



**The Parish Church of
Saint George the Martyr
Waterlooville**



**Annual Report and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2015**

**The Reverend Mike Sheffield,
The Vicarage, 5 Deanswood Drive, Waterlooville PO7 7RR**

Banks:

**Lloyds TSB
Bank PLC
272 London Road
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 7HN**

**HSBC Bank PLC
312 London
Road
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 7DX**

**Mr Paul Read
Independent Examiner
9 Tamar Down
Waterlooville
Hants PO7 8QJ**

**THERE WILL BE A ST GEORGE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH
MEETING ON SUNDAY 24th APRIL 2016 IN THE CHURCH
AFTER THE 10 am EUCHARIST**

A G E N D A

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. MEETING OF PARISHIONERS
to elect two Churchwardens to serve for one year
4. MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS
Report by Electoral Roll Officer
5. Minutes of 2014 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 3 PCC members
8. Election of Sidespersons
9. Reports from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer and church groups
10. Appointment of Independent Examiner

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 19th April 2015 in the church and commencing at 11.15 am. There were 55 persons present.

The Parish Priest, Fr Mike Sheffield, was in the Chair.

1 **WELCOME:** Fr Mike extended a warm welcome to everyone to the APCM at St George's. He explained that there are two meetings, the first for the parishioners and the second for the congregation.

2 **APOLOGIES** were received from David and Margaret Cavey, Sue and Bob Andrews, Barbie and Don Lloyd, Candy and John Williams, Julia and Richard Spurgeon, Abi Morgan, Marian Haughton, Sandra Hewett, Lisa Toft, Fiona Ross and Pat Winter.

3 **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT TWO CHURCHWARDENS:** Fr Mike said that we need to appoint a Clerk to the meeting and proposed Jane Cook and this was agreed unanimously. Fr Mike said that the earliest record of churchwardens is 1127 when they had two main functions – upkeep of the roads in the parish and escorting moral delinquents to court! Fr Mike asked “What is the difference between God and the Churchwarden” – answer: “God does not think he is a Churchwarden”!

Although in this parish we elect Churchwardens to serve for 4 years they still have to be re-elected yearly. Linda Wainwright has one more year to go and is happy to carry on. Rosy has just completed her first year and is happy to continue. Fr Mike thanked them both for the massive amount of work they do. It is therefore necessary to ask whether everyone is happy for Linda Wainwright to stay on for another year. Linda Wainwright was proposed by Rosa Miller and seconded by David Palmer. It is therefore necessary to ask whether everyone is happy for Rosy to carry on. This was proposed by Colin Monk and seconded by Tony Rice-Oxley and both were unanimously agreed.

Fr Mike also thanked the two Churchwardens assistants – Tony Rice-Oxley and Jaye Warren who are happy to continue for a further year.

4 **MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS / REPORT BY ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER:** Tony Rice-Oxley, Electoral Roll

Officer reported that there are 177 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of these 71 are outside the parish and 7 have sadly been removed through death. If anyone wishes to apply they can be added at any time during the year and agreed by the PCC. Thank you to Tony.

Fr Mike explained that we are keen to have as many people's e-mail addresses as possible so that people can be contacted quickly with important announcements, eg deaths. On Page 7 of the Bulletin there is a form for you to complete with your up-to-date e-mail address. Please complete this even if you know that we have your correct e-mail address and return to John Johnson or one of the Churchwardens.

5 **MINUTES OF THE 2014 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING:** There were no amendments and the minutes were agreed unanimously as a true and accurate record The accounts have been audited by Paul Read there has been no alterations necessary to them.

6 **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.14:**

Dawn gave the following report:

The first thing to mention is that we ended the year with a deficit of funds of £29,598.60. This is after paying for the work on the organ which cost £17841.60 of which we had £5200 in legacies.

Our investment value has increased in value by £1021.14 and was valued at £21,454.55 at the end of December. This was after making a withdrawal of £10,000 to cover our expenditure during the year. In addition to this we also withdrew £17,500 from the UTB account leaving a balance of £64,864.56 at 31 December 2014. We opened a separate savings account with HSBC which has a balance of £300.04 at the year end, to keep specific legacies in, in order to not distort the current account balance.

The main bank account held at HSBC had a balance of £6,020.48 at the end of December.

We have had the addition of the Ladies Group this year, and although it was difficult to get the figures from them initially, the accounts do now balance to the bank statements.

The donation figure is down on last year by £4867.23. This comes from Donations made to the church and also collections from

baptisms which we receive half of, and the other half goes to the charity of the month.

The fundraising figure is very good again this year amounting to £8482.06 and takes into account the money taken by the auction (£1329), and money received from Bonusball (£400), Friday coffee morning (£300) and 100 club (£568.54), votive sales (£356.50) and Bulb sales (£1021.00) to mention just a few.

We have received dividends from our investment and these have come out slightly lower this year at £1049.89, which was to be expected with the current financial climate.

We received £9048.37 from HMRC in respect of Gift Aid. This is a way we can increase our income. If you do pay tax on income or pensions and have not signed a Gift Aid declaration form, I urge you to do so as it does not cost you anything but the church gains 25p in every pound you donate.

Fees received by the PCC were £1283 lower than expected. This money came mainly from funerals as we did not hold many weddings again last year. This resulted in the assigned fees payable to the Diocese also to be lower.

Moving to Expenditure we managed to pay our full parish share again this year amounting to £53,800. Church and grounds maintenance was over budget and this was due to the electrical work that was needed in the church and emergency repairs to the roof. A big thank you goes to John Hood who has steadily been working his way around the church and completing maintenance jobs saving us money in the process.

Honoraria has come in under budget due to the sad passing of Stella late in the year, and in contrast to this, fees paid out ended up over budget due to paying organists on a service basis.

Photocopying costs are high as it was discovered that we had not been receiving invoices for the actual copies used and this resulted in a bill of over £850.

I have again depreciated the church hall by 2% as in previous years and this came to £2823 leaving a balance of the value of the hall as £138,319.

This year has again been a difficult year with income dropping and

expenditure increasing, and with our parish share again being increased by the diocese, we are not out of trouble yet. However myself, and the PCC look very closely at everything we spend your money on, and I hope with do this wisely and prayerfully.

May I take this opportunity of thanking the Fabric and Finance committee for all their help and support during the year, without which I would not be able to continue in this position.

- 7 **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS:** First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 9 times over the last year. Fr Mike explained that there are two halves – the ex officio members, ie Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary and the 9 elected members who stand for 3 years. Over the last year attendance has not been great, only 65% so if you are thinking of being a PCC member please do try and attend the meetings. This year we are losing Geoff Davies, Colin Monk and Abi Morgan on PCC so a big thank you to them at the end of their 3 years. We therefore need 3 new members to serve on the PCC for 3 years. We have 2 people who have filled in forms and volunteered to join the PCC – Sheilah Hall, proposed by Linda Wainwright and seconded by Dawn Trimby, Richard Handy proposed by Lesley Handy and seconded by Colin Monk. These two people were agreed unanimously. The third person is Patricia Byrne. She is not confirmed but Fr Mike has spoken to the Archdeacon who said that she can be co-opted at the first PCC meeting on 5th May. Fr Mike asked if there were any other nominations. There were no other nominations and it was agreed unanimously that Sheilah Hall and Richard Handy be elected to the PCC and Patricia Byrne be co-opted at the first PCC meeting on 5th May. Fr Mike said that we will now have our full quota on the PCC.
- 8 **ELECTION OF SIDESPERSONS:** Dick Handy said that the Meet and Greet and Sidespersons rota is looking very healthy and he read out all the names and thanked the team for all they do. Fr Mike said this is a very important job as it is the first impression people get and the first people visitors get to talk to when they come into the church. Acceptance of the list of sidespersons was agreed unanimously.
- 9 **INDIVIDUAL REPORTS:** The congregation had either downloaded a copy of the APCM report including all the individual reports or had received a hard copy from Jane so Fr Mike quickly went through each report to ask if there were any questions.

- **Churchwardens'** report. This report was read out in full by Linda Wainwright as below:

2014 has been another busy year with much going on in all areas of church life at the Parish Church in Waterlooville, which we endeavour to keep open as much as possible for the whole community to access.

