

Parish of St Mary's, Olveston with St John's, Aust

Reports for Annual Parochial Church Meeting 30th April 2017



Vicar's Annual Report

Olveston AGM Reports 2016/2017

It is my pleasure to introduce the Annual Report and Accounts of Olveston with Aust PCC. The primary objective of all PCCs is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Previously we have defined this by adopting the Diocesan Vision Statement of 'Creating a community of wholeness, with Christ at the centre'. During the course of this year we have decided to implement this with the Diocesan Mission Statement of Creating Connections with God, each other and our community.

I am truly grateful to all those who have worked so hard with God's Holy Spirit for this mission: often in the midst of busy lives. You are too many to thank individually, so I ask you to accept this expression of gratitude in lieu. I am always encouraged when I read the annual booklet to see how many hours are invested in St Mary's and also what God is doing through us. In particular I am grateful to the many people who have stepped up to taking on new responsibilities after the sad death of Roly Bain which has been coupled with the uncertainties surrounding of who will be your Parish Priest in the future. Over the past year you have shown resilience and faith in keeping the mission of St Mary's strong despite these challenges. I am grateful for this and look forward to serving with you for so long as God wills.

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Chairperson's Report

2016 has been an eventful year at St Mary's. I took over from Sue Farr, as Lay Chair of the PCC, after the APGM in April and would like to thank Sue for all she did in this capacity over the past few years, a hard act to follow.

Little did I know what I was letting myself in for, when I agreed to take on this role! Not only did the diocese come up with a proposal to reorganize Severnside, to which we agreed, but then, very sadly, Roly died.

Unexpectedly, I was part of a Standing Committee, whose job was to work with the Diocese to try to appoint a new priest who included writing Parish Profiles, job descriptions, person specifications and a lot of extra meetings, not what I was expecting at all! However, I am pleased to say that everyone at St Mary's has risen to the challenge magnificently and it has been amazing at how well we have coped.

As I reflect back on 2016, I am reminded of 1 Corinthians v12ff which tells us that we are all part of one body with different gifts and talents. As shown in this booklet, it is amazing how many different people and groups make up our fellowship, without which we would be much the poorer. Each person has a part to play and, by playing that part, helps to keep St Mary's a vibrant, committed community. Together, we are all parts of the body of Christ here in Olveston and aim to show God's love, goodness and hope to those around us. I want to thank every member for the part that they have played over the past year. It has not always been easy, but without each one of you we would not have coped with the challenges that we have faced. I do encourage you all to read the following reports and to see how God has blessed us throughout the highs and the lows of the year.



Report for St John's, Aust, by Ann Parker

This has been a good year for St. John's.

In terms of occasional offices we have Had 1 wedding and 1 baptism, with one to come in April.

One evening service we had 10 people, although our usual average attendance is around 6 or 7, but we enjoy our fellowship and make it clear that anyone is welcome to join us whenever they like. We also enjoy excellent relationships within the village.

The churchyard has been tidied up and planned and all the requisite safety measures have been taken. We are very grateful to Phil Cue for taking on



the responsibility for the churchyard and for the wonderful memorial stone commemorating those from Aust who died in the 2 World wars, as well as the airman who crashed in Aust. Thanks to Phil and the 2 Churchwardens, Jon Burnett and Jenn Dickens we now know where everyone is buried or ashes are put.

The Village Fete continues but is no longer the exclusive preserve of the Church. Instead it is shared responsibility with the Village and we share the profits. This year the weather was terrible but everyone who came enjoyed themselves and a profit was made, despite our worries.

Christmas saw us hold our adult/children Nativity Service, with Carols, which was extremely well attended, followed by nibbles and wine across the road, courtesy of Suzanne and helpers. The midnight service was a wonderful celebratory service which saw a really attendance.

At our next DCC meeting in March we shall be discussing a possible change to morning services again because I will no longer be involved with other churches on Sundays, retirement looms large. From my point of view I would like to develop closer relationships with the Chapel.

I would like to thank Jon Burnett and Jenn Dickens for being such wonderful and hardworking Churchwardens, and David Prothero for being such a supportive Treasurer and the DCC for making me feel so welcome and valued.



