

Annual Parochial Church Meeting



ST MARY'S REDBOURN

Wednesday 24th April 2019

8.15 pm

St Mary's Transept Hall

SIDESPERSIONS 2019

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 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

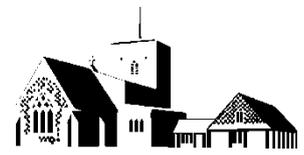
David Mitchell and Paul Vernon

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Colossians 3. 17 *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN



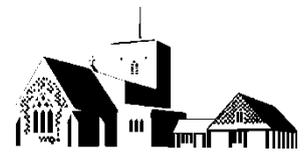
**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
to be held on Wednesday 24th April 2019, at 8.15 pm
in the Transept Hall of St Mary's Church**

AGENDA

Opening Prayer

- 1 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th April 2018**
- 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 25th APRIL 2018

Present: The Vicar, The Curate, one retired member of the clergy and 35 Parishioners.

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

1) Minutes of the Meeting held 26th 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: Sue May Seconded by: Mollie Williams Passed: Nem Con

2) Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens

Churchwardens

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
David Mitchell	Doris Cheetham	Saxon Aldred
Paul Vernon	Penny McAdam	Ailsa Hulme

Deputy Churchwardens

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
Stephen Gell	Rosemary Woodhouse	Alan Simkins
Alan Simkins	Ailsa Hulme	Penny McAdam

The above were elected Nem Con.

4) Vote of Thanks

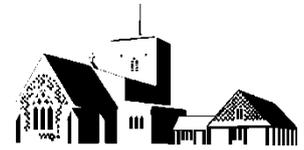
The Vicar thanked all the Churchwardens and Deputy Churchwardens for their excellent team work during the past year. He is looking forward to continuing the good relationship in the coming year.

Sue May has stood down as Churchwarden after ten years in the post. We have been extremely lucky to have had such a diligent and conscientious worker. The Vicar presented Sue with flowers and a gift as a token of our appreciation.

Sue thanked everyone, and especially thanked Jim May for his tremendous support during her terms as Churchwarden.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.26 pm.

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. MARY, REDBOURN

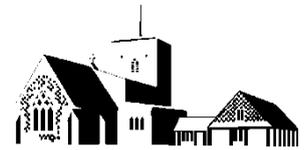


THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING to be held on Wednesday 24th April 2019, at 8.15 pm in the Transept Hall of St Mary's Church

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 25th April 2018**
- 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 2018**
 - 7 A Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments**
 - 8 A Report of the Ministry and Witness of the Church throughout 2018**
- 9 Election of up to 6 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 25th APRIL 2018 IN THE TRANSEPT HALL OF ST MARY'S CHURCH

Present: The Vicar, The Curate, one retired member of the clergy and 35 Parishioners.

The meeting opened at 8.27 pm and was chaired by the Lay Co-Chairman, Keith McAdam

Apologies for Absence: Michelle Parry Slater, Barbara Corbett, Jan Nelder, Jan Lang, Clorinda Goodman, Wendy Cruickshank, Jonathan Wood, Chris Wright, David Swift, Albert & Reona Joly, Alan & Angie Simkins, Rachel Snow, Mike Wood, Jenny Crouch, Rosalie Hayward, Claire Gibbs, Jean Munro.

Booklets containing the minutes of the previous APCM, the various reports and Accounts for 2017 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 26th April 2017

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: Julia Jeffs 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 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 was circulated prior to the meeting. The Treasurer's verbal report is also included below as it gives some explanation of the financial position during the year in relation to the audited accounts:

PCC Accounts to 31st December 2017

Balance Sheet

- **Fixed Assets Tangible Fixed Assets**

Now nil as the £74k in the 2016 balance sheet related to the Old Church Hall building and has been transferred to Investment Assets in 2017.

- **Cash At Bank**

Reduced by £33k as a significant proportion of the cash in the balance sheet at the end of 2016 was allocated for the renovation of the old church hall

- **Liabilities**

Includes £22k of accruals plus deferred advertising income from the common round

Income

- **Voluntary Income**

Special appeals includes £10k donation towards renovation of the church hall. In addition there were donations totalling £41,000 from the development fund again towards the renovation works.

So it is important to point out that although the accounts show an excess of income over expenditure of £30k this is after £51,000 of donations specific to the church renovation works. So the underlying position is that there was a £21k deficit.

- **Transept Lettings**

Income is down, as there were less transept lettings in 2017. There are more letting spaces in the village competing for business.

- **Fees for Weddings and Funerals**

Income is down, as there were less weddings in 2017 than 2016

- **Parish Magazine Advertising**

Income is down, as some local businesses are following the national trend of switching their advertising to social media and the internet. In addition there is competition for printed advertising from the Markyate magazine which is now being delivered for free in Redbourn.

- **Property Income**

This includes £3.3k for 3 months rental of the old church hall in addition to £9,600 for rental of the vicarage cottage.

Expenditure

- **Donations from CFC**

£10,500 relates to the payment which will be made to Open Doors UK the charity chosen for 2017

- **Other Collections from Weddings and Funerals**

This is up year on year and relates to money collected at weddings and funerals on behalf of other charities.

- **Fees to Diocese**

Down due to their being less weddings in 2017

- **Parish Office Expenses**

Down due to the fact that 2016 included a payment towards the Vicar's car of £10,800

- **Church Maintenance**

Included £11k expended on sorting out a damp course issue on the vicarage cottage.

- **Other Expenses**

Sacristy was up by £962 but this relates to stock items and so a year on year comparison cannot be made.

Parish expenses for the Vicar were up £1k.

The Curate's expenses were up £1.1k due to Tim being fully involved in church operations for the whole of 2017.

£750 was expended on fitting a shower into the Curate's rented house.

Fellowship Afloat costs were £500 higher in 2017.

Textiles group was £200 higher in 2017

Patronal Festival Expenses were £450

Our Treasurer answered some verbal queries in order to clarify. Our sincere thanks to our Treasurer, Rob Jones, and our Independent Examiner, Ruth Hughes for the hard work they put in to maintain our accounts during the year and in supplying the final accounts at the year end.

Adoption of the Accounts for 2017

Proposed by: Kay Vernon Seconded by: Penny McAdam 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 2017, 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 2017.

Today is an auspicious day for our annual meetings as we gather on the Feast of St Mark. There is much in his life that commends itself to our discipleship and to the witnessing to our faith in Christ. He was a Jew and a cousin to Barnabas, accompanying Barnabas and Paul on their first missionary journey. Afterwards, he went to Cyprus with Barnabas and to Rome with first Paul and then Peter. So there is something in his story and example about faith, about family and about mission.

So I'd like to use these three themes – faith, family and mission – to say something about the past year.

Firstly faith. At the heart of all we're about as a church is our faith in Jesus Christ expressed in our worship of God and in acts of loving service. Our weekday services of Morning and Evening Prayer continue to be the beating heart of prayer in support of all we do day by day and I am grateful to the growing group of people who gather and share in these services.

Our Sunday 8 o' clock congregation are a loyal band who value the quiet and prayerful start to Sunday mornings, as do I. Our numbers, sadly, have slowly diminished and it would be good

to encourage others to come who might prefer this quieter (and shorter) service. It might also suit those who have other commitments later on a Sunday so they could still get to a service that day.

The 9.30 am Parish Eucharist is joyful and buoyant with all ages represented and playing a part in the worship of God, not only in the main service but in the various children's groups on offer as well. We have been encouraged in the second half of the year in welcoming some new families and younger people to our congregation, as well as some new faces who've joined us, having moved into the area.