We continue to give thanks for Father Mike's ministry, leadership and guidance here at St George's and the experience of a wide variety of services. The style of worship is modern Anglo-Catholic with the sacrament of Holy Communion celebrated at the majority of services. We are also blessed to have Father Ray Chapman, who freely gives of his time, to support Father Mike and the Parish. Our youth and Sunday School children are fully involved in Family Eucharists and we ensure their instruction closely follows the religious seasons of the year. During Lent we all studied St Mark's Gospel and then looked at Christian symbols throughout the summer holiday period.

Our own "Supporting Your Church" stewardship programme devised in-house was promoted during Lent, with appropriate sermons, presentations and screening of a Diocesan DVD about finance. Focusing on Church services, Church life and finance the project was a great success with over 170 offers of help arising therefrom (ranging from becoming a server or sidesperson to making coffee after the Sunday service or cleaning the vestry toilet!), together with an increase in pledged planned giving. But clearly nothing stays the same for long and there is an ongoing need to review our position regularly. Indeed we are pleased to welcome an increasing number of new worshipers to St George's and trust they soon feel part of our Church Family, and we pray that this growth may continue.

The awaited Quinquennial Inspection Report from our appointed Architect was received in January and stated "The church is in good order and is clean and welcoming" and identified essential works to be done over the next 5 years. But because we have a Finance and Fabric Committee with an ongoing inspection and maintenance plan in place, most things were under consideration already and we were commended for this. Our thanks are due to the team of men who have the practical skills and technical expertise to do so much work around the buildings and save us a lot of expense. Apart from the organ the main expenditure this

year was work on the choir vestry roof and general repairs including heavy gardening work, a further upgrade of electrical systems within the church for Health and Safety reasons and an emergency repair to the sacristy roof when water started to leak through into the sacristy during a very wet spell of weather. Dick Handy has continued to share his expertise and prepared the necessary faculty documents to enable our magnificent organ to be refurbished, funded by a number of generous donations for which we are very grateful.

However our joy was overshadowed by the sudden and untimely death of our Musical Director and Organist Stella Starr before she was able to play the refurbished organ and we mourn the loss of a gifted musician. It is with sadness we also record the deaths of June Bradley and Winifred Mancz , both of whom contributed so much to life at St George's and gave years of devoted service in many different roles. Church members John Towns, David Hodgens, Jean Kightley and Vivienne Wakefield also died during 2014 and are much missed. May they all rest in peace.

As well as attending mandatory training courses and consultative meetings we have represented St George's at a number of services at other churches. The congregation again joined together with the other Town Churches for the Women's World Day of Prayer, the Good Friday walk of witness and Christmas carols in the precinct. The Palm Sunday procession commenced for the first time from the Berewood estate. The Waterloo Music festival had another successful year and again played its part in outreach to the wider community. The Church was packed with children and their parents for all the schools Christmas concerts and hosted other musical concerts during the year concluding with the now annual Naomi House "Light up a Life" service.

We could not fulfil our duties, nor would the Church function, without help from a huge team of people, far too many to name here, formal committees, teams, various small groups and individuals. If we have failed to thank you during the year, apologies, we value your contribution and THANK YOU ALL now.

The Church is the people, not the building, but we are both very conscious that at times the need to look after the building and the finances sadly detracts us from worship, ministry, mission and all things spiritual. However the whole cannot exist without all the parts.

We will continue to serve you to the best of our ability with your support and with God's help.

Linda Wainwright and Rosy Stone

Fr Mike said it is difficult to cast your mind back to things that happened in 2014 but he echoed Linda Wainwright's thanks to Fr Ray. He does a huge amount of work in the ministry and behind the scenes,

- **Hall** report – Tony Rice-Oxley thanked the Hall team who work amazingly hard, especially to Geoff Davies our Treasurer who is standing down at the end of the year. Tony gave Dawn a cheque for £1,000 from the Hall Committee as a donation to church funds.
- **Pastoral** report – Fr Mike explained that the PCC is divided into 3 committees: Finance and Fabric, Pastoral and Hall. Pastoral has responsibility for DBS checking which is a big job and Sonja Barrand took this over from Sandra Hewett. Fr Mike explained that this includes Vulnerable Adults/Child Protection and Youth Coordinator. Thank you to Sonja for all she does and also to the Pastoral Committee for all they do.
- **St George's Ladies Group** report – are now an official church group and produce accounts for Dawn Trimby.

Q: Pam Dinneen years ago they had a young wives group who eventually joined the Mothers Union and always came under the church umbrella. Pam wondered why they had become detached from the church?

A: Fr Mike said he cannot answer that question. Could be partly to do with the fact that a lot of the ladies did not come to the church. Dick Handy said it was the PCC who had approached them in the same way as parent and toddler group last year. With Charity Commission Laws now it has to be clearly defined that they are part of the church and they produce accounts to give to the Treasurer.

- **George's Men** – meeting tomorrow to play indoor cricket at Dick Handy's house.
- **Walsingham Cell** report – Fr Mike said this group meets a couple of times during the year at St George's and makes the pilgrimage to Walsingham the weekend after Easter. 21 people set out last

Friday. Lynda Sheffield said that as it is called Walsingham Cell people tend to think of it as a unique group. This is misleading and if anyone would like to go do please consider coming next year. Fr Mike said that 5 members of St George's were servers and all 5 served at one service and the MC in charge said he remembered them from previously as he was very impressed with them.

Fr Mike said that now is probably a good time to thank David and all the servers who do a fantastic job.

- **Holy Dusters** report – Fr Mike thanked the Holy Dusters for always keeping the church clean particularly after the floor was done. Adina said they are always looking for more helpers – 7am Thursday morning. Adina said that the glass doors get very smeared very quickly so if anyone would like to come up during the week and wipe them down that would be helpful.
- **Church Flower Fund** report – Thanks to June Diaper, Lynn Winter and Sue Hodgins for all they do.
- **Bible Reading Fellowship** report – Linda Wainwright has some free copies if anyone would like to see what is involved.
- **Deanery Synod** report – both Deanery Synod representatives had sent their apologies to this meeting but they gave a very full report.
- **St George's News and Website** – huge thanks to John Johnson for the enormous amount of work he does. The website is excellent and is used by people to access information on St George's – eg weddings, baptisms etc.
- **Sunday School** report – Fr Mike said it is good to see it is growing and there are about 20 children on the books although rarely there at the same time. Thanks to the Sunday School leaders and helpers.
- **Team Ascalon** report – has had rather a crisis over the last few months. Things were arranged and meals prepared and the young people weren't turning up. Questionnaires were sent to all the parents and they were asked to fill it in with their young person and return it. 21 questionnaires were given out and not one returned by the deadline so Team Ascalon is taking a break at the moment.
- **St George's Choir** report – have battled on over the last year and

it has been a very difficult time for the choir. Thank you to Mark Langtry and Paul Taylor for all they have done. The post of organist has now been advertised. Fr Mike said we have had one enquiry from Yorkshire asking what the accommodation is like! We have someone coming to look around tomorrow. Thanks also to Paul who comes to play at 2 Beeches a couple of times a month.

- **St George's Band** report – Don Lloyd not at the meeting. Fr Mike said Don is a very accomplished musician and if anyone plays any type of instrument he would be able to integrate you in to the Band. Really need new members so please talk to Don if you are interested.
- **Social and Fundraising** – Fundraising is now a separate group of people trying to organise a fundraiser each month. Thanks to everyone who is involved in that committee. Please support the various fundraisers.
- **100 Club** – Colin Monk said this brought in £545 to church funds over the year.
- **AOB**
 - Eileen Oades proposed a vote of thanks to Lynda Sheffield for all she does.
 - Linda Wainwright thanked Jane Cook for all she does a lot of which is behind the scenes and goes unrecognised.
 - Rosy said thank you to Fr Mike and Lynda. Thanked Fr Mike for the beautiful spirituality of the services he takes and the relaxed atmosphere of the services at St George's.

10 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:** we are very grateful to Paul Read (who usually attends the 8am service) for again successfully examining the accounts for 2014. It was proposed by Dick Handy and seconded by Anne Morgan and agreed unanimously that we would ask him to examine the accounts again next year.

11 **COMMENTS FROM PARISH PRIEST**
Fr Mike gave the following report in the form of a sermon during the service:

From cleaner heating pipes to clearer organ pipes.

