



**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 2016**

**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 30TH APRIL 2017 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 2016 APCM and Matters Arising
6. Presentation of Audited Accounts and Treasurer's Report
7. Election of two 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 24th April 2016 in the church and commencing at 11.15 am. There were 70 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.

- 2 **APOLOGIES** were received from Jaye Warren, Mary Hutchings, Dan Palmer, Marian Haughton, Candy Williams, June Diaper, Margaret Cavey, Sandra Hewett, Abi Morgan, Pat Winter, Mabel Maginn, Nigel Morgan, Jess Deal, Janet Brewer, Sarah Brewer, Don Lloyd and Lisa Toft.

- 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.

He explained that there are two meetings, the first for the parishioners and the second for the congregation. Churchwardens originally were head of the parish, responsible for keeping prisoners locked up, maintaining roads in the parish etc. This no longer applies but the Churchwardens are appointed to help the parish priest. Although in this parish we elect Churchwardens to serve for 4 years they still have to be re-elected yearly. A big thank you to Linda Wainwright and Rosy Stone for all they have done over this year. Linda has come to the end of her 4 years and we sadly have to say goodbye to her. We will be able to do this more formally in a little while. Rosy has come to her mid-point having just completed 2 or her 4 years and has indicated her willingness to carry on. John Hood has indicated his willingness to stand as Churchwarden. He is a regular attender at the 8 am service and also Wednesday morning service and is always seen around the church maintaining the building. John Hood was proposed by Colin Monk and seconded by Rosemary Monk. Rosy Stone was proposed by Jane Cook and seconded by Marian Haughton. Fr Mike asked if everyone was happy for these two to be elected and it was agreed unanimously. They will be sworn in in a couple of weeks by the Archdeacon.

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 sadly some have 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.

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.

6 **PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS AND TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31.12.15:**
Dawn gave the following report:

The accounts have been audited by Paul Read there has been no alterations necessary to them.

The first thing to mention is that we ended the year with a deficit of funds of £3,347.81. This is much better than expected and is due to careful budgeting and a very successful drive to increase giving during 2015. However we still had a deficit and we must not get complacent regarding our financial position.

Our investment value has increased in value by £292 and was valued at £21,746 at the end of December. We had to withdraw money from the UTB bank to meet our everyday expenditure leaving us with a balance of £58,534

The main bank account held at HSBC had a balance of £8422 at the end of December.

The donation figure is up on last year by £2724. 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 £15,886 and takes into account the money taken by the shop (£4511 before gift aid), and money received from Bonusball (£500), Friday coffee morning (£950) and 100 club (£581). Our thanks go to the fundraising team whose efforts are greatly appreciated and without whom we would have severe financial difficulties. We are always

looking for fresh ideas to raise funds and everyone is welcome to join the fundraising task force.

We have received dividends from our investment and these have come out lower this year at £539 (£1,050 in 2014), which was to be expected with the current financial climate, and the fact that we had to withdraw money from our reserves as previously mentioned.

We received £9048.37 from HMRC in respect of Gift Aid. If you do pay tax and have not registered for Gift Aid please see David Cavey.

Fees received by the PCC were slightly lower than last year at £3,632. This money came mainly from funerals and weddings. 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 £56,164 which was up £2,364 from last year. A big thank you goes to George's Men who have steadily been working there way around the church and completing maintenance jobs saving us money in the process.

In general most of the expenditure has come in at or lower than budget and there were no major works completed during 2015 which again has helped on financial position.

I have again depreciated the church hall by 2% as in previous years and this came to £2,766 leaving a balance of the value of the hall as £135,532.

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 we 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, and in particular during the last few months while I have been preparing the year end accounts.

The acceptance of these accounts were proposed by David Palmer, seconded by Sheilah Hall and agreed unanimously.

