

Appendix One

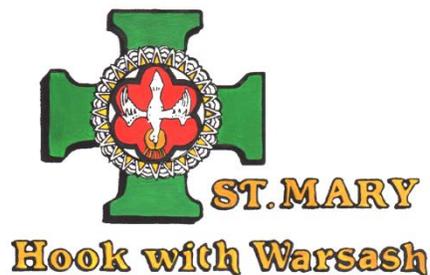
St Mary, Hook-with-Warsash

2016 Informal Reports



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

25th April 2017



These Informal Reports do not form part of the Statutory Report and Financial Statements of the Parochial Church Council

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FAMILIES WORK

2016 has been another fun and exciting year for Children and Families work, with a few changes and developments taking place.

Our Stay and Play group is still thriving, with many regular families attending on a weekly basis. There are also a number of families who have been coming more on the odd occasion, but it is a group where everyone says that they are given a warm welcome and cake, and an opportunity for them and their children to feel comfortable and to build communities. We appreciate someone from the ministry team visiting most weeks.

Tots Praise continues to run on the second Thursday of each month. There is a team of clergy who run Tots Praise on a rota basis, and the great majority of families move seamlessly from Stay and Play in the hall into the church.

Messy Church also continues to run and thrive on the second Thursday of each month (with the exception of Good Friday). Similar to Stay and Play, there are many families attending regularly or on the odd occasion. The majority of children who attend are from Hook with Warsash Academy, although there are families who attend from other local schools. When planning the Messy Church activities, it is important to be mindful about the potential congregation, and we have been seeing younger children joining us in the past few months.

The Families Worker role continues to develop focusing on work with the children and families through Stay and Play and Messy Church ministries, as well as liaison with the school primarily through collective worship and Forging Links committee; developing family worship and the teams that lead them, and the idea of supporting families through a parenting course. All children and families work keeps 'growing our church' at the heart. An important relationship for the families worker is the one with the Sunday School leaders, and this continues to flourish.

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PASTORAL GROUP

'I was sick & you visited me' Matthew 25:36

Members NST, VE, EU, CD, SC,
Mission Priority/aims

To provide pastoral care/support for Parishioners who are ill, housebound and requesting Home Communion.

We are a small group working to provide pastoral care for our Parishioners. We meet once a month to pray as well as to discuss those who are unwell and those who need visiting. We further discuss any issues arising and to allocate visits to team members.

Each member of the pastoral team has signed a confidentiality form and has been cleared by DBS. We have also completed all safe guarding training as required by the diocese.

We use the prayer list as a source of referrals in addition to concerns raised by parishioners of folk in need of pastoral care. Requests for visits can also be received by the church office. We are aware that parishioners as well as some members of the ministry team visit those in need.

Each week members of the team meet briefly, informally, after the 10 o'clock service to share/update on those needing support as often they are referred to us on an ad hoc basis by others in church. This is a way of avoiding duplicating visits/phone calls. As individuals, we pray for all those in our particular care.

We listen to the needs of the Church family and outreach as to where we can be of service, either from the team or engaging others to help.

When a person is taken to hospital, then one of our team will contact the relevant hospital chaplaincy to visit although one of us does sometimes visit

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if possible. Hospital chaplaincies at QA and the General in Southampton offer a committed ministry to the sick.

When Home Communion is requested we aim to respond promptly. A list of those now able to administer HC has been submitted and approved by the Bishop.

We continue to meet on a monthly basis to pray and discuss any referrals. Naturally, all our work is confidential.

Some of our team attended a Pastoral assistance course on Saturdays over the winter months at St.Mary's Portchester. This course has addressed a training need and will enhance the work of the team considerably. We thank them for giving up their valuable time to help others.

Our aim is to continue to develop our skills in pastoral care. We are a small, but dedicated team who tries to minister to this in need within our limited resources.

We would like ask the PCC to give this group a small budget for training as well as for items such as stationery/possibly petrol money.

Eva Upward

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COMMUNICATIONS

The group comprises people involved in areas such as the Church Office, Parish News-Advertising, Editing, Distribution, Social Events, Services and Rosters, Publicity and Website/Social Media. It is important to meet regularly for an exchange of information so that we can communicate in a timely and consistent manner in the various different ways that have been established.

The group has been running in the present format for three years, and we met together five times during 2016. We meet as and when required so that we can plan well in advance of the major events increase awareness.