Our worship is well supported by our serving team and it is true to say that a good server is one that you scarcely notice, until they're not there. The prayerful way they offer this ministry is greatly appreciated, as is that of our Eucharistic ministers, sidespeople and those who offer readings and intercessions.

It has been excellent to see some new recruits in the choir – both in the junior and adult sections – and we are grateful to them, to Jonathan and to all who play their part in offering a high standard of music at St Mary's. I'm grateful to Tim for the way he has supported the choir with occasional visits on Friday evenings to their weekly practices and in arranging some enjoyable social activities for the Junior Choir as well.

We continue to host a good number of baptisms at St Mary's and the majority of these are held at 11.15 am on a Sunday morning. This wouldn't be possible without our baptism team who welcome the visitors to these services and assist in the smooth running of the service. We have been very pleased to give each child baptized at St Mary's a hand knitted teddy from the Mothers' Union and a welcome pack inviting them to various groups and activities for children and families here as we seek to make greater connections in these areas of ministry. This is starting to bear some fruit and to show good signs of cross-connection with Teddy Tots and our Sunday morning groups, as are our excellent Spotlight groups which Penny continues to head-up and encourage with energy, enthusiasm and care.

Our Evening services offer a quiet counterpoint the busyness of the morning worship and highlights are always the Choral Evensongs on the first Sunday of the month and the other carol services and choral offerings we enjoy from our choir. Alongside this we continue to offer a breadth of styles to our evening services on others Sundays which have been well received and have only been possible through the creative skill and growing confidence of our four Lay Leaders of Worship. That said, we may need to recruit one or two new members – to lose one of the team in the past year might be considered careless but to have lost two (or 50% of the team), can only be viewed as nothing short of reckless. The two we have said goodbye to are, of course, Peter Hansford and Rod McPhee, who have moved away to Brighton and East Yorkshire respectively. They are greatly missed and I have encouraged both of them to seek out opportunities to serve in their new churches where possible and appropriate.

The pattern of services is a full one and only really possible in its current form thanks to the generous involvement and gifted ministry of members of our Wider Ministry Team. Once again I want to place on record our sincere thanks and appreciation to Bishop Robin and Lois, Christine, Kay and Tim. It would be very easy to overlook the fact that Tim began ordained ministry just over 18 months ago such is his competence and I am hugely grateful to be able to count him as a colleague. Many of us were very pleased to attend Tim's ordination to the

priesthood in early July and as he presided for the first time at the Eucharist then next day. It seems to me that he has taken to this priestly ministry with assured alacrity and a quiet prayerfulness, as he always seems to do in everything – a sure sign of true and Godly vocation we are all privileged to benefit from.

In September Rachel Snow, our ordinand, began her ministerial training at St Mellitus College in London, somehow juggling the demands of essays and study and placement with us, alongside full-time teaching and family life. Thank you to everyone for the way that you have welcomed and encouraged her so supportively. She isn't able to be here this evening because of a parents' evening at school but she would want me to say how much she values St Mary's as a place in which to grow and develop her ministry.

Our ecumenical relationships continue to be important to us and Fr Stephane Maikovsky and the Russian Orthodox congregation are truly grateful their monthly services at St Mary's, as are we for them. In September we welcomed Mmasape Zihle as the new minister with responsibility for Redbourn and anyone who has met her will know that she is energetic, engaging and inspiring. Twice during 2017 Fr Michael Mannion and I shared in conducting funerals which were special moments as we shared our ministry together in a tangible and visible way.

Lastly, we continue to commit time, energy and resources to the way in which we keep the seasons of Lent and Advent. These are important times liturgically but also spiritually as we seek to deepen our relationship with God.

So, taking St Mark's lead, all that I have been describing so far seeks to say something about our corporate life of faith. And now family.

As one writer rather powerfully put it:

“You can be committed to the Church but not committed to Christ, but you cannot be committed to Christ and not committed to the Church”. *Joel Osteen*

What I cover in the next few minutes I think confidently expresses a strong commitment to both, for which we give great thanks.

Our work with children continues to be a focus of energy and a cause for rejoicing. I'd like to thank the many people who work hard in giving their time for our young people in Teddy Tots, Mini Church, Junior Church, PALs and Gospellers. During the last year we have seen some changes and plenty that gives us cause for hope. The Teddy Tots group is thriving and I know the team involved are thinking hard about how this can be built upon for the future. Some of the mums attending Teddy Tots have also been meeting for 'Messy Conversations' – a chance for informal discussion on topics they want explore over coffee at Tim and Sophy's house. There has also been a gathering in the pub over supper and several Saturday morning family breakfasts as well.

Lots of our children went up into PALs last year leaving the Junior Church somewhat depleted and we're working hard to encourage the next batch of young people to grow through into the younger Sunday groups. In September, the Gospellers changed from meeting twice a month to meeting every week in term-time which, although a considerable commitment for the team of leaders, has proved to be a good move. The programme they enjoy has been a creative mix of

discussion, prayer, films, a litter pick to fundraise for a sailing trip to Fellowship Afloat, games, worship and lots more besides.

Our work with the schools in the local area is important to us and we enjoy close links through assemblies, class teaching and church visits. Tim has committed considerable time to building up our links with St Luke's, serving as a Governor and encouraging some of the pupils to become involved in Coffee on the Common and working in the churchyard. I continue to serve as Deputy Chair of Governors at a school in Bushey, which is a considerable demand on time, especially during their £8.5 million building project last year. Whilst talking of schools I should mention that last Friday saw the official amalgamation of the Infant and Nursery School and Redbourn Junior School into Redbourn Primary School. For those of us who've been involved with the schools for many years, it wasn't entirely clear why they were separate legal entities with two heads, two governing bodies, two school kitchens etc. all on a single site. I have met with the newly appointed headteacher and I am very confident that we can look forward to a very close and supportive relationship with the school in the years to come.

The Mothers' Union exists to support marriage and family life and I would like to pay tribute to the members of the committee who worked really hard in 2017 during Mary- Jane's illness and treatment to ensure that all continued to run smoothly and well. The branch is strong in number and heart, and is another important element of supporting family life and enriching our church family. One of the many impressive aspects of the MU is the superb care and support offered to its members – in times of illness, as well as birthdays, wedding anniversaries and other celebrations.

This pastoral care of others has also notably been developed and expanded in the founding of St Mary's Visitors – a pastoral visiting team of ten members. After a period of training and preparation, the team was commissioned in March and they have been involved in home and hospital visits and taking communion to those who can't attend church. In September we began a monthly communion service at Woollams in 'Sheila's Shack' as their communal summerhouse has become known. St Matthew's have also improved their facilities and our monthly communion is now conducted in a dedicated chapel. In 2017, we produced a new hymn book for use at our monthly communion services and the selection of hymns has offered good variety and enhanced our worship together.

Part of the privilege and responsibility of being the Parish Church for the people of Redbourn is the conducting of occasional offices at some key moments for families. In 2017 there were 24 baptisms, 5 people were Confirmed alongside other candidates from local churches in a moving service led by the Bishop of St Albans and 11 weddings took place at St Mary's during the year. It is always a joy to welcome families, guests and friends to share in these lovely occasions.

It has been another sad year for deaths and 28 funerals or memorial services were conducted during the year. We have entrusted into the care and keeping of God some cherished members of our church family and wider community, among them: Fay Brown, Gill Mastrangelo, Ginny Roberts, James Wheen, Roy Derviller, Cyril Lambert, Stan Willis, Alan Featherstone, Mary Spencer, Doris Walker, Stan Bacon, Fred Peacock, Betty Beech, Simon Smith and Marjorie Simpson. I am reminded once again that sadly it's often only when somebody dies and a Eulogy is being prepared or delivered that we realise what an amazing life this person had and we wished we'd known more about them when they were alive. For others, we know very well

what amazing people they were and a strong sense of loss is tempered only by the hope and victory that is ours, and theirs, in the Risen Christ.

