all ages attended. Steve Roy made an excellent and interesting trainer, and those on the course are now officially certified for three years. We’d encourage everyone to consider joining the course when we put it on again in three years’ time.

The churchwardens offer their thanks to all who contribute to the life of this wonderful church, and this year would like to offer our particular thanks to our team of sidespeople. As the first face a visitor sees when they walk through what can be a rather forbidding door, they are a crucial part of our welcome. Their commitment to the job, reliability and careful attitude are much appreciated.

*Sue May*

*Paul Vernon*

### **SAFEGUARDING AT ST MARY’S**

The PCC complies with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The PCC has agreed to adopt and actively adhere to the St Albans Diocesan Safeguarding Policy and procedures. These policies, procedures and guidelines demonstrate our commitment to promoting the welfare and well-being of all young people and vulnerable adults in order that they can safely participate in the activities and services provided by the Church.

All policies are reviewed annually, at which time the Parish Safeguarding Policy is signed by the Vicar and Churchwardens – copies of which are displayed in the Church.

Groups in the church which may require DBS checks to be made for child workforce are; choir, Mini Church, Junior Church, Pals, Gospellers, holiday clubs, crèche and for vulnerable adult workforce lifts, pastoral visitors, LMDT, etc. 8 checks were carried out in 2017.

Volunteers continue to need to renew their certificates every 5 years for either children’s or adult workforce. There is a rolling programme in place to check and renew all certificates.

Safeguarding training is also carried out on a regular basis.

There have been no incidents or reports which have had to be investigated or referred on within child protection over the last year.

*Liz Wood – Parish Safeguarding Officer and Lead Recruiter*

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

This year sees the tenth year of reports from me. Where do the years go! Over these past 10 years we have seen our Parish Share increase by £50,000 to over £125,000 for the coming year. Obviously, this increase means we spend a lot of time considering ways for our income to keep pace. Our main income stream comes from the 140 generous members of our congregation who comprise the Planned Giving Scheme.

The Committee worked hard on a number of fronts during the year. I took over the Chair of the Committee from Peter Hansford who continued to play an active role in the team until he moved away from the area. He deserves a special thank you for his contribution and good counsel over the years.

**Time & Talent Fair** – Following on from the Fair at the end of November 2016 a leaflet was produced to encourage everyone to consider a New Year's resolution to join one of the activities that help look after the Church. It included some photos and contact details for 36 of the Leaders.

**Supporting Our Growth** – In May we looked to the congregation again to prayerfully consider their level of giving to the Church. Our Parish Share increased by another £7,526 and we needed to try and cover this additional expenditure. Our Vicar challenged us all in a sermon and an accompanying leaflet provided detail on levels of giving, where the money is spent and how we can respond. A large gauge in the Transept kept track of progress of the increase which realised an additional £4,000. While this was short of the target, it helped us close the gap in the budget.

The **Patronal Festival**, held in September, was another excellent event. Following the service we spilled out into the Churchyard to enjoy a Barbeque, “bring and share” deserts, drinks and wonderful music provided by the Redbourn Jazz Band. After lunch we had time to enjoy great company and a bouncy castle for the children.

During Advent we decided to try something a little different in terms of fund raising. The **Christmas Present Appeal** with the objective of leaving St Mary's a present in the tank proved a little disappointing with very few members of the congregation engaging. We did raise £825 including Gift Aid and you never know unless you try.

St Mary's continues to pay our **Parish Share** in full every year, but it is getting harder as the amount increases along with all the other expenditure required to run a Church of our size. The main purpose of the Church is for worship of Our Lord, but we must remember it is also a £200k business!

We turn up to Church and expect everything to be in place for the service, whether it be a Sunday, Wednesday or any other day. This only happens because of the hard work of Vicar, Curate, Wider Ministry Team, Activity Leaders and their teams. Running the Church takes a lot of time, talent and treasure. What more can you contribute?

On behalf of the Stewardship Committee I thank you all for your continued generosity and support of our beautiful old Church.

*Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.* 1 Peter 4:10

*Michael Wood – Chairman*

## **LAY LEADERS OF WORSHIP**

The team of 4 LLWs has sadly reduced to 3 with the departure for pastures new of Peter Hansford who will be sadly missed. We wish him and Pam all the best in their new life on the South Coast. We will also, sadly, be further depleted with the departure in 2018 of Rod McPhee to the North of the country.