The Church website continues to evolve. Both the Church Calendar and Hall Calendar are available online. Copies of past pewsheets are available to view or download, and more and more frequently sermons and talks are also available. We are currently exploring the possibility of the audio recording of sermons and talks and making them available for download via the website.

We continue to dip our toe in the water with social media. Twitter is not as useful to us as our Facebook page. It is not uncommon for some of the posts on our Facebook page to reach over 1,000 people. We need to keep it targeted and relevant. Another way of helping us with our communications is for each member of the congregation who has a Facebook account to 'Like' our page and share our items on their own timelines. We currently have 193 likes.

Lastly, and by no means least - Easyfundraising. We only have 33 supporters signed up so far. For the benefit of anyone who does not know, people who have signed up and make purchases or reservations online have a small percentage of their online transaction amount paid to us as a donation on their behalf by the shop. It reduces the profit margin for the shop, it does not increase your online price. You can even gift aid it so that we get an additional 25% of the donation given to us by HMRC. We are just a few pounds short of having raised £1,000 in this way so let's try and have a real push this year.

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BELL RINGERS

The church bells are rung for approx 10 minutes before the 10.00am and 6.30pm services using the tubular bells followed by the calling bell. They are also rung before and after many weddings.

We are a fairly small team – there are currently 11 of us on the rota. Recently Lynda Mills has joined us. It would be lovely to have some new names to add to this rota – the more the merrier!! Full training would be given – although not much is needed!!

Alison Edmondson

CHURCH CHOIR

The Church Choir continues to work hard and sing well. They are in attendance each month at two morning Services and every Sunday Evening Service. They have also sung at a number of Weddings throughout the year.

In July they gave a wonderful programme of music and readings at the evening service when they actually led the service. Average numbers are still good but we would still like to increase them in all parts.

We rehearse on Friday evenings at 6.45pm in the Church.

If you enjoy singing do please come and join us – you would be made most welcome.

Josephine Wylie

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CHARITABLE GIVING

Each month at least one Sunday is set aside for supporting a particular charity. The sub-committee prayerfully decides which ones we might support for the following year. We try to include a wide selection, including medical, family, disabled, social, children, elderly, those specifically Christian and those targeting home, local and overseas. They are then researched over the internet and brief descriptions sent to the PCC for their approval in November.

Following the PCC's decision, this information is sent to the Parish News for inclusion in each appropriate issue. This information is also included in the Prayer Diary.

In good time before each Charity Sunday a display about the charity of the month is put up at the back of the church. This is obtained throughout the year by contacting each charity for their display material, making sure it arrives in time, or using material downloaded from their website.

In 2016 we supported 14 charities.

When received from the Treasurer, a cheque for the amount raised is sent off to each charity, and a receipt obtained.

There are now Brown envelopes available at the back of the church for people to donate at any time throughout the month, or during our Charity Sunday services.

The total raised in 2016 through monthly charity collections was £3,450.45

Thank you to everyone who supports our charitable giving.

Jenny Cox

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CHURCH CLEANERS AND BRASS CLEANERS

Several weeks of advertising in the pew sheet finally paid off recently when three new Church cleaning volunteers stepped forward. We are pleased to welcome Jen Gardner, Nichola Lythgoe and Lyn Duffin to the team. Their offers are timely as Felicity Cory and Rose Daubeny have finally hung up their dusters after 46 YEARS of dedicated service. (Even now, Rose has not retired completely as she continues to play her part cleaning the brass). We thank them most sincerely for all their hard work over so many years. The call for volunteers will continue, with regular requests in the Parish News.

CHURCH FLOWERS

The Church continues to be decorated with flowers by the four dedicated flower arrangers. Whilst Margaret Adams, who I reported last year as helping at all the major festivals, has finally relinquished all “secateurial” duties, several of the local organisations have stepped in to help out at these busy times. Among these are the Mothers’ Union, St Mary’s Pre-School group, Warsash Flower Club and the Warsash Horticultural Society. Harvest Festival was particularly enjoyable with a very warm and friendly atmosphere between all the groups. Our efforts were highly praised and the Church looked beautiful.