So faith, family and finally now something briefly about mission. We are, and must always be, an outward looking church if we are to truly fulfil our calling.

This takes on a variety of forms and will be most clearly expressed in our new Mission Action Plan which is to be adopted and launched very soon. It has taken longer than we expected to undertake a process of listening and discernment for this plan but the time and care taken will stand us in good stead with a plan that is challenging, wide ranging and contains what we believe are the authentic and best responses to some of our future ministerial challenges and opportunities.

One of those will undoubtedly be the large number of new houses to be built in the local area in the coming years. Some will welcome this new housing, others find it inevitable and yet others will see it as deeply troubling and disturbing. Whatever your own view, I think we can reasonably expect that it will happen and it's going to be a case of 'when' rather than 'if'. I want us to ensure that we are at the very forefront of this in terms of how we minister in these new places, probably not with a new church building, but in a variety of ways of being church. I, for one, will be seeking out opportunities to argue for significant amounts of affordable housing as part of any development so that Redbourn continues to be a place where all people can make their home in the future and not just the most privileged and wealthy in what could become a very skewed and entitled community if we're not careful.

Our sense of mission and outward focus was strongly demonstrated in our CFC support for Open Doors UK last year. The CFC committee deserve our considerable thanks for the excellent and energetic way they have led us in raising money, but also engaging through prayer, a sponsored bible reading, guest speakers and, for Tim and I, visits to Egypt and Jordan to see their work first hand. On this, St Mark's day, we are rightly mindful of the plight of Coptic Christians in Egypt who face great danger on a daily basis for the same faith we share with them. It will be very good to welcome Andy Worthington from Open Doors UK this Sunday as we present him with a cheque for £10,500 from last year's efforts.

Closer to home, during the course of last year the ancillary buildings committee, led by Jim May, oversaw the redevelopment of the Old Church Hall into a two bed bungalow. This was a project riddled with unknowns and unforeseen hurdles which led to it costing rather more to do than originally anticipated but through the support of the Redbourn Development Trust, and some generous individuals, we now have turned a dilapidated and unusable building into an excellent resource and asset. This is currently being let out commercially to cover the remaining costs of the building work but it will give us an excellent facility for the future which could be used very creatively for mission and to assist with our overseas links.

I would also like to pay tribute to the ongoing ministry offered at Coffee on the Common. Whilst there may now be a place in the village promising enchanted refreshments, ours are surely more divine! The ministry of outreach and welcome day by day is really important and I want to thank Sue and all the team for that. It also gave me the illustration I needed for my sermon when I had the privilege to preach at Canterbury last spring. Coffee on the Common hosted an excellent Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday last year which was repeated a couple of months ago this year and is in serious danger of becoming an annual fixture. Other innovations

have included pod coffee, homemade soup on Wednesdays in winter, filled rolls in summer, and a weekly quiz to enjoy and scratch your head over.

So faith, family and mission – after the example of St Mark. This was never intended to be an exhaustive report of every single thing that has happened last year or to mention everybody who has made those things possible. Suffice it to say that we are truly grateful for all of these things and God’s many blessings upon us.

Aiden Tozer, the American pastor and writer of the early 20th century once powerfully reminded his hearers:

“One hundred religious people knitted into a unity by careful organisation does not constitute a church any more than eleven dead men make a football team. The first requisite is life, always”.

There is much in our shared life to give thanks to God for in the past year, signs of new life in some areas, vibrancy and vitality in our activities and in our worship and it continues to be a great privilege to share in all of this as your Vicar. Thank you.

8) Election of seven representatives to the Parochial Church Council

Seven places are available, five for three years, and one for two years and one for one year.

Nominee	Proposed by	Seconded by
David Walker	Clive Williams	Sue May
Alan Simkins	Ailsa Hulme	Penny McAdam
Keith McAdam	Ailsa Hulme	Kay Vernon
Clive Williams	Doris Cheetham	David Cheetham
Celia Forbes	Jim May	Sue May
David Forbes	Sue May	Jim May
Rachel Snow	Celia Forbes	Doris Cheetham

Proposed en bloc by: Brian Hayward Seconded by: Jim May Passed: Nem Con

9) Election of one member of the Deanery Synod (to fill a casual vacancy for a two year period)

Nominee: Jim May Proposed by: Rosemary Woodhouse Seconded by: Ailsa Hulme
Elected: Nem Con

10) Appointment of Sidespersons

The list had been circulated within the booklet prior to the meeting. Adoption of Sidespersons:
Proposed by: Sue May Seconded by: David Mitchell Passed: Nem Con

11) Appointment of Independent Examiner

Ruth Hughes was thanked for all the hours she spends in the 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.

12) Any Other Business

Brian Gunson looks after our involvement with the Charity Commissioners and he will continue in this role, particularly making sure that we confirm with all the current requirements.

13) Chairman's Closing Remarks

Keith reflected on the vast array of people who give their time and talents so willingly to continue the smooth running of S Mary's. It can be seen from the APCM booklet just how much goes on at the Church. The Mission Action Plan is nearing completion now, and leaders for the various initiatives will be needed. Keith thanked Will and his family for their leadership and support throughout the year.

Will thanked Keith for his kind remarks, and thanked Steve Smith and David Swift who have stood down as PCC members after very many years of loyal service.

The meeting closed with a prayer and the Grace at 9.32 pm.

LAY CO-CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR 2018

The PCC and its Standing Committee are the statutory bodies representing St Mary's Church, meeting alternately every month throughout the year. Chaired by the vicar and supported by the Secretary to the PCC, Celia Forbes, they provide an oversight and record of the many activities at St Mary's.

Our 2017-21 Mission Action Plan (MAP) provides a five-year vision for our faith community. It remains an active document, regularly being monitored and revised and allows people with different backgrounds, creeds and cultures to work together to make Redbourn an even better place to live and bring up our families. St Mary's will be grappling with how to respond to the challenge of the expansive developments in Hemel Hempstead, whose implications for our community 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, led by Chris Wright with strong support from David Swift and the churchyard team, who need reinforcements. The refurbished old church hall (now a comfortable two bedroom flat), provides a necessary rental income. We recognise the dedicated service of the Church Wardens, Paul Vernon and David Mitchell, backed up by Stephen Gell and Alan Simkins, the ancillary buildings committee led by Jim May, Stewardship Committee led by Mike Wood, and the Friends of St Mary's led by Steve Smith in their roles of maintaining our treasured resources. The Charitable Finance Committee led by Stephen Boffey, focused their fund-raising support on the work of Admiral Nurses and Dementia UK.

The Advent and Lent programmes are compelling and well attended; a tribute to the vision and energy of Will Gibbs and our curate Tim Vickers. Baptisms, Weddings 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 has welcomed 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 for his leadership and ministry in the Parish. Will continues to serve on the General Synod and is filling the unforgiving minute with a part time Masters from Manchester University in Applied Theology (Gospel and Contemporary Culture). His leadership includes strong community involvement and his personal batting average last summer of 150 runs as Captain of the Diocesan cricket team is unparalleled. Special thanks to our talented wider Ministerial team including our curate Tim Vickers (and Sophy, Gem and their new Laurie), 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 Ailsa Hulme has embarked on Reader training and Rachel Snow continues her ordination training. Our Lay Leaders of Worship, Sue May and David Forbes, augment a strong team. The Choir led by Jonathan Goodchild is in great voice and appears to be running out of space. We'll miss Rod and Louise McPhee and their music as they settle in Yorkshire, after their years of active involvement in Redbourn and St Marys.