During 2017, we have continued to take an active role in Sunday Evening Services, where possible taking them in varied forms in order to ring the changes in our Sunday Evening Worship.

We have also presented talks and addresses at the main Sunday Morning Services, particularly on the first Sunday of the Month.

We have all enjoyed the challenges thrown up by these Services, and hope that, even in our diminished form (hopefully temporary) we will continue to support Will and Tim in their leading of the Worship of St Mary's.

*David Forbes – on behalf of the LLWs*

## **PASTORAL VISITING TEAM**

Pastoral Care is the ministry of everyone in the parish. However, alongside this St Mary's has decided to express this pastoral care more formally through a pastoral visiting team, known as St Mary's Visitors. Members of this team are involved in visiting any who come to the Church, whether they are members or not, needing Pastoral support. This ministry is exercised on behalf of and clearly representing the local church.

The pastoral visiting team has been running for just over a year now. We have 10 members and we meet 4 times a year. All have undergone a diocesan training course, have been DBS checked, and were commissioned at a church service. At the time of this report 23 people are being visited, but the list is fluid and people regularly come on and off the list. Training undertaken includes courses on mental health, intercessory prayer and healing, taking home communion and child mortality. The team are authorised and able to offer home communion to those who need it.

Please help us in this ministry by letting us know of anyone who needs to go on the prayer list or needs a visit. It doesn't matter if they are church goers, and all visits are handled with care and confidentiality.

*The Revd Tim Vickers – Coordinator*

## **CHURCHYARD SUB-COMMITTEE**

The work of the Churchyard Team continues throughout the year and with the help of the young offenders we have seen great progress in the upkeep and maintenance of the Churchyard. Every Saturday our local Probation Service send a small group of young offenders on a Community Service pay back scheme to help with our work in the Churchyard.

We are grateful to these young people, they have helped to significantly improve the appearance of our graveyard and gardens.

During the summer months we have a small group of loyal hard working volunteers cutting the grass and keeping the grounds tidy. Once a month we have an “Operation Churchyard” where we tackle larger jobs maintaining hedges and fences etc.

“Operation Churchyard” is open to everyone and we really do need your support, our numbers are very low. If you’re not already involved please consider joining us for a few hours once a month on a Saturday morning. Dates are published in the Church news.

As with all of our Church activities there are always a small group of stalwarts that just quietly get on with it. I would like to personally thank Rosemary and Geoff Woodhouse, Michael Darvell and Mike Thain.

Our flower beds and rose garden are lovingly maintained by Ursula Bradley, Carol Dawson, Ken Smith, Claire Farquar and Wendy and Dick Morgan. I am truly grateful to you all.

*David Swift – Chairman*

### **THE CHARITABLE FINANCE COMMITTEE – CFC**

Our 2017 appeal was formally launched at the 9.30 Service on February 26<sup>th</sup> with a talk given by a representative of Open Doors UK, although funds for this cause had already been raised at Carols and Beer the previous December.

We were fortunate that the 2017 Starlight Supper on July 18<sup>th</sup> could be devoted to an illustrated talk by Roger F, who spoke of his varied and extensive experience of working for Open Doors, both at home and abroad. Over £600 was raised in a collection that evening.

The Harvest Supper, on September 30<sup>th</sup> was attended by 47 people. The meal was accompanied by an entertaining and at times challenging quiz.

Our other major fundraising event of the year was a concert by the Beaman Consort on November 25<sup>th</sup>. A large and appreciative audience enjoyed works by a range of composers including Weber, Rossini and Mozart. The Consort was joined by soprano Louise McPhee for a performance of ‘The Shepherd on the Rock’ by Schubert.

Our fundraising was underpinned throughout the year by prayers for the work of Open Doors at the 8 am and 9.30 am services, focusing on a different country each month. From 2<sup>nd</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> November 2017 the bell at St Marys tolled 50 times each day at 10am, each toll representing a prayer for the Christians in the top 50 countries in the world where it is hardest to be a Christian.