With most of the flowers being sourced from the EU, the fall of sterling has driven up the cost considerably. The kind donations made by people to mark a special occasion or remember a loved one are much needed as the income from weddings has fallen away. Two factors combine to cause this; the apparent reduction in the number of weddings this year and the option that some couples are taking not to fund flowers in the Church for the ceremony. The funding agreed by the PCC for flowers at Christmas, Easter and Harvest is a valuable supplement but the trend shows a steady decline in the available funds and some fund-raising may be required to boost them. I’m sure that, whatever happens, the Church will continue to be decorated as usual.

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CHURCH HALL

The Church Hall is a popular venue for both regular and occasional users. We have 10 regular hirers ranging from one session per month to daily use. There were 30 casual hires over the past year. The Church Hall is well used by the many church groups.

In April the Church Office took over the responsibility for the hall bookings of the occasional hirers. This transition has been fairly smooth. Hirers are now required to collect the key from the office on the Friday morning before their hire and apart from a few hiccups seems to be the best way to handle this part of the hire. Liz continues to deal with the regular hirers and these do not go through the Church Office.

We have not carried out any major works in 2016. The hall had a major clean during the August holidays, when everything from the store cupboard to the windows were cleaned. There has been a lot of discussion as to how to deal with the garden at the back of the hall and this will be progressed during 2017.

It was agreed that the hire fee would be increased by £1.00 per hour for regular users. There would now only be two rates for occasional hirers, £15.00 per hour for members of the general public and £12.00 per hour for Church members and organisations local to Warsash.

I would like to thank the Church Hall Management Committee for their support over the year and Roger Clear for his assistance with various maintenance problems encountered during the year.

Liz Simpson

Chairman Church Hall Management Committee

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COFFEE POT

Coffee Pot is a friendly and supportive small group for all, including those with young children, meeting every Tuesday morning during term time between 10:00 and 11:30, currently in the Church Lounge. We are an informal group starting with a cup of tea/coffee and a general chat and then at around 10:30ish we have a sprinkling of Bible study and meditations finishing with a time of prayer. At present we are studying Nick Fawcett's book 'Grappling with God Book 2 - Conquest and Kingdom'. This is an excellent resource which sheds new light on familiar OT Bible stories by means of prayer, meditation, study and discussion. Themes covering the whole spectrum of human emotion and experience are teased out of the Bible stories, then opened up in meditation.

One of the strengths of our little group is the fun and fellowship we have together and willingness to support and uphold each other in good times and in bad. We are always delighted to welcome new members (whether part of St Mary's or not) on an occasional or regular basis - please call Brenda Bottomley (01489 582093) for more details.

FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD

Our volunteer numbers continue to hold up and every 3rd Saturday in the month sees a good number turn up to undertake a whole myriad of jobs large and small that ensures that the Churchyard remains a pleasant and dignified place for our many visitors.

We have a really good time for a couple of hours, concluding with tea, coffee and cake in the Church Hall, for which my sincere thanks go to Margaret and Glenda.

Do join us if you can. There is no commitment other than that you come along when and for how long it is convenient. I myself was not a regular Saturday morning visitor last year for a variety of reasons, but I often found a spare hour during the week to work on my own.

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We have a lovely group of folk and I think, we do a super job.

The bottom end of the Churchyard has been transformed over the past few months with the old scruffy bank replaced with a tidy embankment, in front of which our new Memorial garden and seating area is really taking shape.

Mike Ford (01489) 331076

JIGSAW - THE COFFEE DROP-IN

Now in its seventh year, "Jigsaw" still provides a social opportunity for people who are lonely or, for whatever reason, feel the need of friendly company.

At each session up to seven partially-completed jigsaw puzzles are on display for those who are keen to participate. Typically five of these are finished and two are presented again in the following month. When a puzzle is complete, if requested, it is available to go to anyone who is not able to attend. The residue is either exchanged with other interested parties, or returned to a charity shop.

500 piece puzzles, the most convenient size, are in great demand and the supply from charity shops is very limited so, if you can pass on any you may have, it would ensure continuity.

Refreshments are served, not only to those who come, but also to people who are working on the premises or just visiting. My thanks go to Chris Yates for her valuable assistance and also to my daughter who provides the cakes.

The venue is the Church Hall Lounge, (when available), on the FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH, from 10am to midday. Any changes which may arise will be detailed in the pew sheet.

Do give it a try and come if only for refreshments. There is no charge!

Thank you.

