



**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 2013**

**The Reverend Mike Sheffield,
The Vicarage, 5 Deanswood Drive, Waterloooville 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 6th APRIL 2014 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 2013 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of 2 representatives to the Deanery Synod
8. Election of 3 PCC members
9. Election of Sidespersons
10. Reports from the Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and Treasurer and church groups
11. Appointment of Independent Examiner

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING of St George the Martyr, Waterlooville, held on Sunday 21st April 2013 in the church and commencing at 11.15 am. There were 67 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 Sue and Bob Andrews, Carol McKells, John Towns, Dawn Trimby, Eve Inwood, Rachel Palmer, Inara Nijkar, Jaye Warren, Nerys Barlow, Margaret Anderson, Mabel Maginn, Pat Winter, Christopher Barrand, Sarah and Keith Lewis, Lisa Toft and Craig Handy
3. **MEETING OF PARISHIONERS TO ELECT TWO CHURCHWARDENS:** Fr Mike said that we need to appoint a Clerk to the meeting and Colin Monk proposed Jane Cook. Fr Mike asked if everyone was happy for Jane Cook as Secretary of the PCC to act as clerk for the meeting and it was agreed unanimously. Although in this parish we elect Churchwardens to serve for 4 years they still have to be re-elected yearly. It is therefore necessary to ask whether you are happy for Richard Handy and Linda Wainwright to stay on for another year. Richard Handy was proposed by Susan Hodgins and seconded by June Diaper and Linda Wainwright was proposed by Lynda Sheffield and seconded by Anne Morgan. This was unanimously agreed. Fr Mike said Dick and Linda are fantastic Churchwardens and he extended a huge thanks to them both for all the work they do both in front of and behind the scenes.
4. **MEETING OF ELECTORAL ROLL MEMBERS / REPORT BY ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER:** In line with the Church of England across the country the Electoral Roll has been completed from scratch this year and everyone who wanted to go on it had to re-apply. Abi Morgan who is the Electoral Roll Officer said there are 142 parishioners on the Electoral Roll and 61 of these are outside the parish. If anyone wishes to apply they can be added at any time during the year and agreed by the PCC.

5. **MINUTES OF THE 2012 APCM AND MATTERS ARISING:** There were no amendments and the minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Don Lloyd and seconded by Jennefer Higginbottom and agreed unanimously.
6. **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT:**

As you will be aware Dawn's father sadly died yesterday so although she was in church this morning she has gone home to be with her Mum. Her report was therefore read out by Linda Wainwright.
7. **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS:** First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 10 times over the last year. We are losing Sheilah Hall, Sandra Hewett and Anne Morgan this year 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 3 people who have filled in forms and volunteered to join the PCC – Marian Haughton, proposed by Lynda Sheffield and seconded by Carol McKells; Sonja Pask proposed by Anne Morgan and seconded by Barbie Lloyd; Tony Rice-Oxley proposed by Abi Morgan and seconded by Andrew Clark. Fr Mike asked if everyone is happy to elect these 3 people to the PCC. This was agreed unanimously. Fr Mike said that we now have our full quota on the PCC.
8. **ELECTION OF SIDESPERSIONS:** Dick Handy read out the full list of names of people on the sidespersons rota. He said that this is a vital job and although it sounds like a lot of people we do actually need one meet and greet and 3 sidespersons at each 10 am Eucharist. Fr Mike asked whether there was anyone else who would like to be added to the sidespersons list but no-one came forward. Acceptance of the list of sidespersons was proposed by Dick Handy and seconded by Richard Spurgeon and agreed unanimously. If anyone else would like to join please see Fr Mike or Dick Handy.
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.

 - Linda Wainwright read out the **Churchwarden's** report. Thank you to Linda. Dick then updated on the current position regarding improvements to the safety rail in the gallery and the staircase and the re-decoration of all the public areas in the church. Dick

explained that this went through the Diocesan Planning Group recently and they are providing a certificate but this is not all we need. Dick is contacting the Diocese again tomorrow to find out where we go now. It is getting close to the Waterloo Music Festival and it may be that we do the gallery work before the festival and the re-decoration after.

David Hodgins asked what we are still waiting for and Dick said that we still need a Faculty although we have the DAC Certificate. Fr Mike said that Dick has spent a huge amount of time on this and done a huge amount of work and gave his thanks. Once the Faculty is received it has to be put up for at least a month as neighbours have the right to object similar to planning application.

- **Hall** report – as we will be celebrating the centenary of the hall this year Tony and his team have arranged for a lot of work to be done on the hall including re-decoration and a huge thanks go to them. This will obviously feature in next year's report.
- Fr Mike explained that **Pastoral, Fabric and Finance and the Hall Committee** are the 3 committees of the PCC and members are invited to join one of these whilst on the PCC. These committees do the groundwork for the PCC. The Pastoral Committee has been particularly taxed over the last year with Sunday School and Youth Club and different groups. Adrienne Bridger asked why the ramp is only out for Sunday Services and not during the week. Fr Mike said the Pastoral Committee will be looking at this. The problem with leaving it out during the week is that it might be taken but a concrete ramp was priced up some years ago at between £20 and £30,000.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER:** Following the successful examination of the accounts Paul Read has said that he would be happy to do this again next year. It was therefore proposed by Dick Handy that Paul Read be appointed as Independent Examiner for the next year. This was seconded by Richard Spurgeon and this was agreed unanimously.

11. **COMMENTS FROM PARISH PRIEST**

Fr Mike gave the following report:

As all good Christmas round robins begin "I can't believe another year has gone past"! Well it has and here we are again looking back over the last year and forward to a new year in the life of St George's Church.

I'm not going to say much now as most of the important things have

already been spoken about but it is interesting to look back and see what was occupying our minds this time last year.

Two major things were the Sunday School and the Youth Club. How great it is that a year on we can report that both have been renewed and revitalised. A huge thank you to all the leaders and helpers concerned.

Some kind of bereavement follow-up was also talked about at last year's annual meeting with a sort of resigned sigh that nothing was going to happen. The Holy Spirit thought otherwise and in January the "Help in Bereavement" coffee morning was started in our Hall. It's still small and rather fragile but there is now something we can offer people at one of the lowest points in their lives – the death of a loved one.

Thinking about sadness in peoples' lives, it was really excellent that Naomi House Hospice asked St George's to host its "Light Up a Life" service last winter. It went so well and the people from Naomi House were so pleased that we're hosting it again this year.

Over the last 12 months, loads of St George's people have been involved in keeping going the Church, the Hall, our social and fundraising activities and most importantly our worship. In a perfect place your work, your contributions and your time would all be noted and you'd be thanked personally. Sadly that doesn't always happen, so please accept now the thanks of us all. This is a vibrant Church community and we must all work together to make sure it stays that way.