Churchwardens' Report *by Sue Farr & Martin Gibson*

2016/17 has not been an easy one for the Churchwardens. Following last year's APCM it was clear that Roly was not well and we tried to find ways to take some work off him to help. Roly's way of working was however specific to him, so we are very grateful that Jo Baxter worked so hard liaising with Roly to keep communications generally ongoing.

Our thanks go also to Trevor Anderson for following on with Roly's creation – Monday Movies in St Mary's. He has put so much effort and passion into the choice of films and the publicity and has never missed a Monday. We are very pleased that Chris Smart has taken over responsibility for the graveyard, machinery, organisation of the sheds and directing the graveyard maintenance team.

Michael Kirby has put an enormous amount of effort into Lent study and the House Groups by producing well prepared literature and publicising the same to committed groups.



Mike Wright has worked tirelessly producing a detailed profile of our church and all we do there in pursuance of the search of a new minister. He and Bernard Amos have also been heavily involved in the advertising of the post. We are grateful too to Debbie Harries for caring for Roly to the end whilst also involving herself in social and pastoral work. Philip Rowe has been an anchor working tirelessly to support us and taking over the extra duties

which Roly was unable to fulfil. His prayer and understanding was instrumental in helping us to cope with the shock and grief of the loss of Roly when we became a community in mourning. A new Parish Administrator has been appointed on a paid basis. She is Sarah Wigmore who has long standing connections with Olveston & Tockington. The plan is that she will be the central coordinator for all church matters.

In some ways we are more fortunate than Alveston as we still have Philip as our leader, as well as three accomplished Ordained and Lay Ministers. Attendances at our three Sunday services remain consistently high, especially at 10am, whilst Evensong never drops below 12 attendees. Back to Front continues to be very popular with a strong team of young people. Attendance therefore for an average Sunday is 93.



Worship Committee Report *by Lesley Clarke*

The Worship Committee has met every two months over the past year to review past services, as well as to look ahead to plan future ones and, more generally, offer opportunities for people to deepen their own personal faith through worship, prayer and small groups. As a village church, we endeavor to offer a range of services from the very traditional ones such as the 1662 Book of Common Prayer evening service, held on the 4th Sunday of each month, to Holy Communion and less formal ones such as the Toy Service in December, where we had Reach Up, Reach Out Puppet group again. Despite the sad loss of Roly, we have been able to maintain three services each Sunday. The only exception is for the main festival services where it was decided not to hold an evening service. At the beginning of the year the attendance at the 8 o'clock service had become very low and there was discussion as to whether it should continue. I am pleased to say that the decision was taken to continue and there are a small number of loyal worshippers each week.



The music in our church is well led by our musical director, Dr David Shaw. There are choral services once a week where the choir enhances worship with a variety of music from different traditions. 'Back to Front', which meets monthly on Sunday afternoons, offers a much more contemporary style of worship. Thus, St Mary's aims to offer something for a wide range of tastes.

Sadly, Breakfast Club, which met in the school hall and served young families and children finished last July.

In November, there was a wonderful service held in church to thank God and the leaders for all that they had done over the years.

By the testimonies that were given, it was very apparent that it had been a great way to teach

young people and their families about the Christian message in a relevant and fun way. Indeed, we had a wonderful Confirmation Service in the spring led by the Bishop of Bristol, Mike Hill, where three boys, who had all attended Breakfast Club, decided to be confirmed. The challenge for the future is to provide something for young families to come to.

The big festivals of Christmas and Easter, plus Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Remembrance drew in very large congregations, with quite a few children as well. However, some of the Christmas services were less well attended than usual and the committee is investigating this. The uniform organisations joined us to parade on Mothering Sunday and Remembrance Day, which also meant that many of their families came too.

St Mary's is a place to which many people come to celebrate and thank God at the milestones in their life. We celebrated a number of Baptisms, some during the ten o'clock service and some at twelve noon. Many have their children baptised, but are not regular church members so we are planning to hold a Godparent's service in 2017 to try and encourage some of them to return. There were fewer weddings held in 2016 but this number seems to vary from year to year. Sadly, it has been a year when we have held many funerals.