From greeting our newest Church babies to grieving with our friends who have died.

From welcoming great audiences at concerts to praying with just one or two individuals,
St George's Church has had another busy year.

There's been lots of work done in the Church building, lots of work done around the building outside, lots of people involved in activities but most importantly of all, there's been lots of people coming here to worship God. That, after all, is the reason why St George's Church sits in the middle of Waterlooville - a permanent reminder that God is in our midst and that - our services, our social activities, our fundraising, our concerts - everything we do here is to give glory to God and to witness to his presence in this town.

Throughout the Annual Meeting following this service, we always hear lots of "thank you's".

That's not just a lame phrase we, the whole Church, all its members, are incredibly grateful to those who spend time and money looking after our building, our grounds and our worship.

Thank you for all you do here.

I want to concentrate for just a few moments on a few big things that have happened over the last year.

- The first is obvious you can't have failed to notice our super new, shiny floor. Thanks to all involved with that and they're not finished yet. Next week the same team is going to tackle the floor out there between the door and the choir vestry, and then in a few week's time, they're going to give this floor a further coat of polish. This is just one example and believe me there's loads, where Church members have worked to create a better environment for our worship and at the same time have saved St George's hundreds of pounds.

And that leads me to the second thing that has happened over the last year

- You may remember our plea for money in February. It looked as though our accounts weren't going to balance and that forecast was right. Without drawing some money from our quite small reserves, we would have ended 2014 in debt. The appeal to you was to make sure the same thing doesn't happen this year, and next year and the following year until all our reserves are gone. Well thank you. Somehow you've dug deep and increased your giving to St. George's.

The PCC is now moving forward with confidence - we're not out of the woods yet - maybe we never will be, but there is some light at the end of the financial tunnel and just as important, the members of the Fabric and Finance Committee can at last sleep through the night! Don't forget, by the way, if you feel you missed the boat, it's not too late to increase your standing order, or indeed, to start one.

One of the great achievements of 2014 must be the refurbishment of our wonderful organ. It needs to be cleaned about every 15 years, as without it the organ would start to sound a bit odd and eventually stop playing altogether as the pipes filled with dirt. When Stella was told about the work, she said: "What a lucky girl am I". It's just so sad that she prepared for the work, she looked forward to playing the opening recital and then she so tragically died. That was indeed an awful moment for this Church. It was perhaps appropriate that during her Memorial Concert last month, Rod, her husband, played the opening recital in her place. On the organ is now a plaque which tells people of the future that the work was done in memory of, and with money from, Bob and Edwin Sheppard, Madeline Lennon and Stella Starr. Thank you to Mark Langtry and Paul Taylor and to all the other organists who have accompanied our worship over the last few months. We have advertised for a new, permanent organist, by the way. We now wait to see who applies, but please continue to pray for God's guidance in this area.

Now if you cast your mind back over a year you'll remember that we had a big Lent programme in 2014 called Support Your Church. You were asked to offer time, money and expertise to help your Church, and some of you offered to form a Pastoral Visiting Group. Those people have all be contacted, they've attended a couple of training sessions, and this morning they're going to be commissioned. What for? Well, the Church is bigger than one person. It's not always the Parish Priest that's wanted for a visit and it's not always appropriate either but there are people in the parish - some who used to come to Church but can't get here anymore, who would like a visit from the Church. For a long time, members of St. George's have visited our Baptism families. When they go and knock on the door they are the face of the Church. Today we're starting a new group of visitors, mainly to drop in and keep touch with Church members who are going through difficult or traumatic times. Alongside the clergy they'll be the face of St. George's in the homes of Waterlooville. I hope you will welcome them, support them and encourage them.

And that's where I want to end thank you for your friendship, your love and your backing for both Lynda and myself. We love working and

worshipping with you and now look forward to another year as part of St George's Church.

The meeting closed at 12.25 pm and was followed by the Parish lunch.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2015

Background

St George's Church has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent (The Reverend Mike Sheffield) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the churchyard and church hall. During 2015 St George's held two services every Sunday (a said Eucharist at 8.00 am and a sung Eucharist at 10.00 am). Normally there has been an evening service at least twice a month with one being traditional evensong sung by the Church choir. Other services have included Taize services, special festival services and a healing Eucharist. Our partnership churches were invited to the Taize services and there was a good response with refreshments after the service. During the seasons of Lent and Easter, St George's ran an educational programme together with the full range of traditional services and during the summer holidays, invited families and children to involve themselves in the special August Eucharists exploring Books of the Bible.

Membership

Members of the PCC are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent: The Reverend Mike Sheffield Chairman

Ex Officio: Jane Cook (Secretary)
Dawn Trimby (Treasurer)

Wardens: Linda Wainwright
Rosemary Stone

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Barbie Lloyd
Elaine Shimbart

Elected Members:
Sonja Barrand
Sheilah Hall
Dick Handy
Marian Haughton
John Hood
Lynne McNeill
Tony Rice-Oxley
Candy Williams

Co-opted Members:
Patricia Byrne

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees/groups, which meet between full meetings of the PCC.

Church Attendance

Tony Rice-Oxley, as Electoral Roll Officer reported that there are 177 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, of these 71 are outside the parish and 7 have sadly been removed through death.

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2015, was 131 adults and 15 children including weekday attendances, but this number increased at festivals.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 10 times during the year, with an average attendance of 82.5%. Fabric & Finance, Pastoral, Social, Fundraising and Hall sub-committees continued to meet in the interim, to enable items to be discussed in more detail, and reported back to the full PCC. The PCC will continue to invite outgoing Churchwardens to remain on the PCC for a further year to provide continuity.

Comprehensive budget accounts continue to be e-mailed to PCC members before the meeting to give people a chance to send any questions to Dawn so they can be answered at the meeting and save time.

We have supported over 22 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £248 to the Children's Society (a large part of which came from a very successful Christingle Service on Christmas Eve) and continued support of four children under the African Child Trust Scheme. Other benefiting charities included Rowans Hospice, Hannah's Holiday Home, Southern Domestic Abuse, EMBRACE, Christian Aid, The Rainbow Centre, RNLI, SPANA, Children in Distress, Cancer Research, The Haven, The Blendworth Centre, Children Aid Refugee Appeal, Hampshire and IOW Air Ambulance, Salvation Army and Havant Home Start. These were all retiring collections. Money was constantly being raised for church funds over the year, in particular £2,608.52 at the Summer Fete, £2,279.93 at the Christmas Bazaar, £4,511 from the St George's Shop and £2,033 from the sale of plants, bulbs and votives throughout the year.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders has increased to £38,128.28, £5,333 more than last year excluding tax? The tax recovered on all Gift Aid donations for the year was £10,188.79, an increase of £3,479. We did not have a St George's Day Gift Day this year. Contributions on the collection plate raised £4,511.45. £105,664.18 (a decrease of £9,054.77 from 2015) was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St. George's

Church, including the full contribution to the parish share of £56,164 (an increase of £2,364 compared to 2015).

Our remaining fund balances are invested with the CBF Church of England Investment and United Trust Bank.

Paul Read agreed to examine the Accounts again and the PCC are very grateful to him for the time he has spent on this.

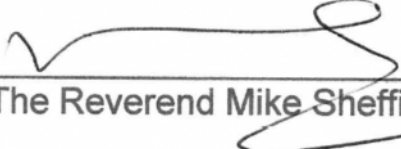
The following has happened during the course of the year and most will be written about in more detail in the following reports:

- The Parish breakfasts are still very popular and will continue.
- Taize services took place during the year.
- Waterloo Music Festival – celebrated its 10th anniversary with another very successful festival which was held in June.
- We joined with our friends from the Baptist and Catholic churches for various processions throughout the year.
- There was a highly successful Church Shop in October.
- Naomi House held their “Light up a Life” service again in December.
- Two school Christmas concerts were held in December with local schools taking part. This was again very popular with many people attending.
- The Travelling Nativity again went round the parish during Advent and was very popular. Many thanks to Sue Andrews for knitting the angels for another year.