I want to end with a big thank you and an apology. At this meeting in 2012, we noted that Fr Timon's ministry among us was coming to an end. He'd been here 4 years, and although he wanted to stay, and indeed we wanted him to stay, we also knew that just wasn't going to happen. As you will recall Timon and Noreen went through some very difficult months as they struggled to find a new parish at the same time as being pressurised from the Diocese to leave the house. It wasn't good for them – or indeed for us. You kept asking: "what's wrong with Timon?"; "what's wrong with us?"; "why can't he get a job"? Sadly the way the Church works isn't always perfect, and Timon, together with his contemporaries discovered that times have changed. No longer could a curate stay until he found a post. No longer did the Diocese look after its own.

With much prayer and much wringing of hands, Timon and Noreen did of course move to Bellingham in the Autumn. I visited him just a little while ago, and despite not being overly happy with their house, or more particularly its position, Timon is certainly very happy and settled in St Dunstan's Church. Let me say thanks to you for your part in training Timon – for welcoming Noreen and Rachel, Tabitha and Benjamin and making them feel so much a part of St George's family, and thanks too for supporting them and praying for them during the very bleak times last summer.

That's the "thank you", now for the "apology". Although Timon was here to learn, he did a huge amount of work and was excellent in his visiting and his pastoral ministry. That we miss but he's now gone and he's not being replaced. Try as we may, Fr Ray and I can't pick up all that Timon did, so please accept the apology now that some things – some visiting, some funerals, some services just won't happen. I'm sorry.

This does give me a chance, however, to express my personal thanks to Ray for his ministry here, his help, his friendship and above all for his humour. A church without laughter is a church without life – so Ray, long may your awful jokes continue!

The meeting closed at 12.20 pm and was followed by the Parish lunch.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013

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 2013 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 liturgical colours and seasons.

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: Mrs Jane Cook (Secretary)
Mrs Dawn Trimby (Treasurer)

Wardens: Mr Dick Handy
Miss Linda Wainwright

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:
Barbie Lloyd
Candy Williams

Elected Members:
Sonja Barrant
Lindsay Chalk
Geoff Davies
Marian Haughton
Carol McKells
Colin Monk
Abi Morgan
Rachel Palmer
Tony Rice-Oxley

Co-opted Members:
Lynne McNeill, Charities Treasurer

Committees

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

Church Attendance

There are 142 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 61 of these are outside the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2013, was 133 adults and 17.5 children including weekday attendances, but this number increased at festivals.

Review of the Year

The full PCC met 9 times during the year, with an average attendance of 66%. 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 17 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £211.61 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 the Bishop's Lent Appeal, Two Saints Centre, Hannah's Holiday Home, The Rowans Hospice and Naomi House Hospice. These were all retiring collections. Money was constantly being raised for church funds over the year, in particular £2,445 at the Summer Fete, £1,518 at the Christmas Bazaar, £3,500 from the St George's Shop and £1,485 from the sale of plants, bulbs and votives throughout the year.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders has decreased to £35,890, excluding tax. The tax recovered on all Gift Aid donations for the year was £10,855. We did not have a St George's Day Gift Day this year. Contributions on the collection plate raised £1,754, a decrease of £140 on last year.

£122,691 was spent to provide the Christian Ministry from St. George's Church, including the full contribution to the parish share of £51,189. The largest outlays during the year were £8,976 which related to the

re-decoration of the church and £9,186.94 which was spent on the choir gallery to ensure it meets Health and Safety regulations. Our remaining fund balances are invested with the CBF Church of England Investment and United Trust Bank where we invested a further £70,000 which was received from a legacy to the church.

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

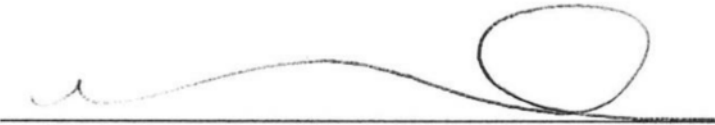
The following has happened during the course of the year and most will be written about in more detail in the following reports:

- The Parish breakfasts are still very popular and will continue.
- Taize services took place during the year.
- Fr Mike continues as appointed Chaplain to the Mayor of Havant, Councillor Paul Buckley, and we welcomed Civic Leaders of the Borough for the Civic Service at St George's.
- Waterloo Music Festival – for the eighth year another very successful festival was held in June.
- We joined with our friends from the Baptist and Catholic churches for various processions throughout the year.
- Naomi House held their "Light up a Life" service again in December.
- Three school Christmas concerts were held in December with local schools taking part. This was again very popular with many people attending.
- There was a Special Service for Trafalgar Day.
- 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 2014

Treasurer's Report 2013

Incorporating all the Church group finances with the main Church and Hall Accounts, the final figures initially show a surplus of £58,051.41. If depreciation of the Church Hall at 2% amounts to £2,880.43, this increases to £60,931.84.

For another year St George's hosted the Waterloo Music Festival and the PCC received a generous donation of £2000 from that source. Other major donations received included £1,093 from the 100 Club, £800 from the Social and Fundraising Committee (including Friday Coffee Funds) and £500 from the Bonus Ball.

Donations from Planned Giving fell short of the budget by over £2,840 and we received £8,519 in Gift Aid tax recovery. We did not have a Gift Day this year.

Interest on bank and building society accounts amounted to £650 and the value of PCC investments increased by £3,183. The Investment fund is currently valued at £30,433.31. Throughout 2013 £1,194 was received as dividends.

Fundraising again exceeded expectations by over £5,024. This was achieved by the dedication and commitment of all St. George's fundraisers, together with a very successful charity shop.

Charity giving exceeded £3,190 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 2013 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. Forming a realistic budget may not always be possible but will hopefully guide us through the year.