Keith McAdam – Lay Co-Chair

THE CHARITABLE FINANCE COMMITTEE – CFC

Our 2018 appeal was launched on Shrove Tuesday, February 13th, at the Coffee on the Common Pancake Party, with an introduction given by a representative of Dementia UK. Funds for this cause had already been raised at Carols and Beer the previous December.

Our major fundraising event was the Golf Day, held at Stocks Golf Club, Aldbury on May 18th. We are most grateful to Will for all the time and effort he devoted to making this event such a success.

On the following Tuesday, we held an informal discussion evening in the Church Transept entitled 'Let's Talk about Dementia' when a panel of speakers responded to questions from the audience. The event included a short presentation by Keith McAdam on the subject of Music for My Mind.

On June 16th we welcomed back the Dagnall Community Choir who gave a concert on the theme of memories in aid of Music for My Mind.

Prompted by their own family's experience of dementia, Anne Ross and Iain Bryson did a sponsored walk on November 10th, which contributed £1,647.85 to our appeal.

Several other events have contributed to our fundraising, including the Pancake Party, a Cricketers Quiz Night and Redbourn Open Gardens at Cumberland Cottage.

In addition to our fundraising projects, our Chairman, Stephen Boffey, has organised a rota of volunteers, to visit residents suffering from dementia at St Matthews Care Home.

Our appeal concluded at the 9.30 Service on January 6th 2019 with the presentation of a cheque for £12,905 to Jan Burt from Dementia UK.

Stephen Gell – Secretary of the CFC

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2018

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	Paul Vernon and David Mitchell
Deputy Churchwardens	Stephen Gell and Alan Simkins
Licensed Reader	Kay Vernon
Deanery Synod	Julie Henman, Jim May, Jill Whitehouse and Mike Wood
Deanery Lay Co-Chairman	Jim May
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
Assistant Curate	5/6	0/3
Celia Forbes	6/6	3/3
David Forbes	6/6	
Stephen Gell	6/6	2/3
Ralph Goold	4/6	
Brian Hayward	6/6	
Julie Henman	0/6	
Julia Jeffs	4/6	
Rob Jones	4/6	2/3
Ailsa Hulme	6/6	2/3
Jim May	6/6	2/3
Keith McAdam	6/6	2/3
David Mitchell	5/6	2/3
John Searle	6/6	
Michelle Parry-Slater	5/6	
Alan Simkins	4/6	2/3
Rachel Snow	6/6	
Kay Vernon	5/6	
Paul Vernon	5/6	2/3
Jill Whitehouse	4/6	
Mike Wood	5/6	2/3
David Walker	4/6	
Clive Williams	5/6	

Offices held by members during the year 2018/9 :-

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

Chairpersons of Sub-Committees

Stewardship	Mike Wood
Ancillary Buildings	Jim May
Churchyard	Chris Wright (David Forbes liaising with PCC)
Charitable Finance	Stephen Boffey (Stephen Gell liaising with PCC)
Youth	Ailsa Hulme

Members' attendance at meetings has ranged from 67% to 90% and an average of 67% at Standing Committee meetings.

The Mission Action Plan for the next few years has been drawn up and is ambitious. Already some of the points have been 'actioned'. It will be interesting to see how the proposals being put in the Redbourn Village Plan and the St Albans and Hemel Hempstead plans, if approved, will impact on St Mary's.

Rachel Snow continues in her training for ordination, and Ailsa Hulme has started her Readership training. Mark Cresswell, who left St Mary's to live in Suffolk, was ordained at Bury St Edmunds in the autumn.

Kate Ford has proved to be an excellent manager of our website. She and Tim are in the process of re-designing the website. A lot more is available to browse, and newsletters are circulated from time to time by e-mail. Wendy Cruickshank continues in her secretarial role to Will and Tim, and shares her office with our printers and any others needing to use the photocopier. We appreciate the commitment they all give. Minutes of all the PCC and Standing Committee meetings are published on the website, and continue to be displayed on the notice board in the South Porch as well.

Rosemary and Geoff Woodhouse retired on the 31st December from their roles as Transept Wardens. They have carried out their duties impeccably for very many years and we are most grateful to them.

Finally, I must thank everyone on the PCC and the wider congregation for all they do to ensure that St Mary's continues to flourish as it does.

Celia Forbes – Secretary to the PCC

ELECTORAL ROLL REPORT – APRIL 2019

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

- ❖ In April 2018, there were 281 persons on the Electoral Roll.
- ❖ Thus there are 201 persons on the new Electoral Roll.

Of these 201 people, 29 live outside the parish. Last year, 47 lived outside the parish.

Jim May – Electoral Roll Officer

CHURCHWARDENS REPORT FOR 2018

Data Protection

As most people are now aware, the EU's GDPR regulation introduced substantial statutory changes as to what can be done with a person's personal data and how it can properly be shared and the church was required to ensure compliance. These changes came into effect in May 2018 and thanks to a small team and a great deal of work done by Jim May we were properly compliant by the due date.

Safeguarding

The Anglican Church and the Diocese of St. Albans have been very proactive in ensuring that people who have contact with children and vulnerable adults have been properly trained. A course was held in March 2018 at St. Mary's which was attended by 40 people, 35 of whom were from St. Mary's. It was very favourably received and found to be helpful. Anyone joining the church and working with children or vulnerable adults has to be checked with the police for any convictions.

We are very grateful to Janet Lang for stepping into the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer (email: PSO@stmarysredbourn.org) following the sudden death of Liz Wood in May 2018. Before retirement Jan was a social worker and by virtue of her experience is ideally suited to the task.

The Church Fabric

After the Quinquennial Inspection in 2017 the work was put in hand in April and May 2018. The work was mainly to the stonework. The total cost, £20,135 paid for by the Friends of St. Mary's, included an extra of some £1800 for additional work to the guttering on the chancel roof which was approved by the P.C.C.

The roof alarms underwent their regular annual check and service in October. Smartwater had been applied to the roof some years ago and it was felt it was time to do it again to ensure the lead on the roof was secure. That task was carried out in November to enable any lead removed from the roof to be identified as coming from the roof of St. Mary's.

Regular maintenance and checks were carried out as usual, and where required steps taken to fix - the roof, gutters, gulleys, two boilers, clock, fire extinguishers.

At our annual inspection by Richard Banham, Rural Dean acting as the Archdeacon's Representative, which took place in September we were asked about matters relating to the church and grounds as well as our practices regarding safeguarding. He was satisfied with what had been done.

The gate leading to Church End from the churchyard was repaired, so that it could be left open on Sundays to enable people to exit that way, as used to be the case.

Finally, there are so many people who contribute actively to the life of our church, and making sure it runs smoothly. Many of these activities are carried out behind the scenes. This year we'd like to particularly thank all those who work tirelessly with our young people, in the various groups that meet during the 9:30 service, and at Gospellers on Sunday afternoon.

David Mitchell

Paul Vernon

WHEATHAMPSTEAD DEANERY SYNOD 2018

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 had the responsibility of electing representatives to the new Diocesan Synod during the summer of 2018 (and guess who had his arm twisted!).

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 *Going Deeper into God*. The Revd Dr. Tim Bull, Diocesan Director of Ministry, spoke about the different ways the Good News had been 'repackaged' over time – from the Decade of Evangelism to Mission-Shaped Church to Fresh Expressions. He described some ways in which the subject of God might come up:- a Good Neighbour scheme for the housebound or lonely; starting a conversation about God through Alpha, Emmaus or Pilgrim courses; being able to respond to a direct question about your faith. Synod members then broke up into small groups to discuss some of the Bible passages he gave us, and everyone agreed it had been a stimulating and thought-provoking exercise.

The Deanery Ascension Day service was held at St John's, Harpenden.