Fr Mike thanked Dawn for all her work and asked if there were any questions for her. No questions were forthcoming so Fr Mike explained a couple of things in her report. Firstly, the Diocesan Parish share is divided across the Diocese (about 120 churches) and our share works out at about £1,000 a week and was paid in full last year. Thank you to those people who have moved over to the Parish Giving Scheme which makes Dawn's life a lot easier. Please see either Dawn or David Cavey if you would like to join. Secondly Assigned Fees – at a funeral or marriage service there is a fee involved which used to be paid to the clergy. This no longer happens but is collected by Dawn and sent on to the Diocese. Fr Mike also thanked people for their Gift Day envelopes – there was well over £700 and more have come in today so that is great news and Dawn will make sure a note goes in the Bulletin next week with the final amount.

7 **ELECTION OF PCC MEMBERS:** First of all thanks to the PCC members who have met 10 times over the last year. Fr Mike explained that there are two halves – the ex officio members, ie Churchwardens, Deanery Synod Reps, Treasurer and Secretary and the 9 elected members who stand for 3 years. Over the last year attendance has been 82.5% and if you are thinking of being a PCC member please do try and attend the meetings. Fr Mike explained that we need to appoint 5 PCC members this year. Patricia Byrne's position on the PCC was as a co-opted member last year but she has since been confirmed so she will stand as a full member for the next 3 years. She was proposed by David Palmer and seconded by Jane Cook. John Hood has one year left on the PCC but as he has now been appointed to Churchwarden he is no longer an elected member so we need to appoint someone to replace him. Chris Gadd has been working very hard as public relations and communications expert over the last year. You may have noticed that we are in the paper a lot and this is down to Chris Gadd. Fr Mike was also invited onto Express FM a few months ago thanks to Chris. You will also have noticed the newly re-vamped website all thanks to Chris and John Johnson.

The other 4 people who are standing are: Malcolm Brewer, proposed by Linda Wainwright and seconded by Tony Rice-Oxley, Chris Gadd, proposed by Candy Williams and seconded by Lesley Handy, Colin Monk, proposed by Sheilah Hall and seconded by June Diaper and finally Norma Kershaw, proposed by Linda Wainwright and seconded by Jane Cook. Fr Mike asked if everyone was happy to elect these 5 people on block as your representative on the PCC and this was agreed unanimously.

Sadly this means we are losing 3 people this year – Marian Haughton, Tony Rice-Oxley and Sonja Barrand – who have served their time on the PCC. Thank you to the 3 of them for all they have done.

- 8 **ELECTION OF SIDESPERSIONS:** Dick Handy read out the Meet and Greet and Sidespersons rota as follows:

08:00 Service

- a) Jaye Warren
- b) Graham Biggs

10:00 Service

- 1. Colin & Rosemary Monk
- 2. John & Margaret Symonds
- 3. Jane Cook
- 4. Sandra Hewett
- 5. Audrey Linney
- 6. Barbara Clark
- 7. Susan Deal
- 8. Lynda Sheffield
- 9. David & Margaret Cavey
- 10. Carol McKells
- 11. Sue Hodgens
- 12. Sheilah Hall
- 13. Patricia Byrne
- 14. Lynne McNeill
- 15. Eve Inwood
- 16. Ben Trimby
- 17. Marian Haughton
- 18. Malcolm Brewer
- 19. Carol Walker
- 20. Linda Wainwright
- 21. Dick Handy

Acceptance of the list of sidespersons/meet and greet was agreed unanimously. If anyone else would like to join please let Dick know.

- 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 asked if there were any questions/observations and none were forthcoming.

- **Churchwardens' report** – Linda read out the report written by herself and Rosy Stone as follows:

“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 Waterloo 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. Linda also added recently departed Cecil Wilman and Joyce Curran.

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".

Rosy Stone added her grateful thanks to Linda for all the help she has given her in relation to the duties of a Churchwarden. She told Linda that she will be a very hard act to follow. Be assured that any deficiencies on her behalf are not due to Linda's training.

Fr Mike also thanked the two Churchwardens assistants – Tony Rice-Oxley and Jaye Warren for all they have done over the last year.

They are happy to continue for a further year.

Fr Mike also thanked Rod Starr who has been with us since October and Mark Langtry for all they do to enhance the music in the church.

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 2015. Some bottles of wine will be given to Paul for this work. He has indicated that he is willing to examine the accounts again next year and this was agreed unanimously.