Will was able to witness at first hand the work of Open Doors when he visited refugees and projects in Jordan in October, as was Tim when he visited Egypt the following month. They spoke of their memorable experiences at a talk in the Church Transept on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Throughout the afternoon of December 9<sup>th</sup>, the Gospellers held a sponsored Gospel reading in aid of our appeal. The whole of St Matthew’s Gospel was read as well as the first 8 chapters of St Luke’s Gospel.

The Committee is most grateful to Will and Tim for their enthusiastic engagement in our appeal and to all who supported us from the congregation of St Mary’s and from the wider community, thereby enabling us to raise a total of £10,500 for the work of Open Doors UK.

*Stephen Gell – Secretary of the CFC*

## THE MOTHERS' UNION

Our theme for 2017 was 'Faith in Action' and started with our Ecumenical Carol Service, where we welcomed our friends from the Mothers' Union in Harpenden.

At our Annual Supper in February, Doris's granddaughter played the piano for us quite beautifully as the after-dinner entertainment. In March we had an extremely interesting talk by Dr. Colin McCubbin – 'When there is no water in the tap' – and our Lent talk from Tim on 'Reflections on Parenthood and the Ministry of serving others in Christ's name' gave us all much to think about. A talk by Jan Lang on her wonderful garden was followed up by some of us with a visit to look around it, including a tea and cake fundraiser for MU projects. Bishop John Gladwin talked to us about living after bereavement – a moving lecture that taught us a lot.

In May we provided tea after the Confirmation Service. Diocesan Spring Sharing Day was at All Saints, Croxley Green with the theme 'Shout out loud' and the Lady Day Service was at St John's, Harpenden this year, when the banners were paraded. We also held the annual Wave of Prayer, followed by a strawberry tea which all enjoyed.

Our annual outing this year was to 'Huntsmoor', a spectacular NGS Garden.

In September a meeting developed plans for 2018 and beyond and we had a stall at the Classic Car event on the Common. The October meeting was addressed by Susan Roberts, ex-Diocesan President, who spoke on 'Growing...Gracefully'. Also in October, we hosted the Deanery Lunch, with Will as our speaker, and provided tea at the funeral of Doris Walker on what would have been her 94th birthday.

In November Will gave a talk on 'The Importance of Memory'. Delegates attended the Autumn Sharing Day at Welwyn, which included a presentation on '16 Days of Activism' by Nicola Lawrence, and a Deanery Advent Quiet Afternoon at St Mary's, Kinsbourne Green.

Members were happy to take part in the making of Christingles again this year.

We enrolled two new members during the year. Very sadly, our longstanding member and dear friend, Doris Walker, died on 28th September and is very much missed.

Fundraising activities included Mothering Sunday cake and plant stalls in aid of Chamnye, raising £584 for a water tap for the village and a generator to provide the church with light. Our fundraiser for the Big Appeal in May generated £255.40.

My thanks to Will and Tim for taking our services, and to Gill Chapman for her lovely organ playing. Also, many thanks to Rosemary and Geoff Woodhouse for so efficiently setting up the Transept for our meetings. I am particularly grateful to the MU Committee for their hard work and wonderful support throughout the year.

The theme for 2018 is 'In Mary Sumner's Footsteps' and a varied and interesting programme of activities has been prepared.

*Eileen Fernley – Branch Secretary*

## ANCILLARY BUILDINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

Our main focus this year continued to be on converting the Old Church Hall to residential accommodation. Work was completed in late summer and the property has been rented out since the beginning of October. Since the start of the project in 2013, the costs have added up to £182,373 but we now have an asset valued at £425,000 by our letting agents. Also this year, repair work to the Church Cottage has been undertaken with the aim of reducing the dampness in the building. The committee has met three times in the year. Our challenge going forward will be the re-roofing of the Transept.

*Jim May – Chairman*

## BELLRINGING AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

Overall it has been a good year with a good standard of ringing. We have rung for every service as required and for all weddings – albeit sometimes only on 5!!!

### *People:*

We did welcome some new starters to our tower – but unfortunately none have stayed. This is something that we need to think about for 2018 – how to recruit.

Both Andrew and Gemma have experienced health issues in 2017. Andrew with the help of one or two members of the band has been able to continue ringing and it is great to welcome Gemma back to full ringing this year. It was lovely that Gemma continued to come down on a Tuesday evening only ringing backstrokes but increasing her call change conducting skills – she could be a great asset to our call change band for next year – as conductor!