In July we heard about *Exploring the Elements of Good Worship*. We welcomed the Revd Andrew Holford, the Chair of the Diocesan Worship and Liturgical Committee, and the Revd Brenda Tipping, a member of that committee. He asked us a number of questions, which we discussed in small groups.

- What are the important elements that lead to 'good' worship? *Our feedback was that they were focussed around a deep appreciation of ordered liturgical worship done well.*
- What are the important elements that lead to 'good' worship from perspective of someone coming for the first time or attending rarely? *Our feedback was 'relationship' – between the new worshipper and the worship leader and the rest of the congregation and between the new worshipper and God.*

The Deanery Choral Evensong was held in October at St John the Baptist, Markyate Street.

In November our speaker was Bishop John Gladwin, whose talk was in the context of the **Improving Worship** strand of the Deanery Mission Action Plan. Bishop John said that our worship could be improved by looking at and understanding the past. What we believe influences how we worship, which in turn determines the physical ordering of Church buildings. He reviewed the changes that had taken place in worship from the medieval age to the current movement to streamline and tidy up churches, of a revival in preaching, with a marked change in style towards providing food for thought and a connection to current issues. All these developments should be regarded as an opportunity rather than a problem and our ancient buildings seen as versatile assets rather than a burden or hindrance.

Jim May – Deanery Lay Chairman

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

I would like to thank the committee for their work during the year. Having looked to the congregation for additional finance over the past few years the committee decided we should leave any further appeal until 2019.

Our costs continue to increase, and the Parish Share had risen again, but we did not want to push too hard. A note was sent out to all those on the planned giving scheme to consider their level of giving, with limited response.

A number of ideas and events were discussed and planned to take place during the year, but these took a back seat to personal events. The background work has set us ready for 2019.

The Patronal Festival in September was a success and we were treated to some superb musical entertainment from Paul and Kay Vernon during the afternoon. We had a “bring and share” lunch, which was excellently supported by all attending.



A label was added to the back of the Blue Envelopes to include a question regarding being contacted about pledged giving or becoming a volunteer. We had three people respond to this option.

Although not directly associated with Stewardship, Jim May updated the History Book, which is an excellent guide to how our Church has changed over the years.

Jim also created a leaflet to explain the Give as you Live shopping website. This provides a donation to the Church at no cost to those using it. We have 16 people registered and encourage anyone reading this to also join. Please speak to Jim for details.

We were pleased to welcome some new members to the committee during the year, but always looking for other people to get involved.

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

Michael Wood – Chairman

ANCILLARY BUILDINGS SUB-COMMITTEE

The Old Church Hall has been rented out all year, so it was a quiet year for the committee, to the extent that we did not need to meet. The final inspection of the Hall by the architect took place in October and some minor defects were rectified. The tenant moved out at the beginning of January 2019, so our agents are seeking a new tenant. Minor repairs were also carried out in the Vicarage Cottage. Our challenge going forward will be the re-roofing of the Transept.

Jim May – Chairman

ST MARY'S VISITORS

St Mary's Visitors, who were formed in 2017, continue to develop a service of keeping contact with and visiting Redbourn residents who live alone, are recovering from surgery, under stress or who would benefit from interaction with others. Visit frequency is flexible according to the subject's needs and wishes.

Team

The current team consists of: Will, Tim, Sue and Ian Ashton, Doris Cheetham, Mollie Williams, Jill Whitehouse, Albert Joly, Julie Henman, Julie Beaman and Richard and Immaculee Hedden (until their forthcoming departure). We meet every two months to confidentially review progress. Anyone interested in joining the team should contact Ian.

Visiting List

A total of 30 people have been on our books during the year, of whom five have died. We have taken home communion where requested. We continue to appeal, e.g. through Redbourn Common Round, to the Redbourn community to advise us of any new candidates for our service.

Training

Members have attended courses on Safeguarding, GDPR and the effect of prayer on healing, and will continue to keep up to date with relevant lectures and legislation affecting our work.

Ian Ashton – Coordinator

BEREAVEMENT VISITING TEAM

The Bereavement Visiting Team is a new initiative which began in the summer of 2018. Its purpose is to be available to talk with anyone who has been bereaved – whether recently or in the past – who is having difficulty moving through their grieving process. We offer bereaved people a chance to chat about anything that is bothering them, or just to help them fix good memories of their loved one.

There are four of us in the initial team – Wendy Cruickshank, Catharine Pusey, Catherine Robertson and Mollie Williams, together with Will and Tim. Before setting up the team advice was taken from the bereavement team leader at St Albans Abbey, which has had an active team for some years already. Then we met three times for training sessions with Will and Tim. The training guided us in understanding the patterns of grief and grieving after the loss of a loved one, and explored some of the biblical texts on the subject of death.

Recently information about the team's services has been featured in Common Round. The next of kin from funerals that have taken place over the past two years have been made aware of the opportunity to be supported and members of the team are now responding to requests that have been received.

In future we will be contacting families a few weeks after a funeral to offer our services at that time or later.

Catharine Pusey – Bereavement Team Coordinator

LAY LEADERS OF WORSHIP

And then there were 2!

We were very sorry to see the departure of Rod McPhee this year to pastures new and North. Sue May and David Forbes are now the only two remaining LLWS licensed to assist Will in whatever way they can in leading services in St Mary's.

We have assisted in leading evening Services throughout the year, and occasionally giving a talk at 9.30 am. We both welcome the opportunity to lead these Services and hope that we can bring different perspectives and experiences to refresh the congregations who attend.

A conscious effort is being made by Will to bring greater variety to the 6.30 pm Sunday Evening Services, particularly when they are shared with our fellow Christians in Redbourn. This initiative seems to be borne out by the increased attendance at these services.

David Forbes – on behalf of the LLWs

CHURCHYARD SUB-COMMITTEE

The Churchyard is looking particularly fine at the moment. This is as a result of hard work particularly by the Community Service workers and by Ken Scott in pollarding the limes and felling and clearing the infected trees. The cost of this work, amounting to nearly £5480 in total has kindly been borne by the Friends.

The new mowing rota has now been issued, and the teams have been cut down to just 2 people each Saturday, due partly to the loss of a few stalwarts from the list through retirement. Michael Darvell, Alan Simkins, Ken Smith and Albert Joly. We are very grateful to them for their hard work throughout the years. Three other people have, for various reasons, been taken off the list.

Thanks also go to the 'men in sheds' at St Luke's who have repaired machinery, or declared items beyond repair throughout the year.

As a result of the continued work by the Community Service workers and the fact that very few people have turned out for Operation Churchyard, it has been decided to do away with this particular part of the Churchyard rota for the time being and concentrate on the weekly mowing.

Thanks once again to Chris Wright and David Swift for all their work, and the usual plea is put out for more volunteers, particularly as we have effectively lost 7 people this year, especially amongst the younger people!!

David Forbes – PCC Liaison

ST MARY'S TEXTILE GROUP

The Textile Group has met on the second and fourth Tuesday afternoons throughout the year. We have a very consistent group of members and have been pleased to gain an extra pair of hands this year. Further recruits will always be welcome. We enjoy a very sociable afternoon.

We continue to work on our ambitious project of green frontals for our three altars. We hope that the frontal for the main altar will be put into service later in 2019.

Barbara Corbett – Group Coordinator

THE MOTHERS' UNION

At the AGM in February 2018 Rosemary Woodhouse was elected as Branch Contact and at the AGM in 2019 Clorinda Goodman was elected as Treasurer.