11 **COMMENTS FROM PARISH PRIEST**

Fr Mike gave the following report in the form of a sermon during the service:

Years ago I used to stand on the seafront and watch the Southend carnival procession.

It started with a police car, a fire engine and they were followed by loads of floats from local businesses, groups like the scouts, organisations - I remember the lifeboat always having a float and then things like the local hospital.

After a band came the carnival queens - lots of them but always ending with Southend's own and then right at the end came smartest refuse lorry you could imagine - decorated to blend in with the carnival but in truth there to pick up the rubbish.

Sadly for the dustmen - as they were called then - few would stay to clap them - instead people would leave as soon as the Carnival Queen had gone by.

Well I feel like the dustcart this morning. You've had all the interesting bits - the financial report, the Wardens' report and now right at the end - just when you're more interested in getting to the hall for a drink and your lunch, I come along!

I'm going to be very brief - in fact it's just 3 "thank yous".

If you were in Church last Sunday then you may remember that I talked about you being the Church - when you're out and about in Waterlooville, especially you represent St. George's Church - indeed the whole Christian Church.

Just thinking on from that for a few moments, sometimes people see things that we do outside the Church - in the precinct, in local schools, in residential homes, in the Hall even as somehow not a real part of St. George's.

They're seen as extras which as they take both time and sometimes money too, could be dropped.

That kind of thinking can so easily lead us to become an introverted, closed sect. We're not - this is the Parish Church, and I want to thank you for all the things that go on out there, all the things that witness to Waterlooville that St. George's Church is here, active, welcoming and very much a part of the community.

So thank you for taking Communion to people in their homes and for delivering the magazine. Thank you for representing our Church in things like the Fun Day yesterday, in the Good Friday procession, in Market Place Music and for taking around Music Festival fliers and posters. There's no doubt that the Music Festival is a great witness - it shows people St. George's is at the heart of Waterlooville and of course it brings into the Church hundreds of people - many who don't come at any other time.

I could go on - but actually it's you that needs to go on - keep on representing St. George's in the town. That's one thank you.

The next one is to Linda. What a great Churchwarden she's been. She's been here in Church at nearly every service. She's been a very active member of most committees, she's been the push behind the Fundraising Task Force and she's worked really hard to make sure the fabric and the finances of St. George's are secure. She's learned to use the computer during her 4 years as well! I must also say that she's been a real support to me - thank you. John - you've got a hard act to follow! Linda has said that she is planning on taking it easy for a while and was presented with a box of goodies which will hopefully help!

My last thank you is to you again - to all of you. As you know, 2015 wasn't a great year at home - Lynda's accident in the spring and her father dying in the autumn.

We experienced from you a real sense of being part of a family – St George's family.

So thank you for:

- sending cards
- visiting Lynda in hospital
- doing the ironing
- delivering dinners - sometimes anonymously
- cutting the grass
- taking Lynda shopping
- doing things that we'd normally have done and perhaps most of all
- thanks for praying for her - for us in fact. (Just a little story - Tony and Jane Rice-Oxley were on holiday in Italy and were having a coffee with some people they had met and were telling them about Lynda's accident. They were also Christians and insisted on praying for Lynda in the middle of a square with Tony leading the prayers).

Your care, your love - well it's been tremendous. Thank you.

Well I'm at the end like that dustcart, that's it so now it's dinner time!

Linda said a huge thank you on behalf of all the congregation for everything Fr Mike does at St George's. She said she knew he worked hard but since being churchwarden and time has gone on she has noticed the effort he puts into "the job". Lynda is not only a support to him but thanks go to her for everything she has done and we give thanks for her recovery.

The meeting closed at 12.10 pm and was followed by the Parish lunch.

ST GEORGE'S CHURCH – ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

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 2016 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 items around the Church – font, altar, statues, etc.