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 2013**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2013 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2012 YEAR TOTAL
INCOME					
Planned Giving S/Orders	26,358	-	26,358	29,000	27460.04
Planned Giving Green Env	3,847	-	3,847	6,000	4852.15
Gift Aided Pink Envelopes	5,685	-	5,685	5,000	6002.30
Gift Aid Tax	10,865	-	10,865	10,000	8767.95
General Collections	1,754	-	1,754	2,000	1893.79
Gift Days	-	-	-	650	637.00
Donations & Appeals	8,136	1,093	9,229	6,000	7761.43
Liturgical Donations	-	1,288	1,288	1,100	1728.06
Bookstall	684	-	684	800	724.30
Parish Magazine Advertising	648	-	648	750	650
Parish Magazine Sales	97	-	97	250	233.99
Fees received (PCC)	3,715	-	3,715	5,500	4401.00
Fete, Bazaar, Fund Raising	13,933	-	13,933	8,000	9644.47
Sales	53	-	53	-	40.00
Photocopying Income	507	-	507	500	249.99
Income from Investments/Bank	1,842	1	1,843	1,000	1250.70
Unbudgetted items:					
Fees received (Assigned)	1,332	-	1,332		2067.00
Other Funds (Charities)	-	4,097	4,097		4033.60
Hall Lettings	13,239	-	13,239		14270.16
Youth Group Activities	-	298	298		127.86
Toddler Group Income	-	486	486		908.33
Social Committee	-	560	560		692.00
Ex.ord Income	86,438	-	86,438		165.64
TOTALS	179,133	7,823	186,956	76,550	98561.76

**ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE
COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2013**

	UNRESTRICTED	RESTRICTED	2013 YEAR TOTAL	YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account	2012 YEAR TOTAL
EXPENDITURE					
Parish Share	51,189	-	51,189	51,189	49743.00
Gas/Elec/Water Insurance	3,316	-	3,316	3,000	2761.75
Church and Grounds Maintenance	10,510	55	10,565	4,340	4871.77
Clergy Expenses	3,264	-	3,264	3,500	3197.12
Asst Clergy Expenses	-	-	-	-	817.69
Liturgical Costs	86	1,614	1,700	1,300	2690.97
Magazine, Bookstall & Bulletin	681	-	681	700	803.07
Piano and Organ tune	236	-	236	500	390.18
Honoraria and Salaries	4,741	-	4,741	4,800	2700.00
Administration	2,322	-	2,322	1,650	1779.87
Photocopier Costs	1,089	-	1,089	1,500	1043.85
Fees paid out	1,552	-	1,552	2,500	1948.00
Capitation Fee	45	-	45	60	60.00
Fundraising & Sales costs	328	660	988	-	228.00
Pastoral Costs	29	-	29	-	-
Music Support	50	-	50	100	-
Unbudgetted items:					
Assigned Fees	1,471	-	1,471	-	2214.00
Ex.Ord. Outgoing	2,011	655	2,666	-	430.80
Hall Running Costs	19,534	150	19,684	-	15031.22
Hall Depreciation @ 2%	2,880	-	2,880	-	2939.22
Youth Group Activities	215	780	995	-	495.10
Social Committee	-	1,843	1,843	-	1681.71
Giving to Charities	-	3,844	3,844	-	4055.30
Quinquennial costs	13,755	-	13,755	-	409.50
TOTALS	117,293	9,601	128,905	75,139	100612.12

Churchwardens Report

I am Richard Handy, one of your Churchwardens and have prepared this report on behalf of myself and Linda Wainwright, your other Churchwarden.

The office of Churchwarden dates from the 13th Century, one of the earliest forms of lay ministry and it is with great pride that I have had the honour to serve our church in this capacity for the past four years.

Over this four year period we have seen many improvements in the structure and maintenance of our buildings, most noticeably major repairs to the tower roof, nave roof and electrics have been undertaken, as well as many changes in the people who worship and minister here. Our changes in ministry have seen Father Timon move on to his new parish at St Dunstan's and Bishop Godfrey move to be nearer his family. More recently we have seen our long standing Archdeacon, the Venerable Trevor Reader retire to be replaced by the Venerable Dr Joanne Grenfell. We look forward to working with her in the coming years.

Let us now focus on 2013 and review what we have achieved. We have both had a full and busy year in the management of our church and grounds and upkeep of our worship. We have seen major works carried out to improve the safety of our gallery and a complete redecoration of our church making it a brighter and more welcoming place to visit and worship. In October we held a dedication service led by our Archdeacon, Joanne Grenfell, to celebrate the completion of these works.

We are blessed with a fully dedicated and active Clergy and Serving Team lead by Fr Mike and supported very actively by Fr Ray. We have David Palmer and his team of servers who provide full cover and support to all our services. In addition we have a full team of Lay Assistants for the distribution of communion wine during our services. They are also available for the distribution of Holy Communion to the sick with home visits. Our music is led by Stella Starr and Julia Spurgeon supports and leads our Choir. Our thanks go to Adrienne Bridger who maintains our Sacristy and to June Diaper and her team of flower ladies who beautify our church so well. To meet all our congregation and visitors for our services we have a small but committed team of Sidespersons and Meet and Greet who not only hand out service sheets, books etc. but contribute significantly to making our church the welcoming place that it is. Our services are enhanced by our regular Readers, and also those who prepare and lead our intercessions.

Working with the younger members of our congregation we have regular Sunday school which is led by a small team, providing teaching and guidance, following recognised programmes. We have also re-launched our Youth Club under the name of Team Ascalon led by Fr Mike and ably supported by a team of volunteers.

Supporting this we have a full and committed PCC team led by the churchwardens, Fr Mike as chairman, Dawn Trimby as treasurer and Jane Cook as secretary who, although mainly in the background, run our business and finances either directly through PCC or via our sub-committees. We would especially like to thank the Hall Committee who, in 2013, arranged for the complete redecoration of the hall, adjacent rooms, toilets and kitchen.

We continue to provide a wide and varied focus to our worship at St George's with our regular weekly and week day Eucharist Services, Family Eucharist Services, Services of Healing and Taize style services to name but a few. Throughout all of these services we continue to maintain our Catholic traditions within the focus of worship. Father Mike continues to be the Mayor's Chaplain for the Borough of Havant and in May we held the Havant Borough's Civic Service to welcome our new mayor Paul Buckley into office. In December we were very pleased to again host the Light up a Life service for Naomi House.

The Waterlooville Music Festival continues to be a great success in our community where St George's maintains its place as the regular venue for music within the town during the festival and other events throughout the year. Our continued thanks go to the dedicated team under the leadership of Fr Mike, who make this all possible.

It is with great sadness that we look over the past year to those within our congregation and others known to us who have died. Notably we think of our oldest congregation member Ruby Bullock who died last January aged 105. We also pray for the souls of Douglas Orsmond, Eric Dinneen and Pat Millard. As we look to the future, we will continue to strive to enrich the quality of our worship at St George's and pray for Our Lord's guidance and support to do so.

Yours in Christ, Richard Handy and Linda Wainwright

St George's Church Hall Report

2013 saw the hall receive an income of £13,200. Unfortunately the level of income is down on 2012 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. If any parishioners know or organisations looking for accommodation would they please contact Sheilah Hall.