We have maintained a good link with Olveston School who came in once a term for their school collective worship, as well as to celebrate special occasions. Our vicar, Philip Rowe went into

school to take collective worship, weekly. In addition, we went into school at the end of term 6 and organised Prayer Space over two days for the children. The school choir has sung in church at

Harvest and Tockington Manor School came to the Toy Service where their choir also sang. They held their Christmas Service at St Mary's.

There have been opportunities for us to worship with, and meet up with other Christians in the community. At the start of 2016, the Methodists came to us for a service of Christian Unity and they also came to our Good Friday service. Lent groups were organised across the local area

and Songs of Praise was held in Almondsbury this year. The Worship Committee also tried to ensure that there were opportunities for people to deepen their faith and prayer life. A morning prayer group continued to meet four times a week to start the church day in prayer. Several small groups met regularly to study the Bible, pray and discuss things relevant for today. The prayer chain has been used on a number of occasions.

As we look ahead, there are a lot of things to give thanks for and there are also challenges ahead to pray and work towards. When we get a new vicar, we will become part of North Severnside group of churches and be working more closely with St Helen's, Alveston. We have begun looking at the diocesan strategy, Creating Connections and this is something that will be taken forward into 2017, initially by making it our Lent focus. Also, we need to look at ways of bringing people of all ages into our fellowship and sharing the love of Jesus with them.



Mission Leadership Team, *by Philip Rowe*

Under the guidance and authority of the PCC our primary role is step back and take a broader long view of our Mission, including our goals, and to encourage their implementation once they have been decided by the PCC. For this year the PCC decided St Mary's should focus on these three areas: Integrating those born after 1960, providing a forum for ethical issues and bringing our annual report in line with current requirements.

The extra work resulting from the sudden death of Roly Bain and the appointment of a new parish priest caused us to move towards being a Mission Management Team. So we have not made as much progress as we would have hoped in these three areas. Regarding the first, we decided not to investigate providing an onsite meeting room in which a

Sunday School/Breakfast Club could be held during the 10am service. We have not thought further about integrating those born after 1960. The fact that we are happily growing old together remains our greatest challenge. For the second and third area we ran a successful series of talks on sexuality and we are adapting to meet the new requirements.

The PCC has decided that for 2017/2018 we will focus on the three recommended Diocesan priorities of Making Disciples, Growing Leaders and Engaging Younger Generations. We are planning to meet during April or May to decide some specific actions.



Director of Music's Report *by David Shaw*

The past year has been another successful one for music in St Mary's.

Choir It is a huge pleasure to report that another soprano has joined the choir recently and she is making an excellent contribution to the choral singing. I am very hopeful that we shall have another new member in the near future. This will bring the choir total membership to 37 which is really excellent. But a good choir is not simply about numbers in the choir. Musicianship is the most important factor and this quality is shown continually by the choir.

The whole point of having a choir is to lead the congregational singing and to enhance the worship experience of all, choir and congregation, by singing good and appropriate music during the service. I like to think that we succeed in this task. This year I asked the handbell ringers to join us in a difficult Christmas anthem by John Rutter which enabled all the church musicians (apart from the Tower ringers!) to unite in making a joyful sound to the Lord.

The choir has sung an anthem at every choral service throughout the year and at various extra services such as the Inner Wheel Carol Service which shows admirably the dedication of all the choristers who come to church every Friday evening for Choir Practice and every Sunday at the service where the choir is present. We are currently working on an extremely demanding anthem which we shall be singing at Roly's memorial service in Southwark Cathedral. Roly chose this anthem himself just before he died. I can imagine him having a chuckle to himself when he wrote down this request!

Most importantly, the choir is a group of very good friends. It has a fantastic social side and also a very caring side. I am so privileged to be the leader of such an amazing group of people.

Instruments Our wonderful organ is in fine fettle and is tuned and maintained regularly twice a year by Walkers, the builders of the organ. The superb piano which was purchased last year is used regularly for choir practice and sometimes for anthems in the service. It is also used for concerts and by One Voice and by visiting groups such as Olveston School

Finance This year has seen a serious decline in the number of weddings and funerals which has hit hard the choir's finances so this year for the first time for about 5 years we have been obliged to ask PCC for a donation. Music is expensive and it costs nearly £200 to buy robes for each chorister.