Many of the band have made great strides in increasing their repertoire with Surprise Minor being rung as the 'norm' on a Sunday morning and more methods being learned by Pauline, Malcolm and Mary H. Thanks to Ben, Diana and Mary C for their support with this. Mary Hughes has rung her first quarters of Surprise Major and also called her first quarter peals during quarter peal weekend. Joe has gone from strength to strength, and last Sunday hunted the treble to Bob Doubles for the first time – I think this time next year I will be reporting his first quarter peal. Joe also attends the Young at Herts meetings when possible and was a reserve for the striking competition band.

Mary Hughes, Pauline and Malcolm continue to give support to Flamstead and we have also received support from them on some Sundays when people were away, and more particularly over this last Christmas.

Thanks to Will and Tim for their support for ringing at Redbourn – it is much appreciated.

### *The Ringing Year:*

As St Georges Day fell on a Sunday it was easy to join in with ringing for this important date. It won't be this year so we will need to put that one in the diary.

We put in a band for the District Striking Competition and were placed second so went through to the County Competition (Kimpton Cup) in September where once again we were placed 2nd behind the other Western District Band – HH. Joe rang in his first striking competition for a joint band with Flamstead in the District Competition. This year there will be a separate call changes competition which I hope we will also be able to enter.

We enjoyed an outing to Cambridgeshire arranged by Mary Hughes which all enjoyed in October this year. We had moved due to the fact that we were hiring the Charmborough Ring which we hosted at Redbourn's first Classic Car Show in September. This was a very successful day despite the poor weather conditions – thank you so much to Mary H for organising this. I believe that we are planning to do the same again.

In December we all went to the Chequers again for our Christmas Meal. This was a very enjoyable evening. The service was good although I did get mixed views on the food. We were very pleased that Tim was able to join us for the evening.

Only 6 quarter peals have been rung this year – 3 to note were in celebration of the Diamond Wedding Anniversary of Alan and Edna Lindfield, in celebration of the life of Doris Walker and in celebration of the birth of Hollie Clear.

For 2018 I really would like you all to think about a plan to improve your ringing knowledge and ability – both in what you ring and also to get involved in conducting. Please let me know if there is anything particular that you would like to ring or conduct. It would also be good to see some more Redbourn ringers at our District Meetings.

Finally, thank you all for your continuing enthusiasm for ringing at Redbourn. It is an absolute honour and pleasure to run the ringing here – you all make it so easy.

*Liz Middleton – Ringing Master*

## **SPOTLIGHT SMALL GROUPS**

Spotlight continues to give an opportunity to share, listen, support and encourage our faith journeys with one another in small groups, meeting every other week in term time. Those attending are from St Mary's and the wider Redbourn community. Several new people have joined during the year. The Tuesday morning group meets at New Forge Place and includes a mixture of people from the wider community. Other groups meet on Tuesday afternoon, Tuesday and Thursday evenings and lively discussions have been had around the Lectionary, Rob Bell's videos, poetry, issues of Moral Anger, Racism & Prejudice. Each group of between 6 and 13 people has its own identity.

We are looking for ways of developing new types of groups, possibly building on existing interests and activities. Tim and Sophy Vickers have begun 'Messy Conversations' with several Teddy Tots attendees, meeting monthly on Saturdays with their young children.

Twenty seven people attended our Spotlight Supper in October when Kay Vernon challenged us with a couple of short videos by Adrian Plass. In November Spotlight groups participated in leading our annual Spotlight service focused on 'God's Song.....Our Song' challenging us on how much our image of God is actually in tune with God as portrayed in scripture.

In July we welcomed Roger F. from Open Doors, St. Mary's charity for the year, to give the Annual Cafe-Style talk in Redbourn Village Hall. Roger's life had been transformed from a desk job to working in the world of the persecuted, displaced and suffering, from Columbia to Korea, from Nigeria to Iraq. Approximately 80 people were captivated by his stories, shared a meal together and asked questions.

*Penny McAdam – Spotlight Group Co-ordinator*

## YOUTH WORK at ST MARY'S

### Sunday Activities

St Mary's encompasses children from 0-17 in its many groups and they are actively encouraged to take part in Worship and Service by the provision of age appropriate groups. The 1<sup>st</sup> 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 cater for the different ages who are taught and helped by a strong team of volunteers who nurture and nourish each individual child and are to be thanked for their care and knowledge. With safeguarding in mind all groups have to have two adults present.