Expenditure for the year was £19,500. The majority of this increased expenditure was allowed for in the Hall budget to provide for decorating the inside of the hall, completing the external decorating and installation of new carpets in the two entrance lobbies. Additionally a water heater was fitted, and a new power supply was installed for a dishwasher which was kindly funded by a very generous donation from a member of the congregation and the PCC. As always there are items of expenditure that are not within budget. A new toilet was fitted and this year an inspection by the church's insurers required us to employ contractors to carry out an electrical inspection. As a result a new RCB consumer unit had to be installed. As part of our annual works, plugs were PAT tested and fire extinguishers serviced and emergency lighting checked.

One of our larger regular expenses is heating and lighting. During the year the PCC took the decision to move energy suppliers and join other churches in the diocese in a bulk buying scheme. It is hoped that this will see a reduction in bills.

In February the church celebrated the 100th anniversary of the hall with a display of photographs and a wine and cheese.

Finally thanks must go to the whole hall committee who have worked very hard keeping the hall up and running. Sometimes this becomes a full time job with taking bookings, invoicing, paying bills, checking clients, locking and unlocking and carrying out DIY work to reduce our maintenance bill to a minimum.

Colin Monk
Chair, Hall Committee

The Mothers' Union Branch Report

The AGM was held on 12th February 2014 for the period 12th February to 23rd September 2013.

This was quite a busy time with meetings to attend and organise. The Coffee Morning for AFIA raised £79.49. More support by the members would be appreciate. On 21st February the new Diocesan President, Marian Wendon and the new Trustees were commissioned at the Church of the Holy Spirit, Portsmouth. During the rest of the year members attended the Diocesan

Council meeting, the Lady Day Service at St Wilfrid's, Cowplain and the Deanery Committee meeting. In June the MU General Meeting and Diocesan Festival Service was held in Bath. Three of us represented our Branch, in that lovely city. A week later we had our own Diocesan Festival Service in Portsmouth Cathedral. These are some of the meetings which the leader and members attend on behalf of this Branch. Then there are the other invitations for Deanery events and from St Wilfrid's Branch and the Union of Catholic Mother's, for services and afternoon tea. Then we have our Branch meetings with Coffee Mornings twice yearly. Here I would like to thank June Bradley for her dedication as our tea maker for many years. Thank you June.

During the year we have had three discussions on the Theme for 2013 "Sowing the Seeds" led by Margaret Symonds. We had a very interesting talk given by Eileen Oades on her experiences in Kenya.

The outing to Denman Gardens was preceded by a wonderful lunch at the Spur pub at Slindon. The sun shone and we had fun and laughter trying to remember the names of the plans and trees. We had a very nice tea and then it was time to leave, having had a most relaxing afternoon.

The Overseas Garden Party in July was held on the hottest day of the year, so we entertained our guests in the hall where we had an enjoyable time together.

I have given a rather full account of 6 months work that is arranged and prepared by the committee and a few other members on the days we require help. We are a very active group but **we do require new members if the St George's Branch is to survive.**

I am sorry that I had to give up the leadership before the end of my term of office. I will remain a member but on no account am I allowed to take on any responsibility.

God Bless you all
Jennefer Higginbottom

As Archdeaconry Vice-President for the Mothers' Union (MU) for the Portsdown Archdeaconry part of my work concerns helping and caring for the branch members in the Deaneries of Havant and Portsmouth, so when the branch here at St George's found themselves without a Branch Leader I was asked to help by leading their meetings until the situation could be resolved.

At the meeting on 19th September 2013 nine members were present and an open discussion was held on the current situation of the Branch. Each member was able to share their opinions, views and feelings as to how, or even if, the Branch could continue. No one present felt able to take on the role of Branch Leader. Other types and forms of membership were discussed at length and it was agreed by a majority of 8 to 1 that they wished to continue as a Branch if possible. It was agreed that they all think and pray about the situation and there would be a further discussion before the end of the year. A rota was drawn up of the jobs that would need to be undertaken by the members to keep the Branch running. These were all agreed and allocated. Members also agreed to continue to attend Diocesan and Deanery events when possible.

Elaine and David Davenport were the speakers at the meeting on 17th October 2013 and they shared with us a visit they had made to "A Romanian Camp". "My Favourite Music" was the theme for the meeting on 21st November when members brought along on CD, tape or Ipad a piece of music special to them and shared the reasons for their choice. There then followed a further discussion about the future of the Branch. It was agreed to continue as a "Committee Led Branch" and a programme for 2014 would be prepared. Members of the present committee were willing to continue and all members would be encouraged to undertake rota responsibilities.

Members attended/took part in the following Diocesan, Deanery and Branch events:

1. "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence (VAWG) Vigil" – 29.11.13
2. Christmas Coffee Morning "Help in Bereavement Group" – 9.12.13
3. Advent Service at Christ Church, Portsdown – 3.12.13
4. Advent Service at St Wilfrid's Church, Cowplain – 10.12.13

On 17th December the members held an "Advent Miscellany". The service was based on the theme of preparation and prayer for the coming of Christ. A prayer was said as each candle on their Advent Ring was lit and a hymn was sung. During the tea which followed the service cards were signed and gifts prepared for the Women's Refuge. Invitations and plans were prepared for the new year's Epiphany Event.

Margaret Symonds

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee met 6 times during 2013 and continued with the Pastoral "Audit" looking at specific groups within St George's Church where further support or action could be beneficial. Safety concerns for instance

resulted in the provision of the perspex cylinder protectors for the candles fixed to the altar rail. Many issues are discussed but it is Impossible to cover all eventualities and there is a need to remain vigilant and adapt to circumstances as and when they arise, especially for those with mobility or health problems, impaired hearing or vision. The offer to produce large print magazines was not taken up.

The Help in Bereavement organisation under the leadership of Linda Smith has stepped forward to organise a social support group for the bereaved and holds coffee mornings on the second Monday of every month at 10am in the Church Hall.

Safeguarding of children, young people and vulnerable adults is always on the agenda and the guidance booklet "In Safe Hands" is available for anyone with concerns to refer to and is kept on top of the pigeonholes at the back of the Church. Thanks are due to Sandra Hewett for all the hard work she has done in this area over many years. Safeguarding training is ongoing as individuals change roles or undertake new ones and is moving towards e-learning during 2014.

Sunday School now has a large programme of lessons available for use covering the entire Church year prepared by Anne Morgan available in both a printed format and thanks to Barbie Lloyd also on disc for computer use as requested. And Barbie is also to be commended for the organisation involved with the setting up of St George's support of the Waterlooville Food Bank and the ongoing practical arrangements.

One of the main events of the year was the Diocesan wide Pentecost 2013 Celebration to mark the birthday of the Church instigated by the Bishop of Portsmouth. Held in the Church grounds on a sunny May morning St George's chose as outreach to host a free coffee and cake morning for passing shoppers with homemade cakes baked and generously given by members of the congregation. Pens, balloons and stickers were also given away to visiting children and £41 was collected for Christian Aid. A parish breakfast between Sunday services was organised in February and repeated in November and raised funds to support other activities including provision of baptism cards, Sunday bags for children in Church etc, refreshments at some events and a celebration cake to mark the first Communion at St George's of the nine newly confirmed candidates in November.