During 2018 our list of speakers included Revd Kate Peacock giving a Lenten talk and Dame Helen Hyde giving a powerful talk on her charity work. David Walker brought us close to Chamnye with a delightful video made whilst he and his family visited. Barry Welch spoke about Redbourn Care Group and Janet Godley gave us an insight to her early life and amazing knowledge of roses. David Brown sadly had to cancel his proposed talk but at the 11th hour Brenda Cottle stood in and gave a marvellous talk on her trip to The Holy Land.

We took part in several Deanery events: Lady Day Service at The Parish of Harpenden
Deanery Lunch at St Johns
and St Mary`s hosted the Deanery Advent Service.

Two members attended the Sharing Day at Kempston and three members joined the Diocesan AGM at Potters Bar. Both were interesting and informative.

We held a Wave of Prayer followed by Strawberry tea in June and also had a wonderful trip on the Grand Union Canal – enjoying a delicious tea on a lovely summer afternoon.

Our Annual Supper was well supported and Kay and Paul Vernon kindly provided some musical entertainment. The summer lunch in July was a really magical event, well supported and enjoyed by those who came along.

We were all deeply saddened by the news that Mary-Jane Boffey died in July. We also lost Betty Henry having been a loyal MU member for nearly 30 years and Elizabeth Brown from St John`s who had served as Diocesan President during her years of service.

Norah Price has moved away from the area to be near to her family and Jean Nutting has moved into Care in St Albans.

Our Fundraising for Mothering Sunday and our involvement with Chamnye raised £300 and in October our cake stall raised £122. We thank everyone who supported these events in any way – baking, buying or making a donation.

We started our 2019 programme in January with an Ephiphany Ecumenical Carol Service when we are happy to be joined by members from other churches in the village alongside Deanery MU members.

Thanks to Revd Will and Revd Tim for taking our Services during the year and to Gill Chapman for playing the organ. Also to Stephen Boffey for his help with printing the 2019 Programme.

Finally to Rosemary and Geoff Woodhouse for their many years of preparing the Transept for our monthly meetings and various functions.

Our Mothers Union Theme for 2019 is Listen, Observe, Act... in step with God.

Eileen Fernley – Branch Secretary

BELLRINGING AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

It has been a really good year for the ringers at St Mary's.

People:

We have welcomed 3 new people to our band this year who are all progressing well with their learning and will soon be joining service ringing.

Two of our members, Pauline Ridgwell and Mary Hughes have completed a teaching course and can now help to train new recruits.

Three members of our band regularly support other towers at Flamstead and Great Gaddesden

The Ringing Year:

Redbourn has performed very well this year at Striking Competitions – being awarded the cup at both District and County levels.

Once again we arranged for the Charmborough Ring (a small outside belltower) to be part of the Classics on the Common show in September. We were slightly more organized this year and charged people to have a 'lesson' – probably teaching well over 100 people and making a small profit which we donated to our District Bell Fund.

Redbourn supported the special ringing for remembrance Sunday and also rang a quarter peal in celebration of the life of the Redbourn ringer, Charles Herbert Lee who fell during WW1.

In December we were really pleased to be part of the Living Advent Calendar when 60+ people were outside the tower with 6 volunteers holding the numbers 1 to 6 and moving with the changing bells.

Thank you so much to the Vicar, Curate and congregation of St Mary's who always support our ringing and for the many lovely comments we get when we ring for special occasions.

Liz Middleton – Ringing Master

COFFEE ON THE COMMON

In September 2019, 'Coffee on the Common' will have been in existence for 10 years!

We are open in the cricket pavilion on the common from 9am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday, serving good quality coffees, tea, cake and biscuits, in a friendly and welcoming environment. Our aim is to be a place where people of any age can come and be welcomed, and find someone to chat to.

Currently we have 44 volunteers that make this possible. They come from Redbourn and beyond, and several of them have been involved from the very beginning. There are many positives experienced by the volunteers, as well as the positive experience that they give to customers.

Over the years, we have seen 'Coffee on the Common' develop into a valued lifeline for people who are on their own, and into a safe and relaxing place for mums & dads, grandparents and carers to bring their children.

We are able to do this because of the generosity of the Cricket Club, who allow us to share their premises, which offer us a good and central location. We pay rent which covers our costs, and all profits come back to St Mary's.

This year we put on our 2nd Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party, offering homemade pancakes to all comers, raising money for St Mary's CFC. We also provide a venue for Redbourn Pre-school parents twice a year, to do some fundraising on their own behalf, and very much welcome opportunities to be a community resource in this way.

In September last year we launched our Wednesday Lunch – homemade soup and bread in the winter and a filled roll in the warmer months. Take-up has been variable, but valued by a core group of people.

We like to show our appreciation to our customers, and for a number of years we offered a family entertainment free of charge on our final session before Christmas. This year, however, we wanted to say a big 'thank you' to those who have supported us who are not young parents. We invited them along to an afternoon tea just before Christmas. 24 invited guests enjoyed a jolly time.

We would love new people to discover us, and new volunteers are always needed if we are to maintain a 5-day-a-week presence with a team of 2 each day. Spread the word! ☺

Sue May – Coordinator

SPOTLIGHT SMALL GROUPS

Spotlight continues to offer 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. The Tuesday morning group meets at New Forge Place and includes a mixture of people from the wider community. Other groups meet on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Each group of between 6 and 13 people has its own identity and decides for itself what it will focus on. Thank you to Grace Sawyer who has faithfully facilitated the New Forge Place group, and to Kay & Paul Vernon who help facilitate an evening group. The other evening group, (Penny & Keith McAdam), has 13 signed up including several younger parents who attend when they can in their busy schedules, bringing vibrant contributions to our conversations.

We continue to think about ways of developing new types of groups, possibly building on existing interests and activities. 'Messy Conversations' facilitated by Tim & Sophy Vickers continues to meet in their home on a Saturday with several Teddy Tots parents and children.

In November Spotlight groups participated in leading our annual Spotlight service, 'Stir it Up'. We appreciated Sue May's involvement in helping to creative this participatory worship.

In July we welcomed Justyn Rees Larcombe to give the Annual Starlight Cafe-Style talk in Redbourn Village Hall. He shared his challenging story: a successful career, the sword of honour at Sandhurst, taking a free £10 bet, to losing everything, to regaining a life in which he is high profile in the media, raising awareness, and helping others coping with a gambling addiction. Approximately 80 people were captivated by his story, shared a meal together, asked questions and bought his books.

Penny McAdam – Spotlight Group Coordinator

YOUTH WORK at ST MARY'S

Sunday Activities

At St Mary's children from 0-17 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. We have this year encouraged some of our Young adults to join and enjoy being part of the Servers Team as well as Reading and Intercessions. This is one of our actions of our Mission Action Plan and we are pleased to see this has been successful and is growing.

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. Parents have the choice of staying with their child or leaving them with two of our experienced volunteer leaders. As Teddy Tots and our Parent and baby group grow, we are seeing evidence of more parents bringing their children to this group as well.

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 volunteer leaders. We have an established team of volunteers but we always need more. Average number is 7.

PALS take children from Year five and average 10. This group again follows the lectionary and use various tools to understand the bible passages and key themes. The leaders have changed this year and not only do we thank Ursula and Julie we now thank, Reona Joly, Jess Wood and Sue Field for stepping in and helping us. The leaders all bring different ideas and attributes which allows interesting discussions with the children.