And finally It has been a good year. Thank you to everybody for all your support. Particular thanks to Roy Garlick (treasurer) Judy Jones (librarian and robes) Sue Farr (helping me choose hymns) and Sandy Shaw (keeping the attendance register). Please remember I always welcome requests for hymns and organ music



S t. Mary's Church Bell Ringers Report *by Philip Coward*

The band of Olveston Bell Ringers consist of four ringers, there are four Sunday ringers who attend regularly and two from Tytherington who come nearly every Sunday and Friday and without their valued help it would be almost impossible to continue Bell Ringing.



The Bells are rung for Sunday Services on the Second, Third, Fourth and Fifth (If there is one). On Friday evenings our practice are on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Fridays of each month. We are grateful for Rev D Sansum and Alveston, and Tytherington Ringers for their continued help to enhance our Bell Ringing.

In 2016 we welcome three visiting bands to ring the bells from Wales, Somerset and Wiltshire.

In September 2016, St Mary's bell ringers with the help of John Cornock from Stone and Martin Blanchard from Westerleigh, rang a quarter peal to say farewell to two of our bell ringers, Tom Bale and Edward Lovering who are going to University. We will miss them both and now we are very short of ringers.

Like many organisations it would be good if we could recruit some new ringers to the tower to keep the bells ringing.



The Bells of St. Mary's Report

We played at four services this year, Easter, Pentecost and Harvest. The Carol Service was a first for us, because we played music written for piano, choir and handbells, conducted by the Director of Music. Unfortunately we were unable to keep a commitment to play at Falfield WI owing to shortage of ringers. This is a big problem for us, and we desperately need to recruit more ringers in order to be able to practice each week with a minimum of six, but preferably nine, which would then include the table bells.



Outreach Report *by Gail Lowe*

2016 started on a high note as 4 members of the congregation, including myself, went to officially open the building in Gautampuri, built and fitted by the last Appeal. The amazing generosity of our villages has touched the lives of many people in a slum in far off Delhi where it is in use as a health centre, school, meeting place and Church. It was a great privilege to see how God is working in these areas.



A review of the Pastoral/Care Groups connected with St Mary's was held and it was found to be working well. It was decided that reorganisation was unnecessary but perhaps more publicity about their work would be beneficial. The plan for Outreach to set up and facilitate Village Friends has, at the moment, been put on hold with a review due shortly.

There is very little take up of the services of The Gloucestershire Society at the moment but it is available if needed.

There are a steady stream of gifts for The Food Bank, although we realise the need to remind people periodically.

The Thursday morning Coffee Shop continues to do great work in reaching out in the community, particularly with young Mums and the elderly. It is a great point of contact outside the church building.

Margaret Gibson sends cards to all those in the Parish in need of a loving touch from St Mary's and notifies the appropriate Pastoral/Care group where there is need for follow up. This has been much appreciated.

After a great deal of soul searching, prayer and discussion about the 2016/2017 St Mary's appeal it was finally decided to focus on The Springs Of Hope . This is a dual appeal, taking into consideration some people desire to support a project at home. We named the appeal "Home and Away" . The "Away" element encompasses the build of a solar pump at a clinic in Zambia. This provides power to raise drinking water and will be dedicated to the memory of Roly

Bain. (We have called it HRP, - The Holy Roly Pump). The "Home" element will contribute to the fitting out of a drop-in centre for vulnerable women in St Pauls, Bristol. The target is £16,000, £11,000 for the HRP and £5000 for the drop-in centre.

As always, the project will be managed through a Christian organization, be tangible and acceptable to the congregation. We are always mindful that what we do in Jesus name we do for Him.

As are many, we, as Outreach are aware of the enormous input Roly had in our committee. Quietly he 'outreached' to everyone, all encompassing and inclusive. He is sorely missed.



Back to front *by Paul Harrod*

Back to Front is a monthly, afternoon, Sunday service, designed to offer a more 'modern' style of sung worship, with an extended time for prayer and group discussions.

Over time we have found that this service is particularly helpful for families with young children who would otherwise have to choose between the main 10am morning service and whether or not their child(ren) can play football or rugby. By attending Back to Front, and perhaps combining with the Lighthouse youth group on the other weeks, they get to do both! One other benefit has been to bring together Olveston and Tockington residents who worship elsewhere but who want to meet together with their neighbours too.