**Mini Church** is for babies 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. This is a small group but is growing as Teddy Tots a mother and baby group is thriving and parents are now aware of what is on offer within the Church family. An established team of volunteers work closely together and the children get to know them. Michelle Parry-Slater stepped down as a volunteer and we would like to thank her for her hard work and sense of fun with the children.

**Junior Church** caters for children from aged four to five up until around year four at school. This group follows the Lectionary and again has two adult leaders. We have an established team of volunteers who the children know and enjoy learning with. A varied and imaginative range of activities is available and they average seven in number.

**PALS** take children from Year five and average ten. A group of children moved up in September so the group went from a small number to the largest of the groups. The children are encouraged to discuss the Lectionary and to think about their faith and understanding of the bible. In the future we are going to encourage them to plan some joint services with all the groups. As we need two adults present we have struggled to recruit and are very grateful to those who came forward. This has been compounded by the soon to leave Louise McPhee who has been a great asset leading the group with knowledge and a good sense of humour, so we thank her for all her hard work.

**Gospellers** – *see separate report (below)*

We are truly blessed and privileged to have so many volunteers who prepare, help and support these groups promoting strong Christian values and nurturing our young people so thank you.

### Other Activities

**Teddy Tots** – *see separate report (below)*

### Holiday Club

Seventy-two children attended the Holiday Club 'Waste Watchers' and had an exciting and stimulating week beginning with a Sunday Service. Even the weather did not stop them! The idea of waste was certainly utilised and Sue May's idea of making something out of things we throw away produced some amazing craft, we have talented children in Redbourn. Thank you

Sue for collecting and storing so much ‘recycling’! The children found the week stimulating and enjoyed all the topics; discussion, prayer, singing, craft and physical activity. This year they were supported by some brilliant Young Leaders who showed great leadership skills. A highlight was the coming together of the Day Care group and the children. During the afternoon the children and Young Leaders sang some of the songs we had learned and explained what we had been doing during the week. Some of them stayed and played games and songs and it was a wonderful experience for young and old. Another activity the children enjoyed was the food tasting by Kate Ford who utilised potato peelings, apple cores and carrot tops into amazing food, which the children tasted, guessing what it was made from. So thank you to Kate you taught us adults too. Again we held a family BBQ which was very well attended, considering the wet week we had. Many thanks again to Will for his culinary skills. This next year’s theme will be Guardians of Ancora ‘Treasure Seekers’. We have a core of helpers who work hard and willingly give their time energy and skills but we do need some more so we pray that people will come forward. It is wonderful to watch this group of children blossom and enjoy the week with us.

### **Christmas Holiday Club**

Children attended a lovely Saturday holiday club led by Kay Vernon and Sue May. They enjoyed singing, stories and activities, which culminated in a Christmas Service the next day. The church was beautifully decorated by their art work. A great time was had by all.

We also run Confirmation Classes where young people prepare for Confirmation and gives them to think and ask questions about their faith.

We also have many children singing in the Choir a wonderful addition to our Worship.

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*

### **TEDDY TOTS**

It’s Friday morning and someone asks the Parent Network on social media what’s on today. “Head to Teddy Tots at St Mary’s 10.30-12” comes the reply. Perhaps that’s why numbers have been steadily increasing: we now have 25 children on average each week with their parents, grandparents or carers.

Or maybe it’s because of the warm and friendly welcome from the team: Ailsa Hulme, Penny McAdam, Kay Vernon, Tim and Sophy Vickers, Mollie Williams, Albert Joly, Kate Ford, and until recently Amanda Stansfield (thanks Amanda for your amazing help and support).

Or maybe it’s the way we make our guests feel special by waiting on them with endless refreshments which always include cake, often homemade!

Or maybe it’s the popular half hour story and song time (with musical instruments and Jo the puppet), finishing with a prayer helped along by Prayer Bear. We use Bible stories, other stories with positive values, Christian songs, and popular children’s songs. Some of the parents have great singing voices!