Several items have been taken forward to the Lent "Supporting the Church" programme and will be followed up by the new committee and include the

need for more Sunday School teachers and baptism visitors and the setting up of a new group to keep in touch with and visit the elderly and housebound. My grateful thanks are due not only to the hardworking members of the committee but also to all of you who have assisted and supported us.

Linda Wainwright
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 him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

We will continue to DBS check all pastoral visitors who visit vulnerable adults. In view of this, we will ensure that the procedures we have in place safeguard vulnerable allegations, improper conduct and misunderstandings.

Child Protection

In my last report I explained that the CRB has changed and is now called the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). Since then, there has been a change in how the forms are processed. I still send the applicants form to the Diocesan office but they now don't receive it back, instead it will be sent straight to the applicant. Therefore the applicant 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. This process seems to be running smoothly.

Dates for training courses are always available from me. This will continue with the support of the PCC and Pastoral Committee.

Youth Coordinator

Things have continued to run smoothly. If any matters arise it will be taken to the Pastoral committee and non-pastoral items being further carried to full PCC.

Sandra Hewett
Safeguarding Representative and Validator

St George's Ladies' Group

St George's Ladies Group meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month and our selected charity for 2013 was the New Blendworth Centre.

We started off the year with a Charity Auction with Tony Rice-Oxley. In February we had a talk by Andrews Negus entitled "Bishops, Buildings and bones". Later in the month we had a talk by Mr Hailey entitled "Christ's Hospital School". In March we had a talk by Eric Watts on "History of Portsmouth City Transport" and later in the month we held a Beetle Drive. In April we had a talk by Steve Jones on the "History of Havant" and then later in the month a skittles evening. In May there was a talk by Rona Doyle on "Stanstead House" and this was followed later in the month by our AGM and a Bring and Buy.

Our first meeting in June coincided with the Waterlooville Music Festival and later in the month we presented our Charity cheque. Our end of year dinner was held at the Woodpecker in July.

We met again in September with a Charity Speaker on "The Blendworth Centre" and another talk later in the month by Paul Bowers on "the Images of Borneo". In October the talk was by Jane Gulliver on "Trading Standards". We had a talk in November by David Allport on "Snowballs in June in the Falklands" and later in the month the Phoenix Singers. We rounded off 2013 with our Christmas dinner on 12th December.

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. The 2013 programme included the now traditional Cribbage Night and Christmas Skittles Match, and unlike last year, when rain forced cancellation, the Glendene Cricket Evening was a great success with excellent weather. The group enjoyed an illustrated talk from Stan and Trevor Oberholster about their life in Zimbabwe and in April there was a Quiz & Chilli Night with the gentlemen from St. Faith's Church, Havant. On several occasions through the year the gentlemen spent evenings doing small maintenance tasks around the Church for which the PCC is very grateful. All the evenings are

publicised in the weekly Bulletin and all gentlemen of St. George's are welcome to come.

Fr Mike
George's Men

Tweenies

The annual Christmas dinner was held at the end of January, with 30 people going to Barnards. This is always good fun with a secret Santa providing many hilarities. With Lent being so early, the next five meetings followed soon after, looking at the five senses. Leaders covered subjects which included travelling in Africa and Bhutan, wafting incense and chomping on hot cross buns.

Then the summer kicked in with lots of action - bowling, barbeques and a brilliant 'Messy Play'. Lesley and Lisa encouraged everyone to try their hand at painting, modelling, tying nets together and the whole thing culminated in throwing paint at a white sheet to the music of the 1812 overture. This was something that none of the Tweenies had ever done before.

After the summer, the group met to show one photo of their holiday and technology won the day - most came with the I-pad, rather than a piece of paper. How things move on! Eileen Oades had the group running around the Vicarage playing 'Beetle' and in December, action continued with a keep fit session, led by Lynda in the hall. All the good work was soon undone with stuffing mulled wine and Christmas goodies with Rosemary.

As always number fluctuate and this keeps the group alive - everyone takes a turn at leading the Tweenies and this shares the load extremely well. Long may it continue.

Lynda Sheffield

Walsingham Cell Report

The group of 20 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 was one new face joining the pilgrimage for the first time, namely Eileen Oades. 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 £200 per person. More details from Lynda Sheffield.

Lynda Sheffield

Holy Dusters

Holy Dusters are a happy band of ladies whose aim is to keep St George's church as we would *all* like to find it. We aren't many in number and one lady retired at the end of last year. Jean Goddard hung up her duster after a very long tour of duty. She was the holiest of Holy Dusters and is much missed. Our thanks, on behalf of all at St George's, go to Jean for everything she did to keep our church looking its best. Could you be another Jean (or John!)? There are currently two teams, each team cleaning every fourth week. If you would like to join us, please see Adina Burton.

Adina Burton/Jaye Warren

Church Flower Fund

Thank you to the small band of people who regularly contribute to the Flower Fund each year. Special thanks go to Len Palmer for his generous donation which will go a long way to buying the flowers for the Easter festival. 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 artificial flowers are very welcome. (If you would like to donate but are unsure as to which type and/or colour to buy, we are happy to advise).

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 and Lynn Winter

Bible Reading Fellowship

During 2013 sixteen people subscribed to the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes. The booklet gives a printed passage from the Bible with comment and prayers for each day of the year. Published 3 times a year the group subscription rate for 2014 is £4.25 per copy and there is now the option to receive the notes via computer or phone if preferred. Sample copies and details of how to subscribe and information about other BRF publications is available from me.

Linda Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

Candy Williams and Barbie Lloyd are the St George's Deanery Synod reps. There have been four meetings this year. The following summary of the main agenda item for each meeting is taken from the respective minutes:

8th May 2013:

Presentation by Revd Canon Nick Ralph (Head of Mission and Society and Social Responsibility Adviser) and Francis Davis

The Portsmouth Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility (CSR) was headed by Canon Nick Ralph and acted as a separate and independent charity with the Directors being the Diocesan Board of Finance. Nick explained the history and background to this organisation as well as the business plan.

The focus was on supporting parishes. A number of "products" were promoted by CSR. *Rapid Development Programme (rdp)* was one of them working with local parishes looking at opportunities not problems, Canon Nick Ralph underlined. 21 parishes had rdp programmes, three in Havant Deanery. The concept was also sold to other dioceses.

Canon Nick Ralph spoke about a number of rdp projects in the Deanery: St Faith's in Havant and St Francis, Leigh Park in conjunction with postgraduate architectural students from Portsmouth University.