Our average we have about 20 people attending each service - a good mixture of children, parents and older members of St Mary's congregation. We have Bible-based activities for the children, and often stream talks over the internet from leading Christian teachers such as Bill Hybels. We also try and ensure that times of prayer are group-led, and we find time to pray as a congregation as well as in twos and threes.

We do not have a sufficient number of regular attendees for us to consider making Back to Front a weekly service, or to be able to have regular musicians leading worship. Therefore we are talking to other Severnside churches about whether there is scope for further collaboration with them. That will be a focus for 2017-18

The Vicar and PCC of St Mary's Olveston have a strategic objective of attracting more people born after 1960 to worship at the church.



Safeguarding Report *by Debbie Harries*
Safeguarding has run smoothly over the past year and people have been able to use the online checking process without any difficulty. We have 18 people within the church with an up to date DBS check. Thank you to all, it enables us to continue with the huge amount of activities we offer at St Mary's. If you have any concerns or questions regarding safeguarding please don't hesitate to contact me.



Buildings Group Report *by Mike Wright*
St Mary's Olveston church is open and heated daily for private prayer from 08.30am until dusk. On Sundays, Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays it is open later for Services, Film Club, Choir practice, Quizzes, Concerts and fund-raising events for outward giving.



A new low pressure protection | system was fitted to the main

boiler to meet current building Regulations by Aquatonics £3,700.

A new smaller altar for the Nave sanctuary has been made by Simon Hiscox, (cost £1,080) and was consecrated by Bishop Mike of Bristol on March 7th 2016. New and modified frontals for the seasons have been beautifully made by Joyce Prothero. A new church architect, Marcus Chantrey of Benjamin & Beauchamp of Wedmore was appointed and confirmed by

Bristol DAC. He carried out a detailed Quinquennial survey September 9th 2016. Approx. £85,000 will need to be spent on the church exterior over the next 5 years. £18,000 for short term roof and rain-watergoods replacements; £45,000 in the medium term for other external repairs and £20,000 on restoration of the church tower and pinnacles. The fabric fund has benefitted from a substantial legacy and also the Summer Ball profits would cover the medium term needs.

Better North storage arrangements and re-furbishment of the lamp arches were carried out by Andy Philips and Friends of St Mary's.

The regular cleaning team led by Sandy Shaw kept the church interior gleaming

Energy saving projects included complete replacement of the 6 external floodlights with new LED versions, all uniform colour, also internal chandelier lights were replaced with LEDs that reduced power consumption by 90%. Additional power-points were installed under the tower for 'back to front' services and concerts (by Mark Norvill – cost £3,500).

The chancel curtains were re-hung (£374) to ensure overlap on closure and separation of the meeting room.

No specific Health & Safety issues have arisen. Disability access is under regular review. A new lightweight ramp for access to the chancel was acquired with assistance from Jackie Cavanagh.

Chris Smart is now leader of our graveyard team of volunteers who keep this quiet space in excellent condition. Chris has been doing safety training with the machines used in the churchyard.

Following receipt of a faculty from Bristol Diocese and positive

consultations with S. Gloucs. Conservation officer, A Memorial

Wall has been built in the churchyard to commemorate burial of cremated remains. It has 32 natural sawn Forrest of Dean stones in a zig-zag formation on land that could not be used for traditional burials. The wall has a mound at the North end with a native tree planted that will be fitted with a semi-circular seat.

Total cost £16,000 by Messrs David Ashwell and Richard Holdsworth. This cost will be recovered using guidance approved by PCC from families using the wall for commemoration of burial of ashes. Consecration expected 12th March 2017 by Lee Rayfield, Bishop of Swindon.



Publicity & Social Committee Report *by Debbie Harries*
Members: Debbie Harries (Chair) David Shaw, Sian Slade, Philip Savage, Judy Jones, Rod Williams, Mike Wright, Trevor Anderson, Marriann Clark.



We have had a busy year socially in the Church raising money for funds for St Mary's and outside charities. Our events have been wide ranging from a murder mystery, the popular quizzes and several high standard concerts. The Salvation Army Concert was well attended which raised £800 to support their good work.