Roger Page (01489) 601283

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HEALING PRAYER MINISTRY & PRAYER LINK TEAMS

The two Prayer Link Teams have been active over the last year with many requests for prayers relating to medical, emotional, family and friends needs. The teams have received encouraging feedback from some of those who have requested prayers. This has highlighted the need for this important ministry and our continuing commitment to support those in need of prayers for what-ever reason.

The Prayer Ministry Team have continued to support all our communion services and at other services when required. The awareness of the Team within St Mary's has increased over time and their availability to our congregation when the need arises. The team over the year have supported the Healing Services which are planned into our Service rota and this has involved a variety of Spiritual approaches.

The Prayer Ministry Team attended during the year the Acorn Course "Growing a Healing Ministry" at St Mary's Alverstoke. The entire team committed themselves to the Course and we were pleased to be joined by three more from St Mary's Warsash with the potential to strengthen our team in the future. It was an excellent opportunity for our team to refresh our skills in this Ministry as well as allowing some personal Spiritual development.

Finally we should like to thank all those involved in these ministries for their hard work and dedication over the last year without which this good work would not be possible.

If you wish to know more about these Ministries Nick and Rita would be pleased to hear from you as we would like to add to these teams if possible. We can be contacted on the numbers below:

Nick St John Telephone: (01489) 574589 (Healing & Prayer Ministry Team)

Rita Collins Telephone: (01489) 576867 (Prayer Link)

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LAY MINISTERS

God continues to bless us in this ministry. We are both involved in preaching, leading services and leading intercessions during services.

This year Eva was particularly busy as she was part of the leadership team involved with “Growing our Church”. This was a huge commitment from all concerned, but now the team are involved in the follow up and the outcomes that will help us to reach out to those in our community.

This year Eva was involved in the Crib services as June was away with her family; Eva was also involved in the services that are held in the church with Hook academy, throughout the year.

We continue to develop links with the Academy, by leading Collective Worship and leading a prayer session each half term and attend the “Forging Links” committee. The Remembrance service that is held in the Academy is very well attended and Eva was involved this year.

Eva also has a leadership role in the pastoral group, whose mission is to visit those who are unwell and to give Home Communion. June is also involved with the Prayer Ministry.

Both June and Eva continue to write for the Parish News, twice a year.

Eva is involved with a House Group, and June led a Lent group, along with Jean Buckles.

June continues to be involved with “Messy Church” and “Tot’s Praise” and both take turns along with Mike and Nicky-Sue to be present at “Stay and Play”.

Eva Upward and June Ward

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MEN'S GROUP

This group, led by Bill Day and Bob Bottomley, has met regularly during the last year having had 6 meetings since the last APCM.

In June - Phil Coundley from St. John's church Locks Heath came and spoke to us about a trip that he and others from their parish undertook to Bulgaria, going to the 'Pink Foundation' which does great work with under privileged children.

In July - We held an outdoor BBQ in the grounds of the Church Hall

In September - Jim Sigley, of St. Mary's, came and spoke movingly to us of his experience in getting and battling cancer.

In October - Ian Gardner, of St. Mary's, spoke to our group about all things to do with funerals.

In November - Graham Fletcher

In March '17 - Our own Mike Terry came to speak to the group about his work with 'Military in Ministry'.

All of the meetings were interesting and often challenging. Numbers attending have varied but are usually between 8 & 15. This sounds quite positive, but it has proved difficult to keep the numbers up and sadly enthusiasm for the group seems to be flagging. This is a great shame but it is a reflection of just how difficult it is to get men to turn out for such groups.

Both Bill and Bob would love to hear of any ideas that may be around that could re-energise the group. Please bear the group in your prayers that way forward may become clear and enthusiasm for it return.

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MOTHERS' UNION

During 2016 Mothers Union has been celebrating 140 years. We welcomed a new Diocesan President, Elizabeth Groves. Members from around the Diocese were invited to a Garden Party by the Bishop and members from around UK were present at the Street Party to celebrate the birthday of our Patron her Majesty the Queen. July we enjoyed a Festival Service at Holy Trinity Gosport followed by afternoon tea and stalls in Walpole Park. August we celebrated Mary Sumner Day attending a Choral Evensong at Westminster Abbey. In September, members from around UK and overseas joined in a Celebration Service at Winchester Cathedral.