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: Rosy Stone
John Hood

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Barbie Lloyd
Elaine Shimbart

Elected Members:

Malcolm Brewer
Patricia Byrne
Chris Gadd
Sheilah Hall
Dick Handy
Norma Kershaw
Lynne McNeill
Colin Monk
Candy Williams

Committees

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

Church Attendance

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

The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2016, was 146 adults and 9 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 77%. 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 24 wide-ranging charities, both at home and overseas, in particular £298 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, Southern Domestic Abuse, Christian Aid, RNLI, SPANA, The Haven, Christian Aid Refugee Appeal, Leprosy Mission, Parkinsons UK, The Samaritans, Living Waters Fellowship, Let the children live, Water Aid, Naomi House, Portsmouth Hospitals Rocky Appeal, Mothers' Union and Royal British Legion. These were all retiring collections. Money was constantly being raised for church funds over the year, in particular £2,603.47 at the Summer Fete, £1,518.98 at the Christmas Bazaar, £4,101 from the St George's Shop and £1,122.76 from the sale of plants, bulbs and votives throughout the year.

The giving through envelopes and banker's orders has increased to £42,427, £1,357 more than last year excluding tax? The tax recovered on all Gift Aid donations for the year was £11,006, an increase of £818. We had a very successful St George's Day Gift Day this year, raising £1,159. Contributions on the collection plate were slightly lower than last year coming to £4,478. £121,084 (an increase of £15,420 from 2015) was spent to provide the

Christian Ministry from St George's Church, including the full contribution to the parish share of £57,095 (an increase of £931 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 popular and will continue.
- Taize services took place during the year.
- Waterloo Music Festival – celebrated its 11th 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.
- Three 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.

Towards the end of the year the Churchwardens and the Incumbent attended a Diocesan run course "Lead Your Church into Growth". As a result of this a new sub-group of the PCC has been formed. The Mission Team, comprising three Church members together with those on the course. Currently the Team is examining membership lists going back 5 years to determine if and why people have stopped attending the Church regularly and to find ways to welcome newcomers. Most Sundays sees new people worshipping at St George's, many of whom remain as members of the congregation, and discovering their welcome experiences will be vital.

On behalf of the PCC

Dawn Trimby, Treasurer
Jane Cook, Secretary

Signed:


The Reverend Mike Sheffield

April 2017

Treasurer's Report 2016

Incorporating all the Church group finances with the main Church and Hall Accounts, the final figures initially show a deficit of £17,795. If depreciation of the Church Hall at 2% amounts to £2,711 this decreases to £15,084.

For another year St George's hosted the Waterloo Music Festival and the PCC received a generous donation of £3,000 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 £568 from the 100 Club, £1,300 from the Social and Fundraising Committee (including Friday Coffee Funds) and £600 from the Bonus Ball

Donations from Planned Giving was higher than budgeted receiving £38,613 compared to £38,238 in 2015, and we received £12,329 in Gift Aid tax recovery. We also received £1,159 from our Gift Day.

Interest on bank and building society accounts amounted to £866 and the value of PCC investments increased by £2,281. The Investment fund is currently valued at £24,028. Throughout 2016, £704 was received as dividends.

Fundraising was higher than expectations by £17,352. 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 £3,358 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 2016 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. 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 Waterloo 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 again over the next few years. 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 2014**

| | UNRESTRICTED | RESTRICTED | 2016 YEAR TOTAL | YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account | 2015 YEAR TOTAL |
|--|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| INCOME | | | | | |
| Planned Giving S/Orders | 35689 | - | 35689 | 36000 | 32565 |
| Planned Giving Green Env | 2925 | - | 2925 | 6100 | 5563 |
| Gift Aided Pink Envelopes | 3814 | - | 3814 | 3100 | 2942 |
| Gift Aid Tax | 11006 | - | 11006 | 10000 | 10189 |
| General Collections | 4478 | - | 4478 | 4800 | 4511 |
| Gift Days | 1159 | - | 1159 | 650 | - |
| Donations & Appeals | 3002 | - | 3002 | 5850 | 7085 |
| Liturgical Donations | 95 | 1350 | 1445 | 1600 | 1878 |
| Bookstall | 735 | - | 735 | 200 | 262 |
| Parish Magazine Advertising | 668 | - | 668 | 800 | 834 |
| Parish Magazine Sales | 167 | - | 167 | 200 | 132 |
| Fees received (PCC) | 4311 | - | 4311 | 4000 | 3632 |
| Fete, Bazaar, Fund Raising | 16518 | 834 | 17352 | 10000 | 15885 |
| Sales | 62 | - | 62 | - | 98 |
| Photocopying Income | 436 | - | 436 | 700 | 503 |
| Income from Investments/Bank | 1569 | - | 1569 | 500 | 1715 |
| Unbudgetted items: | | | | | |
| Fees received (Assigned) | 1419 | - | 1419 | - | 1382 |
| Other Funds (Charities) | 3603 | - | 3603 | - | 3475 |
| Hall Lettings | 12632 | - | 12632 | - | 12895 |
| Youth Group Activities | - | - | - | - | - |
| Toddler Group Income | - | 510 | 510 | - | 428 |
| Social Committee | - | 1828 | 1828 | - | 1073 |
| Ex.ord Income | 1450 | - | 1450 | - | 138 |
| Ladies Group | - | - | - | - | 1746 |
| Pastoral funds received | - | - | - | - | 107 |
| TOTALS | 105738 | 4522 | 110260 | 84500 | 109038 |
| ST GEORGE THE MARTYR, WATERLOOVILLE | | | | | |