The Monday Movies continue to be well attended by members of our congregation and the wider community within the parish.

Our Annual Ball raised £8,000 last year in aid of the church tower fund, with a donation to St Peter's Hospice. The Ball Committee are now planning our 10th, The Champagne Ball!

Harvest and Trinity Lunch services were well attended and enjoyed by all, enabling the congregation from all services to worship together.

Our Services and Social Activities are published in Meeting Point every month and distributed to all parishioners enabling us to reach out to all the community from St Mary's.

Thank you to all the members of The Publicity and Ball Committees for their hard work over the past year.



Deanery Synod Report *by Brendan Biggs*

Report on Bristol West Deanery Synod
Bristol West Deanery Synod met three times in 2016 – in January (at St Edyth's Sea Mills), May (at Christ Church Clifton) and October (at All Saints Clifton). Topics discussed included the following:

- Bristol Street Pastors – three street pastors spoke about their work caring for those in need on Saturday nights, especially vulnerable young people.
- Care for the Family – Katharine Hill presented resources to strengthen family life in such areas as parenting, teenagers, bereavement and relationship difficulties.
- Creating Connections – Bishop Mike spoke about the diocesan strategy, including its three themes – connecting with God, connecting with each other, and connecting with our communities – and its three priorities – making disciples, growing leaders, and engaging younger generations.
- Engaging Younger Generations – Dan Jones, Diocesan Youth Adviser, encouraged us to see young people as disciples in training, not in waiting, in need of opportunities to use their gifts and abilities for ministry. In June, at St Mary's Stoke Bishop, the Revd James Lawrence of CPAS led PCC tonight, a Deanery Forum exploring how to make PCCs better.

In September, Oliver Home (Diocesan Secretary) and Chris Priddy (Diocesan Head of Parish and External Relations) led a Parish Share Seminar explaining the principles behind the Diocese's new approach to parish share – take responsibility, be generous, and have faith. Bristol West pledged and paid an extra £60,000 in parish share in 2016. Seven visitors from Uganda came to the Deanery for a fortnight in October. Most spent six days in two parishes each, in a visit that did much to strengthen relationships with our link dioceses. It is planned to take a group of young people to Uganda in the summer of 2017. The Revd Helen Johnson was licensed as Priest-in-Charge of St Mary's Shirehampton in October. There are currently vacancies in North Severnside and at St Edyth's Sea Mills, following the Revd David Izzard's appointment as Rector of Radstock. Stoke Bishop, Sea Mills, Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston are now informally grouped together as the Avonside Mission Area, and Shirehampton has been invited to join. In May, Bishop Mike and Synod expressed warm thanks to Canon Mark Pilgrim for his diligent and enthusiastic leadership of the Deanery over the last ten years. Canon Mat Ineson, Vicar of St Mary's Stoke Bishop, succeeded Mark as Area Dean

on 1 June 2016. A new Deanery Synod and Deanery Leadership Team will be elected in 2017. We also look forward to joining in the celebrations of Holy Trinity Westbury-on-Trym's 1300th anniversary in the spring.



The Friends Of St Mary's Report *by Andy Phillips*

Sadly we have lost a few members this year but gained quite a few new ones along the way so I'm glad to report that we are still contributing £4000 to the Church every year.

Our prizes have been maintained at 14 cash prizes every month & our phones have been red hot with people asking "Why haven't I won yet" Seriously though we have made 168 people very happy.... Due to our steady membership, I'm pleased to say that we didn't need to carry out any additional fund raising this year.

During the year we have provided a new storage area at the rear of the Church for the additional functions that the Church organises & we improved storage for the Hand Bell Ringers.

We replaced a Church noticeboard that is adjacent to the School gates. We erected & decorated the Church Christmas tree which most people commented on favourably.

We have pledged £500 toward the repair of the Church guttering which should take place sometime this year.

We provided 2 new bell ropes for the Bell ringers & refurbished the Light fittings over the Church gates.

All in all not a bad year !

We are still trying to increase our membership, so if you haven't joined yet, please let your conscience get the better of you & fill in a membership form today these can be found in the Church or ring me on 01454 614890 or drop an e mail to andisp28@hotmail.co.uk

Don't forget - 'If you're not in - you can't win'

Finally many thanks to our loyal band of a small but efficient committee of :- John & Carol Phillpott, June Hahn, June Robbins, John Jones, John Chick & David Prothero.