Many have told us that there is something special about Teddy Tots. Building relationships is important to us, both with the children and the parents. Each term we have a Family Breakfast on a Saturday morning which is an opportunity to meet the other members of the family and get to know them. We had about 70 parents and children at our most recent one in March, all enjoying bacon rolls, chocolate croissants and fruit.

In January we put on a very successful parents' social at the Cricketers called "There's more to me than meets the eye" when a mum and a dad were interviewed about their 'other' job and the impact that having a baby has made. It was a great evening of conversation, laughter, pizza and delicious dessert!

A group of mums meets from time to time at Tim and Sophy's on a Saturday morning for 'Messy Conversations' (see Spotlight report for details).

Through our conversations and growing relationships we endeavour to support parents, and also help and encourage them in their faith journeys. Thank you to everyone who faithfully prays for the work of Teddy Tots.

If anyone would like to become a prayer partner for Teddy Tots (receiving specific needs for prayer) or would like to help on a Friday from time to time please speak to one of the team.

*Kay Vernon – on behalf of the Teddy Tots team*

## **GOSPELLERS**

Last year we made the decision to offer Gospellers as a weekly activity in term time from September 2017. We have also changed the time to 4-5.30pm so that Gospellers who need to attend chapel at St George's can do so. To enable this to happen we recruited some new leaders; Natasha Patel and Clive Williams. Thanks also to David Forbes, Rachel Snow and Will Gibbs for helping out with sessions. The aim is to provide a varied program of socials games, bible studies, worship, movies, homework support and visiting speakers. We put a program together which is responsive to their needs, fun and also has an element of Christian teaching and discipleship.

We have 16 Gospellers aged 11-15 who are on the 'books'. Running Gospellers weekly has meant they have attended more often but not every time. Running it every week means that if a session is missed, they go only 2 weeks without rather than a month. This can only be a good thing. We are trying to encourage gospellers to be more involved in each session and to have ownership of Gospellers. Average attendance is about 8 per session. In May two Gospellers were also confirmed.

We ran a successful trip to FACT in September with 28 Gospellers and friends. The Gospellers ran a sponsored litter pick in the summer raising £585 for FACT, and also supported by Holiday Club profits and the MU. They also helped out for holiday club and were a real asset to the whole week. We also had a sponsored bible reading in aid of Open Doors in December which raised about £260. In the spring term highlights included a trip to General Synod, where they also met Bishop of St Albans and they have been raising money to twin the toilets at St Mary's to help build proper toilets in more needy parts of the world. This has been through parable of the talents, and each being given £10.

*Tim Vickers – Gospellers Leader*

## ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR

The choir continues in good shape. The total numbers on the roll are now 33, but this number includes Frances Goodchild who has unfortunately not been able to come for some years owing to illness. It has been good recently to welcome Rachel Snow to our numbers.

The choir 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.



Damian Cranmer has continued his excellent blog on the music being sung at Choral Evensong.

The choir broke its normal summer break in August 2017 to sing a service of BCP choral Mattins, not sung in Redbourn church for many years! This was very well attended, and was followed by refreshments. We will plan a similar event, possibly in the summer of 2018.

The choir continues to sing a range of music, including some home-produced pieces. In 2017 we sang at the Nine Lessons and Carols Service an arrangement by Paul Vernon of the Wexford Carol, and the Junior Choir sang Kathy Goodchild's new carol 'Jesus our Treasure'.



The junior choir continues in lively mode. We recently had an outing to the Planet Ice skating arena, organized by Tim.

*Jonathan Goodchild – Organist and Director of Music*

## ST MARY'S TEXTILE GROUP

The Textile group continues to meet in the Transept every 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday afternoon each month. We continue to work on producing green altar frontals for the main altar as well as for the Lady Chapel and St John's Chapel. We are aiming for the main altar frontal to be completed by the summer.

We are a group of about 12 members and we have been meeting for over 10 years now. During this time we have made vestment sets for Harvest and also green and gold sets, as well as cream cloths for all three altars. In addition, we produced the set of red ‘bargello’ pattern kneelers for the altar rail.

New members will be very welcome and anyone interested should contact Barbara Corbett or other members of the group.

*Barbara Corbett – Group Leader*

## 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 20176 though one event had to be cancelled due to lack of ticket sales.

**January** A successful and very enjoyable Winter Ball raised just over £1639 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.