It was not, he emphasised, purely a development programme but looking at opportunities and strengths of parishes.

The *Good Neighbour Support Volunteer Services* was another CSR programme paid for and supported by Hampshire County Council helping communities and parishes within those.

The *Creative Leadership programme* focused on building a network of practitioners to encourage mutual support and development.

Nick spoke briefly about the newest programme “*Social Innovation*” and the Faith Based Community Bond, raising money from churches to invest in faith based income generating activities that created an impact, such as a community café. The CSR was supporting some projects with grants.

A training video based on the presentation by Dr Graeme Codrington’s Generation Theory was available for parishes. “Signs of Hope”, a programme for parishes was also developed helping parishes to be positive and engaged.

Francis Davies, Head of the Joint Venture Social Enterprise (JV):

Francis Davies explained that JV was established by CSR to put into practice the things parishes want to do with the resources available and hence might pick up from rdp or be utilised on its own by parishes.

Practical work with parishes was important, Francis Davies outlined, i.e. matching resources to visions and finding outside help in all forms and shapes.

He spoke about St Francis, Leigh Park and St George’s Portsea and St Peter, Somers Town and their projects looking at and having organised different ways of funding (social housing and community events at St George’s) and practical help for various projects.

The cost to employ the services of JV to the parishes in the Diocese was £180 a day, he explained and he invited parishes to contact him.

The most recent project was the *Cathedral Innovation Centre* (see also Pompey Chimes) for start-up and young companies to use Cathedral house for office space supported by a start-up grant and with the support of other companies and mentors. Community shareholders were sought, where individual and groups could back entrepreneurs for £75, the first community share offer world-wide, he underlined. Another innovation centre was planned for the Havant area.

The JV, he thought was developing the idea of individual churches acting charitably and out of social responsibility but on a larger scale. Encouraging the young and establishing them in the community was the obvious development of these responsibilities. The launch of the first ever National

Enterprise Award was going to take place the next day and the Diocese was involved in this through the Innovation Centre.

He invited Synod members to find out more about this project.

www.cathedralinnovationcentre.com

He was contactable on Francis.davis@thesparkinthedark.org.

Canon Nick Ralph reminded Synod that churches had always acted out of social responsibility and this was important to show that the “church” had values not just doctrines.

Questions were asked regarding the fundraising, especially in our straightened times and practicalities of rpd and JV. Both speakers explained that JV and rdp acted to advise churches, come up with possibly new and different ways of looking at issues and implementing solutions.

The JVC and rpd projects worked well within Ministry for Mission and the Mission Opportunity Fund as a means to support parishes financially, Canon Nick Ralph thought. The resources and structures at the Diocese as well as their funding was also briefly discussed.

9th July 2013:

Presentation by Andrew Dawson – Ecclesiastical Insurances

Ecclesiastical Insurances currently insure 97% of all Anglican Churches in the UK.

Andrew spoke about Health & Safety in churches and buildings with the background of a litigious society and accidents being commonly regarded as somebody else’s fault.

Public Liability: for anyone not classed as an employee. The Portsmouth Group Scheme was covered for £7.5 million. The average value of a public liability claim was £20k Andrew pointed out.

Employers Liability covered for anyone who helped in a church and the average value of an Employer’s Liability claim was £25k.

The cost of a claim was usually split 50% between cost of the claim and payout to the injured party.

Andrew made it clear that churches had to comply with health and safety legislation, maintain records, report accidents and defend claims. The first priority was to stop injury occurring followed by saving costs. The Ecclesiastical Website held updated information on legislation and avoidance of accidents.

www.ecclesiastical.com/churchmatters

Churches had to appoint a person responsible within the PCC for Health & Safety, it was however, a shared responsibility not that of an individual. A H&S policy should be completed and regularly reviewed.

Andrew also spoke about the Chancel Repair Liability where churches had to register liability by 16th October 2013 with the Land Registry. Further information on Chancel liability under

<http://www.churchofengland.org/clergy-office-holders/pastoralandclosedchurches/pastoral/crl.aspx> and http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chancel_repair_liability

Questions were asked with regards to establishing the liability and Andrew advised to look at individual cases and insure accordingly. Locally he believed, the Chancel Repair Liability would lay mostly with the Church Commissioner or Oxford College.

Questions were also asked about open churches, and risk assessment for individual cases.

Andrew advised to speak to him or his team directly for individual queries and to make use of the company's website.

6th November 2013:

Speed Debating Synod members gathered in small groups of 2 or 3 parishes to discuss issues in 2 sessions of appr. 20 minutes. Items discussed were:

- Baptism Follow up
- How to work with other parishes
- Family Services
- Fund Raising for Major Projects
- Ways of reaching out to the community
- Ways of blessing the community
- Independent auditors. Are members of one's own congregation independent ?
- Sunday school and youth leaders
- Maintaining buildings
- Church lighting
- Spreading the load among busy people
- Ways of charitable giving

11 February 2014:

Speaker Mark Ward from The Trussell Trust.

- a) Mark is the Lay Chair of Christchurch Deanery, and a member of Winchester Diocesan Synod. He is a lay minister working in the parish of Fordingbridge. He was here tonight as the Head of Fundraising for the Charity The Trussell Trust.
- b) The Trussell Trust is a Christian charity that does not affiliate itself with any political party and receives no government funding. They are non-judgemental and inclusive, providing assistance to people of all backgrounds and all faiths or none who are found to be in genuine need.
- c) They base their work on Matthew 25: 35-36 – ‘For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me...’
- d) The Trust was founded by Lt Col Paddy Henderson in 1997 based on a legacy left by Betty Trussell. It initially focused on improving conditions for children in Bulgaria which Paddy saw first-hand whilst working for the UN. Today it continues its work as the only project of its kind working to help Bulgaria’s orphanage leavers to build successful futures free from crime, prostitution and drug abuse.
- e) Whilst fundraising for Bulgaria in Salisbury in 2000 Paddy was made aware of the desperate plight of local families who are only a pay packet away from a crisis. He investigated local indices of deprivation and ‘hidden hunger’ in the UK. He found that significant numbers of local people living in supposedly affluent areas faced short term hunger as a result of a sudden crisis.
- f) The Salisbury food bank was started in his garden shed and garage, providing three days of emergency food to local people in crisis. In 2004 the UK food bank network was launched teaching churches and communities nationwide how to start their own food bank.
- g) Today, the Trust has 414 food banks working as not for profit franchises around the country which feeds hundreds of thousands of people in crisis (estimated as 712,000 to date). It works closely with partner agencies who identify those in need and the Trust provides a ‘food box’ which contains a minimum of three days nutritionally balanced, non-perishable food.