On behalf of the PCC

Dawn Trimby, Treasurer
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed:



The Reverend Mike Sheffield

April 2016

Treasurer's Report 2015

Incorporating all the Church group finances with the main Church and Hall Accounts, the final figures initially show a deficit of £3,347.81. If depreciation of the Church Hall at 2% amounts to £2,768.38 this decreases to £579.43.

For another year St George's hosted the Waterlooville Music Festival and the PCC received a generous donation of £2,000 from that source. This is the only income that the church receives from the Music Festival as it is self-funding. Other major donations received included £581 from the 100 Club, £950 from the Social and Fundraising Committee (including Friday Coffee Funds) and £500 from the Bonus Ball.

Donations from Planned Giving was higher than budgeted receiving £38,238.23 compared to £32,794.79 in 2014, and we received £9,827.80 in Gift Aid tax recovery. We did not have a Gift Day this year.

Interest on bank and building society accounts amounted to £1,174 and the value of PCC investments increased by £292. The Investment fund is currently valued at £31,746. Throughout 2015, £540 was received as dividends.

Fundraising was higher than expectations by £15,886. We are very grateful to all the members of the Social and Fundraising committee for their dedication and commitment of all St George's fundraisers, without which we would be in a very bad financial situation.

Charity giving exceeded £3,342 and we have supported a wide range of Charities both at home and overseas. Funds generated by the Wednesday Coffee Mornings have also supported a variety of Charities together with donations to the Church Hall.

The budget for 2015 was again very tight. It is difficult to predict income based on the generosity of those who support St George's Church, against the knowledge that expenditure is likely to increase each year. We had a very successful giving drive during Lent and this has resulted in our deficit for the year being a lot lower than we originally expected. The preferred method of giving is the new Parish Giving Scheme. Not only is this the safest form of giving in a physical sense (carrying a lot of change through Waterlooville Precinct to the bank is not ideal), it also means that we do receive the donations on a regular basis. Although the green envelope scheme is still in operation, we do not receive envelopes every week from all the givers, and the amount in the envelopes also differ. May I take this opportunity to point out that if you have signed up to the green envelope scheme, it is understood that you will give the same amount each week, regardless of whether you

have come to church. This may mean paying two or three weeks in one go. Forming a realistic budget may not always be possible but will hopefully guide us through the year. I pray for guidance in the coming years as I am very aware that we are going to be in a very difficult financial position with our parish share due to increase by approximately 7% next year (£4,000 approximately). May I also take this opportunity to thank everyone who has already reviewed their planned giving to the church. Without you all, St George's Church would not be the church we all know and love.

My thanks go to the Fabric and Finance Committee for all the work they put in and also for their support, together with the support of the PCC. On behalf of St George's Church, my thanks are also due to Mr Paul Read, for examining the Accounts this year.

A summary of the Accounts is shown overleaf and the full version is displayed on the Church notice board. Copies are available on request.

Dawn Trimby
Honorary Treasurer to the PCC

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2015**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2015 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2014 YEAR TOTAL
INCOME					
Planned Giving S/Orders	32565	-	32565	28000	28004
Planned Giving Green Env	5563	-	5563	4600	4791
Gift Aided Pink Envelopes	2942	-	2942	3300	3480
Gift Aid Tax	10189	-	10189	9300	6709
General Collections	4511	-	4511	3400	3947
Gift Days	-	-	-	650	-
Donations & Appeals	7086	-	7086	4000	4362
Liturgical Donations	-	1878	1878	1100	1463
Bookstall	262	-	262	250	1105
Parish Magazine Advertising	835	-	835	750	748
Parish Magazine Sales	132	-	132	200	219
Fees received (PCC)	3632	-	3632	3600	3717
Fete, Bazaar, Fund Raising	15766	120	15886	10000	8481
Sales	98	-	98	-	131
Photocopying Income	503	-	503	550	504
Income from Investments/Bank	1715	-	1715	1000	2718
Unbudgetted items:					
Fees received (Assigned)	1382	-	1382	-	1096
Other Funds (Charities)	-	3475	3475	-	3925
Hall Lettings	12895	-	12895	-	12757
Youth Group Activities	-	-	-	-	122
Toddler Group Income	-	425	425	-	468
Social Committee	1073	-	1073	-	1195
Ex.ord Income	138	-	138	-	102
Ladies Group	1746	-	1746	-	1443
Pastoral funds received	107	-	107	-	-
TOTALS	103,140	5,898	109,038	71,150	91,487

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2015**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2015 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2014 YEAR TOTAL
EXPENDITURE					
Parish Share	56164	-	56164	56164	53800
Gas/Elec/Water Insurance	3285	-	3285	3800	3286
Church and Grounds Maintenance	3268	-	3268	3000	7510
Clergy Expenses	3061	-	3061	3300	3156
Administrator	2320	-	2320	2520	2031
Liturgical Costs	-	2053	2053	1300	1434
Magazine, Bookstall & Bulletin	786	-	786	750	671
Piano and Organ tune	157	-	157	250	157
Honoraria and Salaries	500	-	500	3000	2250
Administration	1427	-	1427	1500	1524
Photocopier Costs	1827	-	1827	1200	2459
Fees paid out	3669	-	3669	2150	2725
Capitation Fee	30	-	30	30	30
Fundraising & Sales costs	1029	120	1149	0	352
Pastoral Costs	226	-	226	-	175
Music Support	422	-	422	-	3
Sunday School	53	-	53	70	56
Unbudgetted items:					
Assigned Fees	1382	-	1382	-	1126
Ex-Ord Outgoing	480	20	500	-	17992
Hall Running Costs	16673	150	16823	-	9564
Hall Depreciation @ 2%	2766	-	2766	-	2823
Youth Group Activities	7	488	495	-	571
Social Committee	2223	-	2223	-	1523
Giving to Charities	-	3342	3342	-	3994
Quinquennial costs	2198	-	2198	-	1545
Ladies Group	2260	-	2260	-	328
TOTALS	10,6213	6,173	11,2386	78,794	121,085

Churchwardens Report

2015 has been yet another busy year, with much going on in all areas of church life at St George's. In February a Giving Campaign with sermons took place and included a letter from the churchwardens outlining the need to address a shortfall within the church budget. A Fundraising Task Force was set up to look at ways of raising money. During their Lent sermons the clergy answered questions posed by members of the congregation and even learnt things themselves.

In March a concert was held in memory of Stella Starr, our former Music Director. The Palm Sunday procession started from the newly opened Sainsbury's store on a blustery day.

In April there was the annual pilgrimage to Walsingham. The newly trained Pastoral Visiting Team was commissioned during the St George's Day Service.

In June the fete was held on a cold but mercifully dry day. Takings were up on the previous year. The Waterlooville Music Festival was again a great success with more people than ever coming through the doors and continues to be a major source of outreach. The churchwardens met with Archdeacon Joanne for the annual Visitation at St James' Church, Emsworth.

During August Fr Mike's sermons explored different sections of the bible.

At our Harvest Festival in October we welcomed Rod Starr as our new organist and musical director and in the interim period Mark Langtry maintained the standard of music expected at St George's.

Church funds were boosted considerably by takings from the biennial church shop which ran for two weeks.

Bishop Christopher and Archbishop Daniel Sarfo of Kumasi, Ghana confirmed 11 candidates from St George's and two from Hayling Island at a service on Sunday 25 October.

On 22 November the new red pew cushions and altar kneelers, purchased thanks to generous donations, were placed in position by the congregation and blessed at the Sunday service.

Sales at the Christmas Bazaar in December were a further welcome addition to church finances.

A new team was set up towards the end of the year to look at Communications headed by Chris Gadd and in December we received a Communications Report by Neil Pugmire from the Diocese. This will be one of the main priorities to pursue during 2016.

Throughout the year George's Men have performed numerous DIY tasks to maintain the upkeep of the church and the hall, in particular the repainting of the floor in the church.

We continued to join with the other town centre churches for services and attended seminars and training courses as required.

New members and visitors are warmly welcomed to our services and the church family.

It is with sadness we record the deaths of Will Graham, Jim Jones, Bernard Tebbutt and Margaret Anderson during the past year. May they rest in peace.

Our thanks are due to Fr Ray and everyone who has contributed to the life and work of the parish church of St George The Martyr. Without your help our duties would be impossible.