| COMBINED ACCOUNTS OVERVIEW FOR 2016 | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| | UNRESTRICTED | RESTRICTED | 2016 YEAR TOTAL | YEAR'S BUDGET For PCC Account | 2015 YEAR TOTAL |
| EXPENDITURE | | | | | |
| Parish Share | 57095 | - | 57095 | 57080 | 56164 |
| Gas/Elec/Water Insurance | 3022 | - | 3022 | 4400 | 3285 |
| Church and Grounds Maintenance | 25337 | - | 25337 | 23000 | 3268 |
| Clergy Expenses | 3289 | - | 3289 | 3700 | 3061 |
| Administrator | 2426 | - | 2426 | 3000 | 2320 |
| Liturgical Costs | - | 1383 | 1383 | 2000 | 2053 |
| Magazine, Bookstall & Bulletin | 883 | - | 883 | 710 | 786 |
| Piano and Organ tune | 120 | - | 120 | 400 | 157 |
| Honoraria and Salaries | 3000 | - | 3000 | 3000 | 500 |
| Administration | 1590 | - | 1590 | 1500 | 1427 |
| Photocopier Costs | 2401 | - | 2401 | 1600 | 1827 |
| Fees paid out | 2345 | - | 2345 | 2150 | 3669 |
| Capitation Fee | 20 | - | 20 | 30 | 30 |
| Fundraising & Sales costs | 554 | - | 554 | 500 | 1149 |
| Pastoral Costs | 260 | - | 260 | - | 226 |
| Music Support | - | - | - | 100 | 422 |
| Sunday School | 67 | - | 67 | 150 | 53 |
| | | | | | |
| Unbudgetted items: | | | | | |
| Assigned Fees | 1608 | - | 1608 | | 1382 |
| Ex.Ord Outgoing | - | - | - | | 500 |
| Hall Running Costs | 12176 | 130 | 12306 | | 16823 |
| Hall Depreciation @ 2% | 2711 | - | 2711 | | 2766 |
| Youth Group Activities | - | 648 | 648 | | 495 |
| Social Committee | - | 2453 | 2453 | | 2223 |
| Giving to Charities | 3359 | - | 3359 | | 3342 |
| Quinquennial costs | 1178 | - | 1178 | | 2198 |
| Ladies Group | - | - | - | | 2260 |
| | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 123441 | 4614 | 128055 | 103320 | 112386 |

Churchwardens Report

2016 was full of activity at St George's. In January our banner was refurbished beautifully by Dawn Hyett. Our Communications Team took up suggestions made by the Diocesan Communications Advisor and we are getting a new noticeboard. Sunday School held their first and very successful Epiphany Party. The annual Unity Week Ecumenical Service was held at St John's Church, Purbrook.

A well-rehearsed and very good Song & Dance Night was held in February, with many performers taking part enthusiastically.

The Parish Giving Scheme, an efficient and timesaving method of dealing with planned giving to the church, was rolled out in March, after trialling it with PCC members. The sacristy roof was repaired following emergency repairs carried out eighteen months previously. During Lent sermons concentrated on the topic of daily prayers. Fr Mike attended a three day retirement course, which now seems very timely.