Gospellers – *see separate report (below)*

We are truly privileged to have so many volunteers who prepare, help and support these groups promoting strong Christian values, new ideas, exciting activities 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 this Summer with the theme of Guardians of Ancora, Treasure Seekers. The subject matter was both stimulating and fun and one of the main challenges we had was keeping the children cool in what was one of the hottest weeks of the year. The abiding memory we will have is of the amazing collage that was produced by the craft team of Sue May and Virginia Corbett which spanned the whole of the fence between the Church and the Vicarage. This depicted every child who attended the Holiday Club and the children absolutely loved cutting out and dressing themselves in their favourite garb whether it was a dress or their favourite football team strip. This mural stayed up all Summer and was admired by so many villagers, was on various Social Media platforms and even made the

Church of England Twitter feed. Again the Young Leaders were an excellent addition to the organising Team. They came up with ideas and as the week progressed, showed an understanding and rapport with their charges and we are very blessed to have them. A BBQ was once again held and enjoyed by all so much so no one wanted to leave! Thanks are due again to all those who gave up so much time and talent to help make the Club so successful giving the children so much to think about. Thanks are due to Kate and Andy Ford who stepped up to help with the music when Kay & Paul could not be there. This year we pray that we will have volunteers who will come forward and give of their skills and talents once again.

Fellowship Afloat

In September we took 30 Children to Essex and had a damp but exciting weekend sailing boats, doing high ropes, evening walks and other exciting activities. The staff on the boat give children wonderful food but also food for their souls where staff live and show what they believe in a very natural way and our children respond to this. It is always a busy weekend and children were much quieter on the return journey!

Christmas Holiday Club

Children attended a lovely Saturday holiday club led by Kay Vernon and Sue May. Crafts were produced that were shown in Church the next day when the group retold the Nativity in singing and drama. Kay excelled herself with a Doctor sketch with a shepherd played by Ailsa whose northern accent came in useful! Again thanks are due to the volunteers and Young Leaders.

We also run Confirmation Classes where young people prepare for Confirmation and gives them time to think and ask questions about their faith and this year a First Communion Group was offered again and was very successful.

The young people singing in the Choir still increases and they have sung some memorable pieces during services.

To those who give up their time and talents to nurture our children in Christian Values I thank them and also to those people who hold our groups and the children in them in their prayers you are very much valued.

Ailsa Hulme – Children's and Youth Work Coordinator

TEDDY TOTS

Friday mornings are full of fun, cake, laughter, cake, chatter, more cake, and sometimes tears, as deep needs are shared. Teddy Tots at St Mary's runs from 10.30 - 12 every Friday morning throughout the year, even during school holidays (when everything else is closed) which is very much appreciated!

We continue to have 25 children on average each week with their parents, grandparents or carers. Adults and children find a warm and friendly welcome from the Teddy Tots team: Penny McAdam, Kay Vernon, Ailsa Hulme, Tim & Sophy Vickers, Mollie Williams, Albert Joly, and Kate Ford, who also oversees our social media presence, and sends out regular newsletters. A special thank you to Margaret Jewell, a regular nanna, who helped out while Penny was away in South Africa!

Our half hour interactive story and song time (with musical instruments and Jo the puppet) is enjoyed by all. Every session ends with the Teddy Tots prayer helped along by Prayer Bear. Since September we have been using a new resource called Diddy Disciples which takes the children through the changing seasons of the church year, as we teach about Jesus and God's love for them. We recently had a particularly fun session of baptism role play as the children 'baptised' their dollies. Sometimes we have our last half hour in the chancel area of the church. A moving session was held here in November as we thought about war and created a display of poppies we had made.

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. Our regular Family Breakfasts on a Saturday morning are an opportunity to meet the other members of the family and get to know them. The breakfasts have become very popular.

Through our conversations and growing relationships we endeavour to support parents, and also help and encourage them in their faith journeys. A group of mums continue to meet from time to time at Tim and Sophy's on a Saturday morning for 'Messy Conversations'. Four Teddy Tots families are currently preparing for their children to be baptised after Easter, and there has also been interest in confirmation.

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. We are always looking for people to join us who have God's heart for this area of ministry.

Kay Vernon – on behalf of the Teddy Tots team

GOSPELLERS

Gospellers meet on Sunday afternoons during term time, from 4-5.30pm. Numbers appear to have been holding steady over this period, but as ever, Gospellers is in competition with a multitude of other activities which young people take part in these days. We work hard to put on an exciting Christian-focussed programme.

Over the last year we have engaged with 15 young people aged 12-15. We been involved in worship, watched movies, had BBQ's, session relating modern life to the Bible, learnt about fair trade and visited a Mosque. Cake and food are always popular, including our Christmas Dinner and Gospellers Bake off which the Gospellers helped to cook, eat and clean up too. Some come nearly every week, others less often. It is great to see some members becoming more involved in other aspects of Church life, from reading, serving, and helping out as Junior Leaders.

Thanks to those leaders who have helped: Revd Will, Clive Williams, Natasha Patel, David Forbes, Rachel Snow, Andy Ford.

Tim Vickers – Gospellers Leader

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.

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 occasional and one-off booking fees from £10.00 per hour to £12.00 per hour and the Hall is advertised in the Common Round each month.

Rosemary Woodhouse resigned from her role as Transept Warden at the end of December and we record our sincere thanks to her and Geoff for all that they have done over many years.

The cleaning and administrative elements of the role have been separated out and the bookings for the Transept are now being handled by Wendy Cruickshank. She can be contacted by email: hall@stmarysredbourn.org or on 07938 723 222. Thank you.

ST MARY'S CHURCH CHOIR

2018 was tinged with considerable sadness for the choir because of the illness and death of Mary-Jane Boffey. Mary-Jane had been a pillar of the choir since she and Stephen were married, and is sorely missed. The choir was privileged to sing at her funeral alongside members of the St Albans Bach Choir.

On a happier note, we were very pleased to welcome David Fowler to the adult choir, and Connie Russell and Caitlin Smith to the junior choir. The numbers on the choir roll are now 31.

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. The junior choir sings on their own for the morning service on the first Sunday of the month, and this is proving very successful.

The choir hosted one of the Redbourn Living Advent Calendar events.

Damian Cranmer has continued his excellent blog on the music being sung at Choral Evensong. The current and previous blogs are available on the church website.

The choir continues to sing new and challenging music. A highlight of the year was singing the *Evening Prayer* by Ola Gjeilo, and it was lovely to welcome back Dominic Pusey, former choirboy at St Mary's and now a professional saxophonist, to accompany the choir. For the All Souls Eucharist the choir sang arrangements by Kathy Goodchild of movements from Vaughan Williams' *Pilgrims Progress* and *The Shepherds of the Delectable Mountains*. The choir was accompanied by the organ and also a viola, played by Kate Ford.

Other home-made music included an introit 'Lead us O God' performed at Harvest and composed by Kathy Goodchild in memory of Mary-Jane Boffey. We also sang Kathy's carol 'As Joseph was a-walking' at the Advent Carol Service. Jonathan too has arranged music for the choir, this time the mediaeval carol Nova for the Nine Lessons and Carols Service.

The choir broke its normal summer break to sing a service of choral Matins in August. This was very well attended, and was followed by refreshments. This may not continue to be an annual event, as finding enough singers in the holiday period is a challenge.

At Pentecost, the choir travelled to Letchworth to sing Evensong jointly with the choir of St George's Norton, the church where the Revd Tim Vickers sang as a choirboy. A 'return match' is planned for March 2019. Despite repeated requests, no anecdotes have been forthcoming about Tim, so he must have been a particularly model, and no doubt cherubic, choirboy.

Jonathan Goodchild – Organist and Director of Music

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 2018. Previously we have run a Dinner Dance and Barn Dance, unfortunately it has become increasingly difficult to recruit new members to our committee to enable these events to take place. This year we concentrated on the car show as our main fund raiser.

September The Friends ran the bar at St Mary's Patronal Festival and made a profit of £100.