Finally our grateful thanks are due to Fr Mike for his inspired leadership, hard work and dedication to his role with us. We are very fortunate to have you as our Parish Priest.

And Linda Wainwright adds:

I note in my first report I wrote "Services and events do not just happen. Christian folk inspired by the Holy Spirit are busying about making things happen". That is still very true today but many of you will have no idea what goes on behind the scenes, or be aware of the time, effort and planning involved in running all aspects of this busy Parish Church. I can however assure you it is a great team effort and my personal thanks go to every member of that huge team.

But ponder on what this Church provides for you and consider for a moment what you could contribute in return to help in some small way, particularly if you do not already do so, and thus spread the load.

It has been a privilege to serve as your Churchwarden for the past 4 years. I remain a committed member of St George's Church family and thank you for your encouragement and support during my term of office.

I pray the Churchwardens and PCC members will continue to be guided and led forward on their journey by the light of Christ.

Linda Wainwright and Rosy Stone
Churchwardens

St George's Church Hall Report

2015 saw the hall receive an income of £12,895. Unfortunately the level of income was down on 2014 as we have had 2 long term hirers not renew their bookings. We continue to have a steady flow of one off bookings but ideally need some permanent bookings to take up vacant spots. We have improved our advertising on the Church web site and also placed a banner outside the hall. If any parishioners know of organisations looking for accommodation would they please contact Sheilah Hall.

Expenditure for the year was £16,673. This exceeded our budget by £4,748. This over spend became necessary as the hall roof was leaking and the disabled access ramp was in a state of disrepair. The western side of the roof had to have felt fitted and a number of broken slates replaced. In addition the disabled access slope was repaired and resurfaced. Hopefully these two major repairs will not need revisiting for some years.

As with any building that is over 100 years old there is a continuing need for ongoing maintenance and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking John Hood and others for undertaking various tasks which have saved the hall a considerable amount of money.

One of our larger regular expenses is heating and lighting. Over the past year we have had a number of occasions when the cleaners have found lights or heaters still on in the morning after a booking. We have now introduced an additional £10 charge where this occurs.

Finally my thanks must go to the whole hall committee who have worked very hard keeping the hall up and running. It is always difficult to mention individuals but I do feel I need to thank Sheilah Hall for her tireless work as Bookings Secretary, Geoff Davies who has retired as Hall Treasurer after a number of years keeping our books in order, Malcolm Brewer for agreeing to

take on the role of Treasurer and Tony Rice-Oxley for taking responsibility for the hall when I am not available.

Colin Monk
Chair, Hall Committee

The Mothers' Union Branch Report

Sadly, we are still declining in numbers. Our membership for 2015 stood at 19 but the support given by members is most admirable.

We are very grateful to Janet Johnson who acts as Minutes Secretary and provides reports on Branch activities for the church magazine. We are also indebted to Andrew Clark for his services as treasurer/cum book keeper and to Wendy his wife who collects our fees and sends out birthday and anniversary cards to the members.

Whilst we no longer take responsibility for the Wednesday coffee rota many of our members assist June Diaper, who generously took over from June Bradley. Similarly we no longer run the Homemade Cakes Stall at the church Fete or Christmas Bazaar but members assist Margaret and Susan Deal who have kindly taken over responsibility for these events.

Fundraising this year included a Coffee Morning which precluded the AGM in February. The £75 raised went to AFIA which this year provided days out for needy families, including a bus load from Havant who were taken for a day's outing to Ryde on the Isle of Wight. Margaret assisted with the planning and running of this day, which was greatly appreciated. A second Coffee Morning in October raised £115 for the Wheels Appeal to aid the MU CDC's [Community Development Co coordinators] overseas.

We have continued sending clothing, toiletries, towels and Christmas cards to the families at the Havant women's Refuge. Fiona Ross and Jennifer Higginbottom have made emergency toilet bags which we have filled for the QA Hospital Admissions Wards.

Our programme was varied. Speakers included Jennefer Higginbottom, who described some of her experiences as a midwife. Sue Kanavan, the Diocesan Training Officer, provided a memorable afternoon on the Theme for 2015 'United in Prayer'. She used music as well as visual aids for her excellent presentation. Our Lenten Meditation was led by the MU Diocesan Chaplain, Ven Dr Trevor Reader again using visual aids which included a pair of yellow socks which he wore at his daughter's wedding in Australia. Margaret Symonds talked on the subject of the Wave of Prayer and

introduced us to the new Diocesan Links which have just been established (January 2015). As a Branch we communicate with the Wentworth Falls Branch in the Sydney Diocese, Australia. They generously send us, four times a year, their inspiring magazine Mia Mia. Do try to read a copy of it. Sadly we hear very little from our Ghanaian Link at the Church of the Holy Redeemer, Cape Coast Diocese. We were happy to learn that the Branch at St Mary the Virgin, Axim has reopened.

Perhaps the visually most memorable presentation was provided by Sally Attwood (nee Dinneen) who shared with us her experiences of a year spent in Malawi, where her husband worked for VSO. We were so moved by the pictures of Manji Othandiza (meaning Helping Hands) near Blantyre, run in support of children orphaned by HIV, that a spontaneous collection was taken which raised £60.

The highlight of the year was the visit of the World Wide President Lynne Temby, in March. Several of us attended the Festival Service held in Portsmouth Cathedral, where Lynne gave the address. Our banner was carried in the procession. Some of us met Lynne the following day at Emsworth where tea was provided by the branch and she was able to talk to us informally.

The annual branch outing unfortunately had to be cancelled as only two members were able to go. We hope to do better next year.

Some of us attended the Mary Sumner Day Service and strawberry tea which followed it, which was held at St Cuthbert's Church Portsmouth. Other visits included a Christmas Party at Christ Church, Portsdown, an afternoon with the UCM at the Sacred Heart Church, Waterlooville and an afternoon with the ladies at the local Baptist Church.

In house activities included members sharing memories of holidays using mementoes. In October we talked about our favourite saints and in December held an Advent Miscellany which included readings, prayers and wooden symbols which were hung on a Jesse Tree.

We have continued to be run by the Committee and this has worked well as members give generous support for all we seek to do. However we do still need Branch Leadership, a job which can be shared.

I regretfully feel that as Contact Person/Branch Secretary /Overseas link I should give notice of retirement by the end of 2016, if not sooner. Someone else will be needed to take over my responsibilities. I shall of course continue to give the branch my support in all aspects of their work and social activities.

(I could be persuaded to continue as Programme Secretary if that would help).

Meanwhile we have a programme for 2016 and I feel sure we shall all work and pray to make it a success.

Margaret Symonds

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee met bi-monthly in 2015.

Anne Morgan continues her valuable contribution to the Sunday School by preparing lessons. There have been some changes in personnel amongst the Sunday School teachers and consequent changes in the planned activities. Linda Wainwright continues to help us by organising the rota for teachers.

Oaklands School kindly provided us with a holder for the St George's prayer cards.

The Waterlooville Food Bank continues to be well supported by the congregation. Barbie Lloyd, her family and other helpers regularly transport donated goods from the town centre to Wecock Living Waters Church.

During the year our annual Parish Breakfast was enjoyed by members of the congregation.

Sadly, due to lack of support Team Ascalon has had to be suspended for the time being.

The Pastoral Visiting Team is up and running and members of the congregation are regularly visited. All members of the team have received training, completed an e-learning module and been DBS checked.

Rosy Stone
Chairman Pastoral Committee

Vulnerable Adults

Definition of a Vulnerable Adult: A person aged 18 or over, who is or maybe in need of a community care service by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is, or maybe, unable to take care of his or herself, or unable to protect his or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

The parish now has a Pastoral visiting team which has been involved in visiting varying members of the congregation, for over 12 months. Many of those who are visited, may not always be able to attend church services and visitors are there to offer support, friendship and often help reduce the risk of isolation.

All visitors involved in the parish, have successfully completed Diocese safeguarding E-learning and have all received Diocese certificates as well as all being fully DBS checked.

In view of this all visitors and other volunteers are provided with basic awareness safeguarding vulnerable adults' wallet cards, to help ensure that the procedures we have in place safeguard vulnerable allegations, improper conduct and misunderstandings. More of these guidance cards can be ordered, as often as they are needed.