The Gift Day in April raised over £700. April also saw our annual pilgrimage to Walsingham.

In May it was necessary to install a new key safe as our old one disappeared. We also had the Archdeacon's Visitation, which necessitated changes to our working practices and record keeping. A further Visitation in December confirmed that the new arrangements met the diocesan requirements.

Starting our Music Festival week and despite threatening rain our Summer Fete in June was very successful and raised more funds than previously. The concerts that followed attracted so many visitors that more concerts than ever were sold out.

In July a Strawberry Tea held at the Vicarage was the first of several social events organised by Lynda Sheffield to which all church members were to be invited. A Coffee & Cake morning in church, a Wine & Nibbles evening and Pre Lunch Drinks & Snacks at the Vicarage followed during the year. These were a great success as people got to know each other better.

August sermons focused on parts of the church such as the altar and lectern. St George's joined with the Catholic and Baptist churches to hold a stall at the Waterlooville Fete at Jubilee Park.

The church shop in September/October run for a fortnight by Patricia Byrne and ably assisted by many volunteers, raised a record sum of nearly £5,000 for church funds. Following guidance from the diocese a Faculty application was made to erect the new main sign in front of the church. Approval was eventually granted in February this year enabling the sign, for which Northwood estate agency made a generous donation, to be erected by a team of George's Men.

In October as part of the Church of England's Church Live initiative our Harvest Service was streamed live via the video app Periscope. St George's churches worldwide were invited to join by watching the service and over seventy churches accepted the invitation. We were also able to view the service afterwards online. Fr Mike, John and I attended Leading Your Church Into Growth, a two and a half day course held at Old Thorns Hotel, Surrey. It was full on and very inspiring and we are carrying forward the aim of the course with a small group of congregation members. We also enjoyed a Harvest Bangers & Bingo evening, a new, fun social activity.

We opened wide our doors to all comers during the Remembrance Day service in November and two wreaths were laid on the altar.

Our Christmas Carol Service in December was recorded by Wave FM to be broadcast on the radio.

Throughout the year George's Men continued their valuable DIY efforts to keep the church and hall in such good repair.

Sadly, during the year Fr Mike lost his mother. We lost Cecil Wilman, our former organist, Babs Chamberlain, Joyce Curran, Ivy Dymott, Ken Burton and Reg Blythe. May they rest in peace.

Our thanks go to Fr Ray and everyone who has contributed to the life and work of our lovely parish church of St George the Martyr.

Finally, our grateful thanks to Fr Mike, for the wonderful leadership and dedication to us he has shown over the past 13 years. Whilst we are sad that he and Lynda are leaving us we do appreciate how very lucky we have been to have had such an exceptional couple serve us during this time. We wish them a long and happy retirement and we pray for guidance, wisdom and the support of the congregation during the interregnum.

Rosy Stone and John Hood
Churchwardens

St George's Church Hall Report

2016 saw the hall receive an income of £12,767 which was in line with 2015 income. This is pleasing as we had only budgeted for £10,800. The increase being due to securing a new 52 week a year booking. 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 of organisations looking for accommodation would they please contact Sheilah Hall.

Expenditure for the year was £13,766. This exceeded our budget by £960. This over spend became necessary as one of the large gas fires failed and a replacement was necessary. Additionally work was undertaken on improving the surface below the steps from church, replacing a handrail and lengthening the slope to the side of the hall. This work was made possible by a gift from an anonymous donor and splitting the balance of the cost with the PCC.

At the start of 2016 the Hall Committee decided to place a security lock on the front doors as we did not have a record of who held keys and were unsure of who might be using it. The new lock now provides greater security and we now have a key register.

As part of providing more information for parishioners and the general public the notice board in the entrance foyer was moved and refurbished and now shows church groups and contacts.

As with any building that is over 100 years old there is a continuing need for ongoing maintenance. You may have noticed that the stacking wooden tables are being rejuvenated and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking John Hood for undertaking this and numerous other 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. Sadly this has occasionally been after use by a church group. I would therefore ask all users to ensure checks are carried out at the end of their booking to ensure everything has been turned off.