- h) The Trust is also passionate about the impact of working with local communities to discover and find solutions to local need. It has launched several practical and innovative projects and partnership with local communities. These Community Enterprises provide vital funds as well as volunteering opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities.
- i) Mark gave several examples of these including furniture recycling shops, mending and selling furniture at reasonable prices. An on-line 'Amazon' type selling of books, which raises funds by saving on bulk postage costs. Stripping wool from bobbins from carpet factories and selling the wool to felt manufactures. Running a café to help support and engage with the local community. These projects help to enable people, some of whom have disabilities, to work in the community and make a difference, engaging with others and improving their self-esteem.
- j) The Trust works closely with non-secular partners including Tesco, Kelloggs and Mars. These partners help with nutritional advice, auditing of accounts, donations of damaged but edible goods, deliveries of food boxes, allowing supermarket collections in local stores, staff training and general donations. (Tesco provide a 'top-up' of 30% on what is donated outside their stores).
- k) Volunteers are a big part of the team at The Trussell Trust. People can volunteer anything from a few hours at an event to five days a week. Donations of food (there is a specific list of requested items) and money are of course very welcome.
- l) Mark answered questions from members and he was able to explain the logistics of running a food bank in a rural and urban location.
- m) He was also asked about the start-up costs that were requested by the Trust when approached by a new organisation wishing to start a food bank. He explained that the costs of £1500 in the first year and £360 for each year thereafter covers all the tools that are needed to get going including training, website, warehouse structures, access to agencies, 24/7 support, food standards agency information etc. He believes that this work actually costs the Trust £6k per food bank and no new organisations have said that raising the initial money was a problem.
- n) If members wish to find out more please go to www.trusselltrust.org

The Chair thanked Mark for his presentation and hoped that members are aware of where their local food banks are. 50% of funds raised from the Bishop's lent appeal this year will go to food banks.

Barbie Lloyd and Candy Williams

St George's News and Website – www.stgeorgesnews.org

St George's News, the Parish Magazine, continues to be published every other month. As an outreach, extra copies are printed for complimentary distribution to different households each time, and if you would be able to deliver ten copies to neighbouring houses please let Tony Rice-Oxley know, as more distributors are required.

Advertising is holding up quite well but we can always do with more, so if you are able to get any local businesses to advertise with us, it is a great help. As always, we ask that members of the congregation make use of the magazine advertisers whenever possible, and importantly when doing so mention St George's News as the reason for coming to them. Advertisers need to know it is worthwhile advertising with us. With no advertisers, there is no magazine.

We continue to look for articles of originally written material to publish, and new contributors, with new ideas, will be especially welcome.

The St George's News website contains a wealth of information, in particular the comprehensive calendar of events and copies not only of the magazine but also the Sunday Bulletin, and much more. The message boards have never really taken off but they are there to be used and are a useful way of easily posting messages on to the website for all to see. Why not take a good look around the website some time and see all that it has to offer.

We are always looking for help with developing St George's On-Line presence, in particular we need to much improve the social media presence (ie. particularly Facebook and Twitter) and if anyone is able and willing to take that on please see John Johnson. Please also let us know if you have any ideas which could further improve the magazine or expand the services provided by the website.

We are beginning to think about changing our magazine to a wholly free issue. To do this we would produce up to 500 free copies every two months. However we would need a small team of people to distribute the magazine. In practice this would mean 50 people to deliver 10 magazines each every two

months. What do you think? Could you do this? Note there is no money collection just simply a delivery through the letter box of 10 homes.

Please let us have your views. Without your support we cannot go ahead with this.

John Johnson
Tony Rice-Oxley

St George's Servers

St Georges is extremely fortunate to have a dedicated group of servers who are prepared to assist in the sanctuary. There are many churches that are envious of the position we find ourselves in. If anyone would like to become a server, please let me know, and I will ensure you receive the necessary training.

Our serving team still comprise the majority of those attending the monthly Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary's meetings. This gives those members the opportunity to meet servers from other churches in this worship-focused organisation.

The role of the server is to assist the priest with the services at St Georges in an unobtrusive manner. Occasionally, mistakes are made, though these are rarely noticed by the congregation, as they are often rectified without any fuss.

I am grateful to Jasmine, Laura, Sophie, Wendy, Euan, Martin, Oliver, Simon & Stevie for performing the role of boat girl/boy over the last year. If any other young child would like to perform that role, please let me know, and I will fit you into the rota.

My thanks, as ever go to all the servers for their support over the last year, and especially to Anne & Abi who regularly assist me in sorting out the rotas in 3 monthly blocks.

It is a privilege to be head server at St George's, and I will continue to undertake this role to the best of my ability.

David Palmer
Head Server

Sunday School

We have been delighted to welcome a lot of younger children to Sunday School. Suitable activities are provided for them and, in the case of babies and toddlers, mats and toys are made available. We continue to provide lessons suitable for the three age groups, which is why there are often several different things to show in Church at the end of the service.

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 now been prepared and distributed to the leaders. We are very grateful to Anne Morgan for compiling and completing this task and to Barbie for ensuring that each Leader has a copy in their preferred form, be it paper, CD or electronically. Both have spent a huge amount of time in this preparation.

Since the last report, our Leadership has decreased from eleven to six although hopefully this will increase to seven shortly. The leaders all give of their time willingly to deliver the set lessons but need to be able to have time for their own worship in between 'duties'. If you feel you could help, please do speak with Father Mike or Linda Wainwright.

The Sunday School Team

Team Ascalon

Team Ascalon, the youth programme at St George's, has now been running very successfully for fourteen months. 'Ascalon' was said to be the name of the sword owned and used by Saint George. It was decided in January to continue with the group name, as it was popular, catchy and worked well.

There are sixteen children 'on the books' who are guided by a combination of all or most of the seven leaders at each meeting. These tend to take place on alternate Friday and Sunday Evenings. Attendance has been high – twelve or more and the young people (and adults!) have enjoyed a variety of activities including riding the Giant Wii (Archery and Bowling), a Pool Party at Glendene with swimming and water games, a visit to the QE Country Park for outdoor games and BBQ, a Treasure Hunt around Waterlooville, Chocolate Quiz, Movie and Snack Night, A Team New Year Party and ever popular bowling. During the Waterlooville Music Festival, some members took advantage of a free ticket to the excellent Folk Evening featuring 'Threepenny Bit' and the 'Portsmouth Shantymen.' Food also plays an important part and at each meeting a snack or meal is prepared and served. Leaders and

young people sit down to eat and chat together helping to create a valuable and affirming atmosphere.