We had much pleasure in enrolling 3 new members and welcoming 4 returning members. We hope to enrol another two members soon. We now have 19 members and 1 Indoor Member. As part of our celebrations we commissioned a new banner which was dedicated during Sunday morning worship.

At branch meetings we enjoyed several speakers. In April we hosted the annual Lady Day Service and an afternoon tea for Church Volunteers when we also celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday. May saw us enjoying afternoon tea at Silver Springs. In June we held our annual Wave of Prayer Service and we also held a Bring and Buy Plant Sale. At our annual Strawberry Tea we welcomed our new Diocesan President, Elizabeth, who also presented Dorothy Denton with her 50 years membership certificate. In September we had a party to celebrate May Hammond's 90th Birthday. October we discussed an MU paper on "School Based Sex and Relationships Education" and in November we took part in the 16 days of Activism against Gender based Violence both at our branch meeting and with a short time of prayer in Church.

Our projects in 2016 included knitting Twiddlemuffs for those suffering from dementia which were passed on to Gill Sadler for the Dementia Café at Fareham Community Hospital. We also knit and sew for the still born baby and premature baby unit at QA hospital.

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I would like to thank you all for your support. Our theme for 2017 is “Faith in Action”. In the words of Mother Teresa “Faith in action is love and love in action is service. Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.”

Jean Buckles, Branch Leader

MUSIC GROUP

The Music Group continues to support the monthly 10am Family Service and Creative Communion services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays respectively, together with occasional special services. It's a great privilege to be able to contribute to the spiritual life at St Mary's by providing a more contemporary style of music to accompany modern songs (and hymns), and enrich congregational worship. Our one aim is that our worship will be pleasing to God and draw us ever closer into His presence.

The Worship Today songbook provides our main resource for the 10 am service and has served us well for many years but is now dated and consequently we are not able to access the wealth of new material that has been written over the past 15 years. More up-to-date resources are available but we need to decide if we should purchase a new songbook or move to projected words which would also give us the flexibility to project scripture readings, liturgy and prayers etc. In response to the Growing our Church feedback we will be reflecting on this and other areas for improvement over the coming months. I'd be interested in hearing any further views.

Numerically the Music Group continues to hold it's own with Josephine on keyboard, Jade, Penny, and Bob on acoustic guitar and Steve on bass. Our instrumentalists include Alison (Oboe) and Claire (Sax), joined on occasions by Elena (Flute), Emma (clarinet), Ben (Drums) and Ed (trumpet). Our vocalists – Lyn, Lorraine and Brenda continue to serve the group faithfully. It continues to be a blessing to have Lyn join me on piano to assist in leading the praise songs on the 4th Sunday. I'd also like to thank Mike for helping out on guitar whilst Brenda and I were away during the Autumn.

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The Music Group meets to practice in Church at 7.30 pm on the 2nd and 4th (or 5th) Sundays of the month during term time. We are always keen to welcome new members so if you feel called to offer your musical talents and/or vocal enthusiasm please do come along to any practice or speak to Brenda or Bob. In addition, if there are songs that you have heard elsewhere and would like us to introduce to St Mary's please do drop us a note with your requests and we'll look to incorporate them into our repertoire.

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S GROUPS

Children from toddlers through to teenagers participate in these monthly groups, running alongside the 10am Sunday service. We have three groups: Pathfinders are children in school year 6 or above; Explorers in school years 3-5; and climbers/scramblers are our infant school and pre-schoolers. Age related activities following a church or bible theme are provided, which may include crafts, singing, drama, video and/or cooking. The Sunday Children's Groups are running once a month, usually the 4th Sunday for about 10 months a year.

Thank you to all involved in Children and Families work- practical support, love and prayers.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship is a friendly group of ladies who meet on the third Monday of the month, either in the Church Hall Lounge or at a member's house.

Our programme this year included a talk from our past Lady Mayoress, a cookery evening, a shabby chic demonstration, a talk about Polycast, a local walk, a member's trip to India and our social was a fabulous Spanish themed evening.

Once a year, we join up with the Men's Fellowship either on a Monday or Tuesday. One of our outreach events is providing the hospitality given to those attending the Solent Singers' Concert just before Christmas, this has

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proved a great success. We usually end the season with a social evening where partners are invited. With our remaining funds, we support charities decided by our members.

If you require more information or are interested in joining our group please contact St Mary's Church Office with your details, and then we can contact you directly.