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Pastoral Assistants' Report

Pastoral Support Team



Comprising: Debbie Harries, June Hahn, Pat Thirkettle, Brenda Jones, Trevor Watkins, June Robbins, Sandy Shaw, Rev. David Bone and Trevor Cook

This committee is led by Debbie Harries and Trevor Cook and has currently no funds.

A meeting was planned for 12th January 2017 when we will again review the list of those we support. There are 24 people on our list and these are shared between the nine committee members.

We anticipate that Brenda Jones will implement her stated desire to retire from the committee, although she does intend to continue to care for the two people that were her responsibility. A replacement for Brenda is not seen as urgent or required at this time and we will discuss the matter at the following meeting on 17th March. A gift has been purchased for Brenda and will be presented to her on 5th March.

In addition June Hahn has also indicated that she will step down from the her role in organising and hosting meetings although she will remain an active member and maintain her position on the committee and those allotted to her care.

Ecumenical Care Group

Comprising: Anglican: Debbie Harries, June Hahn, Pat Thirkettle, Mary Griffith, June Robbins, Joyce Prothero, and Judith Smart,
Methodists: Maureen Harris, Jane Phillips and Trevor Watkins

This committee is led by Debbie Harries and Trevor Cook.

Last met on 22nd November 2016 when Trevor Watkins informed us that we had a balance of £224 which included £105 from the Methodist Church. It was said that a donation from St. Mary's of £200 was expected on 1st December. This means we have £424 for the Christmas and Easter distributions.

The list of those to receive a card and/or present for Christmas was reviewed and found to be 60 persons. Some only received a card, most received a small potted plant as well (if residing in the area) and a few received cheese selection boxes.

June Hahn organised the purchase of plants from Thornbury Garden centre at a discounted rate and took delivery of them in her conservatory around 15th December. Each committee member then collected cards and plants and distributed them according to their agreed group.



Treasurer's Report *by David Prothero*



Introduction

This report presents a review of the financial position for St Mary's Olveston and St John's Aust, based on the Annual Accounts for 2016.

Financial Review

St John's Aust

Total income in 2016 was £8,057, of which £6,530 was unrestricted. This includes £637 in income tax recovered on income received under the Gift Aid scheme and £88 in top-ups recovered under the Small Cash Donations scheme. Total expenditure was £7,321, of which £5,907 was unrestricted.

Unrestricted (general purposes) income was over £700 higher than in 2015, with increases of over £800 (50%) in Gift Aid giving, over £600 in donations and £500 in parochial fees. These were offset to some extent by reductions of £1,000 in income from fundraising activities (the Summer Fete having been affected by atrocious weather) and almost £200 in alms giving.

There was an overall increase of almost £200 in general purposes expenditure, with both church running costs and outward giving from general funds each being around £100 higher than in 2015. The increase in church running costs was associated largely with actions taken to address issues arising from a review of the church's insurance policy in 2016.

In 2016 a restricted Graveyard Fund was established to provide funds towards the costs of the regular maintenance of the churchyard. Restricted donations of over £1,200 were received in 2016 into this fund, mainly from families and relatives of loved ones buried in the churchyard. A number of these donations were made on a recurring basis and hence will continue into future years. The amount received in 2016 slightly exceeded the expenditure (unrestricted) incurred on churchyard maintenance (£1,120).

General purposes income exceeded expenditure by some £600. This, together with the churchyard expenditure being met by the Graveyard Fund meant that the general purposes balance at the end of 2016 was over £1,700 higher than at the end of 2015.

As far as other restricted funds are concerned, the only income received in the year was in the form of interest. The only significant item of restricted expenditure in 2016, was the purchase of a sound system for the church at a cost of £980, the cost being met from within the Music Fund.

St Mary's Olveston

Total income in 2016 was £214,081, of which £137,114 was unrestricted. This includes £15,708 in income tax recovered on income received under the Gift Aid scheme and £1,512 in top-ups

recovered under the Small Cash Donations scheme. Total expenditure was £157,202, of which £126,864 was unrestricted.