**June** A Ceilidh and BBQ was held at Kettlewells Farm. Despite numbers being small it was an enjoyable event and made a profit of £139.

**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 £280. A new event of Redbourn Classics Motor Show was run in conjunction with the Redbourn Care Group was also. Despite the poor weather, a profit of £3956 was made for the Friends.

**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 £350.

### **Projects:**

We have spent some money this year on maintenance work to the church roof.

### **Future Projects:**

We are conscious of the need to ensure we have funds to meet the up-coming Quinquennial works which we have agreed to support. We will be holding a dog show in the churchyard next June and will be jointly running the Redbourn Classic Car Show again in September 2018.

### **Personnel:**

We have a vacancy for a Chairperson and secretary and additional members of the committee would be very 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*

## THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN REDBOURN 2017

**Chair:** Revd Will Gibbs.

**The Committee** for the Churches Together in Redbourn met in January and September 2017. 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 Gillian Hulme, (until August), Revd Mmasape Zihle, Fr Michael Mannion, Doreen Cosier, Christine Clow (Treasurer), Samantha Statham, Maggy Swift, Sue May and Grace Sawyer (Secretary).

### **Lent 2017**

**In Lent 2017** weekly meetings were held in the lounge of New Forge Place, following a series based on the book 'The Nail' by Stephen Cottrell.

**Lent Charity Lunches** in 2017 were at Redbourn Methodist Church each Friday.

**On the five Thursday evenings** there were meetings at St Mary's Church as follows:

March 9	Revd Malcolm Ernst	"Waterways" Chaplain
March 16	Janis Feely MBE	Drug/Alcohol Dependency
March 30	Reona Joly	Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre
April 6	Rachel Martin	Debt and Money Advice and Counselling Christians against Poverty
March 23	Riding Lights Theatre Group at the Village Hall, a Passion play "Crosslight"	

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 2017** began at 11:30am outside the Catholic Church of St John Fisher, stopping at the Village Hall Car Park, the War Memorial, and finishing at the Methodist Church. At each of these, ministers led hymns, readings and prayers. Refreshments were provided afterwards at the Methodist Church.

<b>United Services</b>	January	Service for the Week of Christian Unity
	March	Women's World Day of Prayer
	May	Service for the beginning of the Week of Christian Aid and 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 all homes in the village. CTR Street Prayer Cards were included, and there was response from a number of Redbourn residents.

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

*Grace Sawyer - Secretary*

## REDBOURN DAY CENTRE

Thanks to the invaluable input of our team of volunteer helpers 2017 was another successful year. Wednesdays are often quoted by our clients as 'The best day of the week' which makes everything we do worthwhile.

We started the year with only 16 clients as Gordon Allcroft and Freda George left because of ill health. Norah Price and Betty Henry who were on our waiting list then joined. Unfortunately Betty was unable to stay for long as her health deteriorated. Amy Butler moved away in October so Thelma McLaughlin took her place keeping our numbers up to 18.

Our activities have followed the same pattern as previous years. Mornings are taken up with tea and biscuits and conversation as well as sitting down exercises taken by Nigel Rushton and his colleague Leigh.

The afternoons are varied: - games, jigsaws, art & craft activities as well as interest sessions when we choose a topic for discussion which this year included 'Far Away Places', Dogs and Italy. We also showed a film 'The Golden Years'. For entertainment we welcomed the Barber Shop Quartet, Dacorum Community Choir, the Infant School Choir and on the last day in July St. Mary's Holiday Club provided us with an afternoon of lively fun.

Particular highlights this year were the celebration of Daphne Selwyn-Fatt's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, a visit to Bletchley Park, tea on the Common with music from the jazz band and painting of plates which were later fired by 'Pots of Art' St Albans.

We had our usual annual activities the shopping outing to Hemel Hempstead with lunch at Debenhams and the Bring & Buy Sale as well as a visit from the nurse to administer flu jabs. Communion was celebrated on 3 occasions Ash Wednesday, our 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary in June and Advent thanks to St. Marys. The AGM was as usual held in early September followed by a Cheese & Wine Social evening.

Everyone involved in the Day Centre looks forward to the Christmas lunch at Aubrey Park and this year 66 of us enjoyed the occasion-a delicious meal with trimmings and a sing-a-long accompanied by Paul Vernon on the keyboard.