During 2016 the Diocese has undertaken an exercise on the cost of insurance for church buildings as a new provider has come into the market. After careful research the PCC agreed that we should move to new insurers and this will produce an annual saving of £750.

During the year the Committee became aware that companies who provide bouncy castles for children's parties do not stay in the hall during the period of hire and there is therefore no insurance cover in place. Having discussed the matter with the Hall's insurers a decision was taken by the Committee and PCC that we would no longer allow inflatables in the hall. It is hoped that this will only result in a marginal decrease in one off bookings.

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, Malcolm Brewer in his role as Hall 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

As reported last year our numbers are declining due to ill health and the ageing of members. Membership, going into 2017 will be 15. Whilst Pat Winter is no longer able to attend meetings she has become an IMPC member. Please pray for her.

The support given by the members, as we run by committee, is admirable and without it we would be forced to close. We are especially grateful to Janet Johnson, Wendy and Andrew Clark for their services as Minutes Secretary, birthday card distributor and Bookkeeper respectively.

We continue our support for SDAS (Havant Women's Refuge) with toiletries, clothing, towels, and bedding for single beds. Please remember this cause when you are replacing your own duvet covers and towels etc. Jennefer Higginbottom has done marvellous work in making Toilet Bags for QA Hospital's admission wards. We have supplied them filled with the required items (again contributions of toothbrushes, soap, flannels and combs would be greatly appreciated).

Our fundraising activities provided donations to AFIA, Make a Mother's Day, MU Christmas Appeal, MU Wheels Appeal and MU Baghdad, details of which appear in the Annual Accounts.

Our programme was varied, the Epiphany and Summer tea parties being especially appreciated by our guests from the UCM (Union of Catholic Mothers), Baptist Women's Fellowship and members of neighbouring MU branches.

Especially memorable was the talk given by the Revd George Gerbyer on his life story from Hitler Youth to parish priest of St John's Purbrook.

The highlights of the year included a visit to Arundel Cathedral on Corpus Christi Day to view the carpet of flowers which ran the length of the central aisle. At the Eucharist in Winchester Cathedral, held to celebrate the MU's 140th Anniversary, those of us attending from St George's felt very honoured when at the Peace we found ourselves shaking hands with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

We have enjoyed visits to neighbouring branches, the UCM and Baptists for Strawberry Teas, Christmas Parties etc.

We continue to run by Committee, in fact all members have a say, and because of their generous support we are able to function and have a programme for 2017. Our fellowship and contributions to projects for others' well being are especially appreciated. We all need to continue to work and pray together for the continued success of the branch.

Margaret Symonds
Hon Secretary and Contact Person for 2016

Pastoral Committee

The Pastoral Committee met five times in 2016.

Sheilah Hall and Tress Allison stepped down from teaching during the year, Kat Shepherd joined the teaching team and Jess Deal returned after maternity leave. Their work is much appreciated. Sunday School now have noticeboard displays in the hall and the church. In preparing the lessons Anne Morgan continues to give valuable support to the Sunday School. An Epiphany party, well organised by the Sunday School teachers, was held for the children in January. Claire Rocket has kindly agreed to continue her leadership of our excellent Parents & Toddlers group for a while longer.

Further to the Leading Your Church Into Growth course attended by Fr Mike and the wardens in October, the Pastoral committee will be reviewing our electoral roll for those who, for whatever reason, no longer attend St George's.

The Pastoral Visiting Team members continue their very worthwhile visits to members of the congregation who are unable to join our services. Following a day course attended by Fr Mike in November, a diocesan Safeguarding

Practice Guide, adapted for our use, will be issued to Pastoral and Baptism visitors. We welcome the addition of Patricia Byrne, Marilyn Atkins and Alice Pitney to the Baptism Visiting Team.

Giving invaluable assistance to the community Barbie Lloyd, her family and Patricia Byrne, helped on occasion by John Measham, transport items for the Waterloo Food Bank from the church and several town centre shops to the Acorn Centre.