This was the second year of Redbourn classics motor show in conjunction with the Redbourn Care Group. This was a community event and although classic vehicles were the focus, all charities in Redbourn were invited to have a stall for free. Pitches were also sold to commercial traders. The feedback from the event was very positive and the plan is to do it again in 2018. The total amount raised for the Friends of St Mary's was £5290 The Friends also ran a bottle stall at the event which raised £322.

October A Harvest supper was held in the village hall with a quiz provided by Julia Jeffs. This proved to be a popular event and made a profit of £137.

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 made a profit of £757

Projects:

We have spent money this year on structural repairs to the church building.

Future Projects:

We are conscious of the need to ensure we have funds to meet the up-coming quinquennial which we have agreed to support. We are anticipating in having to make a pay for grounds maintenance in the church yard in 2019.

To increase funds we will be holding a dog show in June in the Churchyard

We will be joint organising Redbourn Classics Motor show again in September 2019.

Personnel:

We have a vacancy for a Chairperson and additional members of the committee would be very welcome.

Summary:

The Trustees consider this a reasonably successful year, although with less 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 for the village to enjoy.

Wendy Bloisi – Acting Co-Chair

THE CHURCHES TOGETHER IN REDBOURN 2018

Chair: Revd Will Gibbs.

The Committee for the Churches Together in Redbourn met in January and September 2018. 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. Mmasape Zihle, Fr. Michael Mannion, Doreen Cosier, Christine Clow (Treasurer), Samantha Statham, Maggy Swift, Sue May, Grace Sawyer (Secretary).

Lent 2018

In Lent 2018 weekly meetings were held in the lounge of New Forge Place, following a series based on the book 'Christ in the Wilderness' by Stephen Cottrell, reflecting on paintings by Stanley Spencer.

On the five Thursday evenings there were meetings at St Mary's Church.

On the first four evenings we watched and discussed episodes of the film "The Passion".

On the last session on March 22 we held a Tenebrae service.

Lent Charity Lunches in 2018 were at Redbourn Methodist Church each Friday.

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 2018 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.

United Services	January	Service for the Week of Christian Unity
	March	Women's World Day of Prayer
	May	Services for Christian Aid Week 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 Cards and Christmas Leaflets These gave details of services in participating churches and were distributed to all homes in the village. Details of the Open Door activities were included, as were CTR Street Prayer Cards. There was good response to all of these.

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

The Day Centre continues to provide a pleasant entertaining day out as it has for thirty two years.

2018 started with 18 clients but Margaret Corley and Tom Archer left in January to relocate to care homes. Their places were taken by Derek White and Bill Foster. Later in the year Marjorie Lawes, just before she was about to celebrate her 100th birthday had an extended stay in hospital before moving into full time care. Norah Price moved to Bristol to be nearer her family so we ended the year with 16 clients.

The smooth running of the Centre relies on our rota of six teams of volunteer helpers – a total of 45 who willingly give of their time to make each Wednesday a happy occasion. Unfortunately we had to call the paramedics in April to attend to one of our volunteers who had become ill. She has recovered but is no longer able to be a helper.

Because we have found it works well, the format of our day remains the same starting with the welcome tea and biscuit on arrival. This is followed by ‘sitting down’ exercises led by Nigel Rushton and his colleague Leigh and on alternate weeks by the team on duty.

A very good two course meal is provided by St Luke’s School and delivered by the Care Bus.

Afternoon sessions are varied. Games, jigsaws and art group are interspersed with activities including flower arranging, ‘cooking’, bingo, a film and this year Melanie from Sandy Art gave a successful and enjoyable workshop creating pictures out of coloured sand.

Interest afternoons which encourage the clients to participate with their memories and opinions, included Chinese New Year, Royal weddings, Australia Day and Independence Day when the team provided a meal of burgers and fries and pumpkin pie.

Visiting entertainers are always a treat. Doris Cheetham’s talented grand-daughter, Beth, gave a well-planned musical recital in February. The Ukelele Group was fun as was Martin Howe’s group The Holly Berries. The popular Infants School choir came in early December and one afternoon we walked everyone to The Holly Bush to listen to the Jazz Band.

Outings this year were a trip on the canal with Waterways Experiences, a visit to St Albans Arena to the matinee of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, shopping in Hemel Hempstead with lunch at Debenhams and the annual Xmas lunch at Aubrey Park Hotel. This is the only time of the year when clients and all the volunteers gather together -nearly seventy in all. The meal is always very good and Paul Vernon provides the musical accompaniment.

These days are the highlights of the year but are becoming a bit more difficult as more clients need wheelchairs and the volunteers are not getting any younger.

On Ash Wednesday, our anniversary in June and Advent we are invited into the church to celebrate communion, thanks to Revd Will Gibbs.

In October the Practice Nurse visited to administer flu jabs to those who had requested one.

It is thanks to donations from The Care Group, Firework Display Working Party, Redbourn Singers to name a few, that we are able to make our sessions so varied.

On behalf of the clients I should like to say a huge thankyou to all those who help to make Wednesdays a much appreciated day out.

Margie Johnstone – Day Centre Coordinator

SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE REPORT 2018

In 2018 the St Mary's website received an average of **610** unique visitors per month. Progress continues on a significant re-design of the layout and content of the site, and we hope to have this completed during 2019. The motivation for making these changes is primarily to make it more user-friendly and accessible for non-churchgoers, and also to open up the possibilities of what the website can do.

Our family of **Facebook** 'followers' grew from **399** to **481** during the year, and posts continued to reach far beyond just these followers, the most popular being seen by **1,615** people in a single day. Overall, we received excellent and consistent engagement with our posts, from a wide range of people far beyond just those in the congregation. We experimented with small paid 'boosts' to some posts for the first time, for example an invitation to the Baby Loss Service in April where a boost of just **£2.00** showed the post to an extra **622** people in the local area of an appropriate age and demographic. Our Twitter account has **348** followers and all new website posts are automatically tweeted.

E-Newsletters have continued to be well-received, though have regrettably been less frequent due to my time constraints. We are setting up the new-look website to automatically broadcast a fortnightly e-newsletter (without requiring any extra input from anyone) which will make this important communication tool much more reliable and frequent.

Kate Ford – Church Website Editor and Administrator

REDBOURN COMMON ROUND

2018 was another successful year for the production and circulation of the magazine. The number of copies printed each month was 1100, 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. David Walker organized the distribution.

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 2018:

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

Grace Sawyer – Common Round Coordinator

REDBOURN COMMON ROUND

FINANCIAL REPORT 2018

REDBOURN COMMON ROUND INCOME / EXPENDITURE STATEMENT 2018

		2018	2017
Funds Brought Forward	[A]	4,980.45	14,826.82
CREDITS			
Magazine Sales	Distributor	5,879.10	5,883.80
	Postal	96.00	101.00
Post Subscribers Post/pack contribution		210.00	235.00
Magazine Sales Post Office		-	30.35
Advertisement Sales		4,214.90	5,257.99
External Services Provided		1,459.31	1,019.26
TOTAL INCOME	[B]	11,859.31	12,527.40
DEBITS			
Printing		4,639.73	4,023.82
Stationery		1,642.29	1,299.82
Sundry Production Expenses		360.00	-
Distribution Expenses		244.72	280.78
Machine Rental		1,768.98	1,769.35
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	[C]	8,655.72	7,373.77
NETT MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		3,203.59	5,153.63
Interest	[D]	-	-
TOTAL FUNDS	[E]= (A + B - C + D)	8,184.04	19,980.45
Transfer to PCC	[F]	-	(15,000.00)
FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	[G] = (E + F)	8,184.04	4,980.45
FUNDS SUMMARY			
Current Account		9,821.63	6,340.90
Debtors		326.18	277.13
Creditors		(1,963.77)	(1,637.58)
		8,184.04	4,980.45