Without the people in the background we could not provide our clients with these much appreciated days out. I should like to mention St. Mary's, St. Luke's (who provide our meals), and the Care Group who not only provide the transport but gave a generous donation. This year we also had a welcome donation from the Firework Display working party and a smaller amount from Janet Collins and the Redbourn Singers.

Thank you to all involved.

*Margie Johnstone – Day Centre Coordinator*

## ST. MARY'S TRANSEPT REPORT 2018

The Transept Hall and Upper Room have been very busy with bookings this year; regular weekly bookings varying from yoga to children's groups, parties and celebration lunches. Different church groups in the Diocese book Quiet days and PCC Away days.

With St Mary's Church groups booking the Transept, it is advisable to check with me first, in plenty of time, so double bookings and disappointment can be avoided.

The hourly fees have been increased by £2.00 per hour from February 2018; £8.00 per hour to £10.00 per hour for regular bookings, the casual booking fees from £10.00 per hour to £12.00 per hour and the Hall is advertised in the Common Round each month.

Please contact me to make a booking or to enquire about availability or any other details concerning a booking.

*Rosemary Woodhouse – Transept Warden*

*Telephone: 01582 792668*

*Email: woodhouse.37@virginmedia.com*

## SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE REPORT 2017

In an increasingly digital world, communicating with the St Mary's congregation and wider community via their computers, tablets and mobile phones is effective and useful.

**Facebook** continues to be the most wide-reaching of our online tools, and our regular posts sharing news, events, forthcoming services, prayers, photos, articles and charity fundraising messages are seen by far more than St Marys' **413** 'followers'. The most popular Facebook post of the year was seen by **5,700** people alone, and **40** of our posts during the year were seen by more than **500** people. The *#BellsForPeace* video raising awareness and encouraging prayers for the 50 countries in the Open Doors World Watch List was watched by **1,539** people. On average, just **32%** of people who see our most popular posts are St Mary's 'followers', and we are mindful of adjusting language and content to be as welcoming and accessible as possible to this very wide audience.

The **website** received **6,400** visitors in 2017. Plans are progressing for a significant re-structure of the site, and there will be more to report on this later in the year. We received many responses to our recent online survey about the site, which have helped to shape our plans, many thanks to all who took the time to respond. Feedback and ideas are always very welcome.

Our **Twitter** account has **333** followers, and is a useful tool for engaging with the wider local community.

**E-Newsletters** have continued to be well-received, with **200** currently on the mailing list for the quarterly main St Mary's Newsletter, and another **153** for the termly Teddy Tots E-Newsletter. The new GDPR legislation will have a significant impact here, as from May we can no longer use these e-mail addresses unless we receive specific consent from each person to do so. There is likely to be a drop in numbers, but also opportunities to grow the mailing lists in future as we ask for permission to contact a wider audience including wedding couples, baptism families, etc.

*Kate Ford – Church Website Editor and Administrator*

## REDBOURN COMMON ROUND

2017 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 was responsible for printing. A team of around 50 people distributed the magazine and Ken Smith continued to be responsible for organizing distribution until May, when David Walker succeeded him.

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 2017:

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

*Grace Sawyer – Common Round Coordinator*



*What we do to those who've been ordained priest in 2017...*

# REDBOURN COMMON ROUND

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2017

### REDBOURN COMMON ROUND INCOME / EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2017

		<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
Funds Brought Forward	[A]	1 4,826.82	23,617.48
<b>CREDITS</b>			
Magazine Sales	Distributor	5,883.80	6,059.20
	Postal	1 01.00	115.00
Post Subscribers Post/pack contribution		235.00	2 69.00
Magazine Sales Post Office		30.35	47.25
Advertisement Sales		5,257.99	5,860.09
External Services Provided		<u>1,019.26</u>	<u>1,193.88</u>
TOTAL INCOME	[B]	1 2,527.40	13,544.42
<b>DEBITS</b>			
Printing		4,023.82	4,127.77
Stationery		1,299.82	1,148.46
Sundry Production Expenses		-	30.00
Distribution Expenses		280.78	2 82.42
Machine Rental		<u>1,769.35</u>	<u>1,769.36</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	[C]	7,373.77	7,358.01
NETT MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		5,153.63	6,186.41
Interest	[D]	-	22.93