The parish has also researched with and has provided key rings to promote a local taxi firm specialised in offering wheel chair access, to enable members of the congregation to travel to parish services, when there may often be no other means of attending. The firm is called 626 and further details can always be provided, if not readily available from the church notice boards.

Child Protection

An independent audit has praised the arrangements that help to keep vulnerable people and children safe in the Anglican Diocese of Portsmouth. Portsmouth was one of four dioceses in the Church of England to pilot a new system of independent safeguarding audits.

One innovation in Portsmouth was the development of 'parish reviews' – sending an experienced professional to work alongside 10 parishes chosen at random, to help them to evaluate how good their safeguarding arrangements are. The plan is to make this a regular event for every parish in the future.

St George's was one of the parishes chosen at random, for one of these pilot reviews and the praises made about the Diocese are a testament to how well we all approach safeguarding and pastoral matters as a congregation. In the last report it was highlighted that the CRB has changed and is now called the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). This is a reminder that since then, there has been a change in how the forms are processed. I will send the applicants form to the Diocesan office but they now do not receive it back, instead it will be sent straight to the applicant. Therefore all applicants will need to photocopy and send the original to the Diocesan office. You keep

the photocopy safe and the Diocesan office will approve the form and send it back to you.

Dates for training courses are always available from me and are also available under the safeguarding link on the diocese website. E learning is now available for all volunteers to complete, without having to give up time in the week or weekend to attend a training course and I am happy to assist anybody who does not feel confident using a computer to complete this short online programme.

A red safeguarding file is always kept at the back of church, above the pigeon holes and continues to be regularly updated, for anybody in the parish to refer to. This folder contains the latest 'Safeguarding Matters' newsletters and an up to date version of the Diocese Safeguarding Handbook – 'In Safe Hands'.

Youth Coordinator

I continue to be involved as a leader helping to facilitate youth activities at St George's and the church's Sunday school lessons, events and involvement has continued to enrich parish life.

Sonja Barrand- Safeguarding Representative and Validator

St George's Ladies' Group

We started the year with a Beetle Drive in January followed by a talk on "The Mary Rose" by Trevor Sapey later in the month. In February there was an open meeting with Mike Curtis on "Arctic Convoys" followed later in the month by a talk by Tony Finley on "Growing Old Disgracefully". In March we had a visit to Waitrose in Waterlooville and a talk by Andrew Negus on "Thailand and Vietnam". In April we had a flower demonstration by "Tibbles" Florist Waterlooville and a Skittles evening later in the month. In May we had the Ukelele Band and our AGM on 28th May. There were no meetings in June.

In July we had a Charity Cheque Presentation and buffet followed on the 23rd July by our end of year dinner. We met again in September with subscriptions followed by a Quiz evening and later in the month a talk with slides by Brian Barrett entitled "History of Wickham". In October we had a talk by Roger Clark entitled "Tales out of School" and also a talk by Andrew Negus entitled "My Travels – Malaysia and Bali". In November we had a talk by Liddy Davidson entitled "The Boat Project" which was an open meeting for visitors and on 26th November there was an open meeting for visitors with entertainment by "Reflections". Unfortunately the Ladies' Group has had to close and our final meeting and dinner was held on 9th December at

Waterlooville Golf Club. To clear the outstanding money held in the account £170 was donated to St George's Church and £170 to Age Concern on 14th January.

Mrs Anne Brown
Chairperson

George's Men

The name tells the story - George's Men is open to all the gentlemen who regularly worship at St George's Church. There is no membership and no subscriptions, with each event being open to all men and paying for itself. Last year's programme included the now traditional Cribbage Night in January and to end the year a Christmas Skittles Match at Walderton. During Lent the group discussed the relevance of the Ten Commandments in the 21st century and in the autumn took part in a quiz evening with the gentlemen of St. Faith's Church in Havant. The group enjoyed an early summer visit to The Botley Brewery and in December experienced an evening's wine tasting. A new venture last year was the very successful Work Groups on Monday mornings which saw the gentlemen doing maintenance tasks around the Church and the Hall. George's Men will continue to assist in this way throughout 2016 for which the PCC is very grateful. All the mornings and evenings are publicised in the weekly Bulletin and all gentlemen from St. George's are welcome to come.

Fr Mike

Tweenies

The annual Christmas dinner was held at the end of January, with 25 people going to Barnards. This is always good fun with a secret Santa providing much hilarity. Lent soon approached with the Tweenies studying 'ZERO HOUR'. This concentrated on any part of the bible with a zero in it - 10 commandments, 30 pieces of silver, 40 days, and 40 nights. Very thought provoking.

Audrey Mentor, whose godmother was Gladys Aylward, led one of the most moving evenings. Many Tweenies listened whilst Audrey told stories of her childhood and sacrifices made.

Other evenings involved making jewellery, swimming at Glendene and

Christmas with mountains of chocolate. Singing carols rounded off the evening - Sheilah manhandling a French hen and Candy dressed as a cow!



Lynda Sheffield

Walsingham Cell Report

The group of 23 pilgrims set out on the Friday after Easter - a few more than the previous year. As usual, we travelled with our friends from St Alban's, West Leigh and St Faith's, Havant. Neither of these two churches had a priest with them. This meant that Fr. Mike was responsible for the whole party and so we were altogether for the Eucharists. There were three new faces joining the pilgrimage for the first time, namely Helen Wilkes, Sue Hodgens and Lynne McNeill. It is always good to have new people as it keeps the group fresh.

Our motto is that during the weekend, we pray hard and we play hard. This was borne out again with the beautiful liturgies that we experienced, the fantastic food and the new friends we made. The outdoor processions were enhanced by St. George's enormous contribution - that of the numerous and dignified serving team. This annual trip is always the weekend immediately after Easter and costs approximately £220 per person. More details from Lynda Sheffield.

Lynda Sheffield

Holy Dusters

Our two teams of volunteers take great pride in keeping our church looking welcomingly clean and tidy. However, our average age is going up and our numbers are going down, not to mention our fitness, which is not what it once

was! We do need new blood – volunteers who can spare little more than one hour every four weeks on either a Thursday or a Friday morning.

At the moment, we are extremely grateful to Margaret Deal, Eve Inwood, Daphne Wilkes and Tony Kightley (yes, men are welcome, too!). The more people, the shorter the time.

If you enjoy coming into a clean church, why not join one of the teams? The money's rubbish but the sense of satisfaction is great! Please have a word with either of us if you would like to know more. We would be delighted to encourage you.

Adina Burton/Jaye Warren

Church Flower Fund

Thank you to the small band of people who regularly contribute to the Flower Fund each year. Flowers are very expensive and, whilst we all would probably prefer to see fresh flowers each week, the monies in the Fund do not stretch that far. We have a huge stock of artificial flowers, which are used extensively with fresh greenery during 'lean' times. Needless to say, donations of fresh or artificial flowers are always very welcome. However, if you would like to donate please speak to June Diaper or Lynn Winter as to which type and/or colour to buy – they will be very happy to advise you.

Lastly, thank you to the small team of flower arrangers for their time each week and especially for preparing the Festival Flowers at Easter, Christmas and for the Music Festival.

June Diaper

Bible Reading Fellowship

The numbers subscribing to the Bible Reading Fellowship publication New Daylight remains fairly constant at fifteen although the individual people change. Nobody has as yet opted for the technical computer and mobile phone options now available. Everyone seems to prefer the booklet form containing a daily printed bible passage with comments and prayers from a wide variety of people. The group subscription rate from May 2016 will be £13.05 for 3 copies covering the year to April 2017 or £4.35 per copy.

I have some free sample copies available and can arrange new subscriptions at any time.

Linda Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

Three meetings were held in 2015, St George's is represented at Deanery Synod by Elaine Shimbart and Barbie Lloyd.

Summary from Deanery Synod minutes:

1. 24.2.15 at All Saint's Denmead:

Speaker:

Bill Woods introduced Tanas Al Qassis who gave an enlightening talk on being a

Christian Arab in Palestine, with an overall theme of Musalaha! Ministry of Reconciliation. Peppered with real-life stories, he gave a strong message about

mission: small steps are necessary to make a big difference; who are you and what is

your accountability – we can have conflict within our own identity such as he does,

being both a Christian and a Palestinian; do not label people/make the effort to get to

know each other. He suggested visiting the website, "Breaking the Silence" on which

Israeli soldiers talk about the occupied territories.