Church life is introduced discreetly. At Harvest time the meeting had a fun vegetable theme and you may remember the young people's varied vegetable sculptures on show in Church. At the time of writing this report, Team Ascalon will have experienced the first of two special meetings to discover what Lent is all about and to prepare for the Seder Meal.

The leaders themselves have been meeting roughly every two or three months to review the last set of evenings and to plan the next. Our aim is to provide a fun, innovative, original programme, which will be eagerly anticipated. So far, at least, we appear to be on the right track.

Team Ascalon Leaders

St George's Choir

The Choir is thriving; it is tackling more and more difficult music and although the numbers have dropped slightly (with the departure of Cat and Liz Emery and Len Palmer), we have a new Bass – Chris Barrand and a new Tenor, Tony Rice-Oxley. Both are very welcome. The Choir comprises eleven regular members in number with the welcome addition of Lesley Handy for special occasions and the Emery twins out of term time.

The Choir enjoyed singing at a Hymns and Pimm's evening in June conducted by Brian Moles. In September we had a joint Evensong at St Mary's Portchester. This was the last Sunday in the Choir for Cat and Liz Emery before they left for their respective Universities. I would like to express my thanks to both for their huge musical input to St George's. A return Evensong at Waterlooville was organised in October. We were able to attempt 'Stanford in C', a large work needing, sometimes, double parts.

In 2013, late summer, the choir vestry was re-decorated with minimal disruption. New book dividers were bought which have transformed the room making it clean, tidy and lacking in clutter. The music books are easy to manage as each Choir member has their own particular book number. Thanks go to Adrienne Bridger for buying the dividers.

In November, new battery operated lights were bought to successfully replace candles at the Advent Carol Service. New folders were bought too. Thanks go to Julia Spurgeon.

At the beginning of December we made a visit to Victory Court to sing carols and read poems to house members. As a result they gave us a very generous donation towards Choir funds. We were given a very generous Christmas donation to Choir funds too, by Len Palmer.

We gave our annual Advent, Christmas and 'Light of Life' carol services with excellent solos by Rachel Palmer and Iain Renfrew in the latter service.

In the New Year, Len Palmer decided he would have to leave the Choir, reluctantly, due to infirmity. It is with sadness that we let him go and thank him for his loyalty, sense of fun and dedication.

All in all, a good year with lots of new music learnt and good attendance both at Choir Practice and Church Services.

Stella Starr

St George's Band

Since last year the church band has lost three more members, this is due to moving out of the area and two church members going to University.

This leaves a total of 8 members of the church band. I can call on one or two others but numbers are very low. The impact is that we cannot play at every family service. To improve this situation we need to recruit at least three musicians to replace those who have left as soon as possible. I have asked for people to come forward at various times but none, as of yet, have made themselves known to me.

We are able to play for the major church festivals but until numbers increase we are unable to play for family services.

Don Lloyd

St George's Social and Fundraising Committee

The Burn's Night Celebration took place on January 26th with a large group of participants from St George's and The Waterlooville Twinning Association. It was a good lively occasion raising £272 for St George's, £297 for WATA, a donation of £150 towards the piper playing at a D Day service in France and £50 to the Hall.

In February there was a Table Top Sale which raised £254 towards Hall kitchen equipment.

On March 2nd David Cavey organised a Gourmet Evening with energetic input from the several organisations within the congregation.

The Parish Lunch after the APCM took place on April 21st. There was a three course meal with sherry, wines and coffee which was enjoyed by all. £337 was raised for funds from both events.

The Summer Fete took place at the beginning of the Waterloo Music Festival and proved a focal point for many visitors. It raised £2365 for the church.

Glendene Proms on July 6th finally took place outside after a few years of being rained off. The music was themed around Favourite Music of Any Type and an enthusiastic audience ate their picnics whilst listening to brilliant music.

On September 28th there was a Madhatter's Michaelmas Party with games, entertainment and dances. There was fun for all with an American Supper. £102 was passed to the social funds for the church.

In October we had our Charity Shop for two weeks. Staffed and provisioned by the congregation this was a very profitable event and raised over £4,300 with gift aid included.

On November 2nd we had a Travelling Supper where we visited a variety of households for delicious courses ending up at Glendene with a firework display. We raised £106.

We held a Race Night in aid of Naomi House at the end of November and handed over a cheque for £1,000 at the beautiful Naomi House Church service on December 11th.

The Bazaar on December 7th raised £1304.

A Church party visited the Pantomime Sleeping Beauty on December 14th and took great delight in shouting out when St George's was mentioned on the stage!

The Social Committee provides various refreshments throughout the year. The coffee mornings bring in valuable funds as does the 100 club and Bonus Ball Club and Plant sales.

Jane Rice-Oxley

St George's 100 Club and Accounts

As you will see from the accounts overleaf, the 100 club has been able to make a donation of £559.62 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 2013 TO 31 DECEMBER 2013

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
PRIZE MONEY PAID OUT	£555.00	BANK BALANCE AT 1.1.13	£336.00
DONATION TO PCC	£559.62	CASH BALANCE AT 1.1.13	£20.00
BANK AT 31.12.13	£335.00	SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID	£1,093.00
CASH AT 31.12.13	£0.00	BANK INTEREST	£0.62
	£1,449.62		£1,449.62

MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP

LIST OF WINNERS

JANUARY	94	JANUARY	47	A. RICE-OXLEY	£10.00
FEBRUARY	95		73	A. MORGAN	£5.00
MARCH	94	FEBRUARY	96	D. PALMER	£10.00
APRIL	93		11	R. CHAPMAN	£5.00
MAY	93	MARCH	47	A. RICE-OXLEY	£75.00
JUNE	93		7	S. CADET	£15.00
JULY	92	APRIL	94	L. SHEFFIELD	£10.00
AUGUST	92		9	A. LINNEY	£5.00
SEPTEMBER	92	MAY	1	D. LLOYD	£10.00
OCTOBER	92		78	M. CAVEY	£5.00
NOVEMBER	92	JUNE	56	I. NIJKAR	£75.00
DECEMBER	92		86	M. SYMONDS	£10.00
	1114	JULY	69	S. ALLISON	£10.00
			90	C. MONK	£5.00
		AUGUST	33	A. BURTENSHAW	£10.00
			73	A. MORGAN	£5.00
		SEPTEMBER	60	W. CLARK	£75.00
			2	A. EMERY	£10.00
		OCTOBER	16	A. RICHARDSON	£10.00
			13	A. JELLEY	£5.00
		NOVEMBER	10	M. HAUGHTON	£10.00
			83	V. DAVIES	£5.00
		DECEMBER	72	L. PALMER	£100.00
			85	T. SHEPHERD	£50.00
			47	A. RICE-OXLEY	£15.00
			52	P. DINNEEN	£10.00
					£555.00

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