Unrestricted general purposes income was £103,550 in 2016, an increase of some £8,500 compared with 2015. The latter was due largely to increases of almost £2,000 (3.6%) in planned tax efficient giving, almost £5,500 in donations (including £3,000 in memory of Rev Roly Bain) and over £2,000 in parochial fees.

Unrestricted general purposes expenditure was £105,837 which is around £1,000 lower than in 2015, with reductions in ministry costs (associated with the sad and untimely death of Rev Roly Bain) being matched by increases in church running expenses, in particular churchyard maintenance expenses.

Although general purposes expenditure exceeded income by £2,300, income was supplemented by restricted income of just under £7,000 given for funding specific items of unrestricted expenditure (mainly ministry expenses and clergy honorarium) and £4,000 transferred from the Friends of St Mary's. As a consequence, the general purposes fund balance at the end of the year was over £7,000 higher than at the end of 2015.

As far as restricted income is concerned, in 2016 St Mary's received a legacy of almost £61,000 from the estate of Mrs Kathleen Hawkins for the maintenance of the fabric of the church building. The Fabric Fund also benefited by £8,000 (specifically for repair work required to the church roof and tower) received from the Summer Ball Committee. Just over £25,000 was spent from the Fabric Fund in 2016. This included the implementation of two projects planned in 2015 viz. the building of a Memorial Wall (£15,000) to ensure optimum use of the limited amount of space now available within the graveyard, and the provision of a new altar (£1,100) funded from a legacy from the estate of Miss Olive. Additionally, £3,700 was spent on a heating system upgrade and £3,600 on new tower lighting.

Outward giving in 2016 was slightly under £6,000, with 13 causes benefiting. In accordance with PCC policy, a new biennial appeal

(Springs of Hope) was launched towards the end of 2016, with just over £3,000 having been raised by 31st December.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain (if possible) a balance on unrestricted general purposes funds (free reserves) equating to approximately 6 months' unrestricted general purposes payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

St John's Aust

At 31 December 2016 the general purposes fund balance for St John's Aust was £11,571, equating to approximately 2 years of general purposes expenditure, comfortably exceeding the reserves policy target. This represents a sound position as far as present needs are concerned, but maintaining current levels of income from regular giving and fundraising remains a significant challenge for a small parish.

As far as restricted funds are concerned, there are balances of over £5,000 in both the music and re-ordering funds and just over £2,000 remaining in the Roof Fund. However, a major concern is the potential medium/long term work requirements identified in the September 2014 quinquennial inspection report, as the potential costs involved would far exceed the funds currently available.

It is now DCC policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

St Mary's Olveston

At 31 December 2016 the general purposes fund balance for St Mary's Olveston was £40,570, equating to approximately 4.5 months of general purposes expenditure, some £12,000 below the PCC target. Although this represents a reasonable position as far as present needs are concerned, it should be recognized that St Mary's faces a number of significant challenges over the next few

years relating in particular to the changes in arrangements for ministry on Severnside and the age profile of our congregation and regular givers.

The Church Fabric Fund is the main restricted fund held by St Mary's. At 31st December 2016 there was a balance of almost £77,000, due largely to the substantial legacy received in 2016 (see above). However, a new detailed Quinquennial Inspection Report produced in 2016 identified major works required to the Church roof and tower in the short- medium term. The exact costs are still being quantified, but will be substantial.

It is PCC policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Funds Held as Custodian Trustees on Behalf of Others

St Mary's holds funds on behalf of the Severnside Group of churches relating to the employment of a youth worker. The post has remained vacant since 2013, pending further consideration of the feasibility of such a post by the Severnside Group of churches. At 31st December 2016 there was a balance of £2,539 within the fund.

Thanks

On behalf of the PCC I wish to thank all those who collect, count and record the income.

At Olveston, I especially thank Michael Kirby, our Gift Aid secretary and Joyce Prothero, our Cashier, and also Mike Wright for his most helpful advice and support.

At Aust I wish to thank Ann Parker, Jon Burnett and Jenn Dickens for their guidance and support.

Finally, I would also like to thank Roger Smart our Independent Examiner for his thorough scrutiny of the accounts and for his expert and constructive advice on our accounting systems.