"My identity shapes my behaviour but my true behaviour shows my real identity"

Deanery Plan Update:

Karina Green welcomed Tom Kennar, whose Induction and Collation as Rector of St

Faith's, Havant, took place on 17th February.

- She explained that the "Northern" Cluster (West Leigh, Leigh Park, Warren Park and part of Bedhampton) is moving forwards at looking at a Pioneer minister. Considerable background and exploration work has been done. Hope to formalise ideas very shortly.
- Hart Plain and Cowplain: Appointments have been made, with Kate MacFarlane (0.5) being licensed as Deacon in Charge at Hart Plain and Ian Snares ((1.0) to Priest in Charge, Cowplain, both licensings end-April. The two parishes are, once again, working together – the two new incumbents will be licensed to operate in both parishes.

- Hayling Island: Archdeacon Joanne, Bill Woods and Karina Green are all working together, and progress is being made here, working with St Mary's, St Peter's and St Andrew's.
- Emsworth and Warblington: Conversations are taking place

2. 10.6.15 at St James' Emsworth

Speaker:

Bill Woods (Lay Chair) introduced Victoria James, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser.

Victoria gave a lively presentation, starting with a "thank you" to the deanery for the very positive energy within. The deanery's average weekly giving per planned giver was higher than the average for both the diocese and nationally. She outlined the Steps for Giving and highlighted the need to know where the giver is on the scale in order to address them with the correct information and sensitivity.

The Parish Giving Scheme was discussed, being described as a new method of giving, by direct debit – bring the church's donations into the 21st century. This offers many benefits, in particular improved cash flow (donation plus Gift Aid is back in the parish in 10 days) and automatic inflation-related increases. She encouraged parishes to create a Stewardship programme, which takes about three months to launch. A Parish Giving Scheme works best off the back of this.

Victoria wished to make it clear that she is part of the Discipleship and Mission Team and not the Finance team, and in giving her contact details encouraged communication on a direct basis.

"Just think where you could be with a Giving Scheme," was her final, positive message before she took questions.

Deanery Plan Update:

- Presentation by Portsdown Cluster Revds Andy Wilson (Portsdown), Peter Hall (Crookhorn) and Connie Sherman (Purbrook) described how the Portsdown Cluster, created in 2013, works within the community. All three incumbents are licensed as curates in each other's parishes. Services and community groups are shared, sometimes all three, sometimes just two of the three depending on the situation but whatever the decision it is a better experience for all. Revd Connie described how her position is quite isolated and being part of a cluster has helped her. She believed it was good for the congregation to experience other people and types of service. Overall the cluster enables the parishes to work together while retaining individual worship and community styles. Revd Andy concluded by saying that the cluster must improve its communications, especially to the congregations – and must think more often about working together to support one

another. Putting each others' information on the pew sheets is an example. Good progress has been made, but there is more to do.

- Pioneer Post: Fr Jonathan Jeffrey (Warren Park and Leigh Park) gave an overview on the Pioneer project coming soon to Warren Park, West Leigh and Leigh Park. It will result in three parishes working together under their two incumbents, Jonathan Jeffrey and Karina Green, to reach the wider communities. Pioneer projects in north London and Peterborough were investigated to help with the set up, and we realised that we already had pioneer-style projects in place in the parishes: We have introduced Saturday evening worship, breakfast Eucharist with bacon butties, Messy Mondays, the foodbank, and engaging with our schools and the wider community. The congregations are wanting more of this style of mission. The name for the project is PO9 to reflect the postcode, to show the area involved but not giving one or other parish a "leader" role. Fr Jonathan and Revd Karina are working on the parish profile and person specifications and it is planned to be ready for interviews in the Autumn. We are looking for fluidity in the role, with less strictures and boundaries than a normal serving clergy post might have. Advertising should take place before the summer.

3. 12.11.15 at St Wilfred's, Cowplain.

Guest Speaker:

Karina introduced Charlotte Scott, Christian Aid Regional Co-ordinator, Hampshire & The Isle of Wight.

Charlotte is based in Southampton and her role is to help others be involved in Christian Aid. Enjoying its 70th anniversary this year, Christian Aid (CA) has gone full circle in its remit, in that it was started in 1945 to address the refugees crisis

in Europe following WW2, when people in the churches said something must be done for those "stranded". From helping in Europe only, CA now works in more than 40 countries worldwide. Charlotte said a big "thank you" to supporters of CA on behalf of everyone who has been helped in those countries. CA is also campaigning in the UK on tax justice and climate change - two issues CA sees as affecting the poorest in the world, the most. The Christmas 2015 Appeal, with its theme of "Precious Gifts", is being Aid matched by the government between 6th November and 5th February.

A current big drive in Nigeria is education and maternal care with respect to malaria.

Asked about door-to-door collections, Charlotte said that this is still worthwhile but that CA is also looking at innovative ways of fund-raising which do not involve door-to-door, such as the new planned event for 2016, Big Brekky. Charlotte can give ideas, help and support to anyone interested

in taking part. £400,000 more than predicted has been collected this year, so whatever you do it is working and thank you.

Barbie Lloyd and Elaine Shimbart

Communications Team, Church Magazine and Website

St George's News continues to be published 6 times a year, containing a record of church events and interesting articles written by members of the congregation.

The main event during the year has been development of a focus upon Communication, with a group for this purpose established under the Chairmanship of Chris Gadd, the magazine and website being at the heart of this initiative. The website itself celebrates 20 years since its first launch, in February 1996, and during the year there have been preparations for this milestone with a complete redesign, which was launched early 2016. Back in 1996 the Internet was still very much of a novelty, and whilst a handful of churches did have a website, none of them contained their parish magazine and thus it came about that St George's was the first church in the world to have its Parish Magazine available on the web for everyone to read, and indeed we gained readers from many countries across the world in those early days. From March 1997 every copy of St George's News has been archived on the website, and in consequence there is a massive historical resource now available to browse through of some 90 past editions giving a total of well over 1400 pages which must make it one of the largest church websites around as well.

The Communications team now has a small group taking care of a new social media presence that has been established and St George's now has an active Facebook page and Twitter feed. Please be sure to subscribe to them. The Communications team is quite a small group at the moment and we could do with some more help so if this is something that might interest you, please contact Chris Gadd or John Johnson.

The magazine contributes to Church funds, and this is largely thanks to advertisers, so when there is a choice please use the businesses that advertise in the magazine, and let them know that their advert is why they have got the work.

John Johnson / Chris Gadd / Tony Rice-Oxley

St George's Servers

St George's remains fortunate to have a large number of servers prepared to assist the clergy at the Eucharist, and other services when called upon to do so. Our preparation for worship is no different to that of the congregation. After checking that everything is in place for the service, we say our prayers both before and after the service.

I am extremely grateful for the patience extended by the thurifers to the children who have undertaken the duty of boat boy/girl.

My thanks to Piper, Wendy, Euan, Martin, Oliver, and Simon for enhancing the Eucharist in their own individual way. If any other children would like to be part of the "smoke team" please let me know, and I will arrange it.

I am grateful to Adrienne who prepares the rota for the Wednesday services, and to Anne who assists me in preparing the rotas for the other services.

If anyone else would like to join the team of servers, please let me know. You will receive all the training you need to assist at the altar.

One plea – please be respectful to the servers who have to tidy up after services, and refrain from coming into the sacristy until they have finished tidying up.

As ever, I am extremely grateful for the support of all the servers and clergy over the last year.

David Palmer
Head Server

Sunday School

Each week Sunday School follows a similar pattern, commencing with our welcome song, a Bible story and a prayer, then breaking into the three age groups for the activity to underline the teaching aim. All the lesson plans for the three-year cycle have been prepared by Anne Morgan and distributed to leaders and we are very grateful to her for this and also to Barbie for ensuring that each Leader has a copy in their preferred form, be it paper, CD or electronically.

There have been recent changes to Sunday school leadership, where now only 2 leaders will be running lessons each Sunday rather than 3. This is partially in light of the limited number of Sunday school leaders available, while volunteers to take up the role are often not forthcoming. If any

members of the congregation would be interested in helping the Sunday school, please speak with any of the leaders or churchwardens.

The Sunday school team would like to thank Sheilah Hall, for all her hard work as a Sunday school leader over the years and wish her well as she steps down from her Sunday school role; as well as extending a warm welcome to Kat Shepherd, who will soon be starting to help with Sunday school sessions, moving on from originally being a member of the Church's Team Ascalon youth group.

Sonja Barrand
on behalf of the Sunday School Team

St George's Choir

I took over St George's Choir on Harvest Festival Sunday 2015. I found the choir to be in very good spirit, enthusiastic and in fine voice. For this legacy, I have Mark Langtry and Julia Spurgeon to thank. Highlights during this period have been the Harvest, Advent, Confirmation, Christmas services and "The Light is with us" service on 31st January 2016, interspersed with a Devotional service and Evensong. The choir now comprises fourteen core members.

Throughout my four months in harness there have been some excellent solos from: Julia Spurgeon, Rachel Palmer and Iain Renfrew, and additionally in valuable assistance in the solo singing of the Responsorial Psalms by other members of the choir which is heartening and most welcome. The choir has been able to invest in two new anthem collections and the scope and variety of available music has been widened considerably. To this end I would like to thank Mark Langtry for his gift to the choir of a set of Parish Psalters and a magnificent Yamaha upright piano.

The choir is delighted to welcome Jemma Tebbutt as a new soprano.

In conclusion it has been an exhilarating period with some difficult music attempted. The Sunday Motets have been avidly absorbed by the choir and the enjoyment of progressively singing new works is a testimony to the ability of the choir.

Rod Starr

St George's Band

Since last year we have not lost any more members but more importantly no one else has joined.

Martin Lloyd played Last Post and Reveille for the Remembrance Day service in November 2015, and the band was able to play for the Christingle service in December 2015. We were able to put out the band for the Palm Sunday service around Waterlooville and the Easter Sunday procession.

There are still 8 members of the church band; I am able call on one or two others but with numbers are staying very low the impact is that we still cannot play at family services, some members also have other commitments such as servers or choir so cannot be in two places at once. To improve this situation we need to recruit more musicians to replace those who have left. I have asked for people to come forward at various times but none, as of yet, have made themselves known to me.

The current situation is only just acceptable, but if new members come forward we would be able to play at more services.

Don Lloyd

St George's Social Committee

2015 was another busy social year in the life of St George's Church. Activities were co-ordinated with the fundraising programme to ensure a regular diary of events throughout the year.

A French Evening was held on the 24th January with French food and interspersed with entertainment all based on a French theme. This event was not long after the tragic events in Paris and our French guests were most touched when the hall rose as one and sang the Marseillaise at the beginning of the evening.

On March 21st there was a packed concert in memory of Stella Starr, our organist, with post programme refreshments.

The Seder meal on April 4th this year took on a different format with refreshments after the church service and was a greatly enjoyed prequel to Easter.

As usual the Parish Lunch took place after the AGM on April 19th. The congregation and guests enjoyed their three course meal with wines and coffee and mints!

The Parish Outing this year was to Brownsea Island on May 17th. Our coach got a bit delayed and we missed our booked boat across to the island. However this was not too bad as we still had ample time to explore this

fascinating island and to see the red squirrels which abound there. Luckily the weather was fine and the Evensong in the tiny church rounded off the trip nicely.

Sunday October 4th saw the Harvest lunch and Quiz which took place after the morning service. Those attending brought plates of food and shared them. As always there was a marvellous selection and those present had fun with the quizzes and games!

This year the social committee have provided refreshments for the Carol Service, the Confirmation by the Bishop and for several concerts held in church.

We also provide £100 for each of the Fete and Bazaar raffles. The regular Friday morning teas and coffee passes funds regularly into church accounts.

Overall our thanks are due to the committee for all their hard work in arranging events. We still seek a few more members on the committee in the hope that this might bring some new ideas to our annual programme.

Jane Rice-Oxley

St George's Fundraising Task Force Report

The new Fund Raising Task Force was set up in February charged to raise a target of £10,000 towards the 2015 budget shortfall.

The major regular fundraisers, the Summer Fete masterminded by Lynda Sheffield from her hospital bed, and the Christmas Bazaar organised for the last time by Rosemary Monk, were augmented this year by the Church Charity Shop in October which raised a magnificent £4,500 thanks to the efforts of Jane and Tony Rice-Oxley and their band of helpers.

However the income from smaller events/ideas mounted up – the Easter Bonnet Competition and Church 2016 Calendar (Patricia Byrne), 2 coffee mornings with a bring and buy stall (Margaret Deal), the Open Garden Afternoon with Cream Teas in May (Christine Culley and Margaret Deal), the Horse Race evening at Glendene in July (Tony and Jane), the Quiz and Entertainment Evening in November with profit shared between the Church and the Rowans Hospice (Jan Kennett).

Including profit from the Bonus Ball competition and adding in various other miscellaneous fundraising items, £13,400 was realised for 2015 after taking

expenses into account. Charged with raising another £10K in 2016 without a shop will however be much more challenging.

My thanks are due to all the members of the Task Force committee for their hard work and to everyone who has both helped at and supported the various events. More committee members and new ideas are always welcome.

Linda Wainwright
Chairman

St George's Bonus Ball Fundraiser

This fund raising enterprise was started in 2008. The scheme raises £100 for church funds every 10 weeks.

Every week participants pay £1 (10 weeks in advance) and choose a number which they hope will come up as the Lotto Bonus Ball. If it does they win a prize generally between £30 and £40 depending upon the number of players in that period. If no one holds that number then the sum rolls over to be added to the following week's prize. So far £3,700 pounds has been raised for church funds.

More players are needed since the Lotto organisers increased the available numbers which tends to produce too many roll overs. We would like to thank all those who have participated over the past few years. Their contributions have been invaluable.

Tony Rice-Oxley

St George's 100 Club and Accounts

As you will see from the accounts below, the 100 club has been able to make a donation of £581.89 to Church funds this year. Unfortunately this is slightly below our potential of £600 plus interest as, yet again this year, we have sadly lost a few of our long standing members. We currently have spare numbers so if anyone would like to join please let me know. To those of you who are members, thank you for your continued support and yes, I know, your number never comes up, but maybe this year you will be lucky!

Colin Monk

ST GEORGE'S 100 CLUB

ACCOUNTS

1 JANUARY 2015 TO 31 DECEMBER 2015

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
PRIZE MONEY PAID OUT	£580.00	BANK BALANCE AT 1.1.15	£319.00
DONATION TO PCC	£581.89	CASH BALANCE AT 1.1.15	£0.00
BANK AT 31.12.15	£334.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID	£1,175.00
CASH AT 31.12.15	£0.00	BANK INTEREST	£1.89
	£1,495.89		£1,495.89

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP

LIST OF WINNERS

JANUARY	98	JANUARY	40	D. HYETT	£10.00
FEBRUARY	97		69	S. ALLISON	£5.00
MARCH	97	FEBRUARY	92	P. MITCHELL	£10.00
APRIL	97		69	S. ALLISON	£5.00
MAY	97	MARCH	77	P. DANCER	£75.00
JUNE	97		86	V. DAVIES	£15.00
JULY	96	APRIL	67	B. LLOYD	£10.00
AUGUST	96		51	R. PALMER	£5.00
SEPTEMBER	96	MAY	6	L. PALMER	£10.00
OCTOBER	97		35	A. CLARK	£5.00
NOVEMBER	96	JUNE	35	A. CLARK	£75.00
DECEMBER	96		40	D. HYETT	£10.00
	1,160	JULY	13	A. JELLEY	£10.00
			14	M. EVANS	£5.00
		AUGUST	80	M. HUTCHINGS	£10.00
			86	M. SYMONDS	£5.00
		SEPTEMBER	47	T. RICE-OXLEY	£75.00
			17	F. MONK	£10.00
		OCTOBER	68	P. BARLOW	£10.00
			53	C. RICE-OXLEY	£5.00
		NOVEMBER	20	R. MONK	£10.00
			64	C. MONK	£5.00
		DECEMBER	92	P. MITCHELL	£100.00
			11	R. CHAPMAN	£75.00
			8	S. ANDREWS	£15.00
			41	E. OADES	£10.00
					£580.00

www.stgeorges.church