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

A recent audit of the parish electoral role has taken place; in order for the Pastoral Committee to keep an idea of those who may not always be on the churches 'radar' as much as they could be and to reach out to these household, who may be more vulnerable.

The pastoral committee have continued to promote the 'Bottle In The Fridge (BIF) scheme'- to all pastoral visitors, attending home visits with more vulnerable adults in the parish community.

These bottles can assist, should an accident or sudden illness occur, the bottle pack alerts the emergency services to important information such as, medical conditions, current medication, and emergency contact name and telephone number. The information helps the emergency services to deal quickly and efficiently with an emergency situation should it arise. The pack consists of a bottle, a personal Information form & green and white emergency data link stickers, which are unique to the scheme; these are recognised by the emergency services.

There are ongoing training opportunities, for parish members in specific roles, covering the topic of Domestic Abuse. This training is aimed at church officers who work with adults, as well as children or young people to give a basic awareness of issues relating to domestic abuse and how the church can respond to this. This course covers: - Recognising domestic abuse, the impact of domestic abuse & responding to domestic abuse. This is a three

hour course taught by suitably experienced and knowledgeable trainers from outside of the Diocese and is due to be held on 26 May 2017- 9:30 - 12:30 .

Please note There is now a newly printed & laminated flowchart for the attention of all parishioners, on how to act when 'Responding to Disclosures from Adults' - on the hall notice board. Copies of this will also be circulated to all pastoral visiting volunteers, in addition to the diocese lone working policy.

Child Protection

The Diocese of Portsmouth is committed to safeguarding children, young people and adults and creating protective and supportive environments where all people, and especially those who may be vulnerable, are able to worship and pursue their faith journey in safety. The diocese follows the national legal and procedural framework for safeguarding children and adults, and Church of England policy and practice. If you have a safeguarding concern about an adult or child, please speak with Sonja Barrand - The churches Safeguarding Rep or contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Adviser Ian Berry -Tel: 07544 566850 / e-mail: ian.berry@portsmouth.anglican.org

In addition to the adult safeguarding flowchart: there is now a newly laminated 'Responding to Disclosures from Children' flowchart, placed on the hall notice board, as well as the Sunday school resource folder

In last year's report it was explained 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 diocese office but they now do not receive the final disclosure certificate back, instead it will be sent straight to the applicant. Therefore all applicants will need to photocopy the original for their own records and send the hard copy to :- Portsmouth Diocesan Office , 1st Floor, Peninsular House Wharf Rd, Portsmouth PO2 8HB - FAO- Mrs T. Winship. An email is then sent to St George's, to confirm they have logged an individual's, finalised DBS check.

Dates for training courses are always available from me and are also available under the safeguarding link on the diocese website:

<https://www.portsmouth.anglican.org/safeguarding/training/>

E learning is now available for all volunteers to complete, without having to give up time to attend a training course at Diocese house. I am happy to assist anybody who does not feel confident using a computer to complete this short online programme.

Youth Coordinator

I continue to be involved as a leader helping to facilitate youth activities at St George's. The church's Sunday School programme has continued to enrich parish life. If any matters arise in this setting, it will be taken to the Pastoral Committee and non-pastoral matters are taken up by the PCC.

Sonja Barrand
Safeguarding Representative and Validator

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 2016 programme included the now traditional Cribbage Night in January and to end the year a Christmas Skittles Match at Walderton. The group enjoyed an early summer visit to Urban Island Brewery and in February had a very interesting talk about Portsmouth Street Pastors. During the summer George's Men played cricket at Glendene and had an evening ramble across the fields to a dinner at Hambledon. Last year's new venture - Work Groups on Monday mornings - have continued to be a great success. The now named "St George's Men's Shed" have done loads of maintenance tasks around the Church, the grounds and the Hall. It's smartened up the image of St George's as well as saving the PCC a lot of money. All the mornings and evenings are publicised in the weekly Bulletin and all gentlemen from St George's are welcome to come. The evenings and Monday mornings are arranged by various gentlemen – thanks to them all for a very enjoyable and successful year.

Fr Mike

Tweenies

The annual Christmas dinner, organised by Rosemary Monk 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.

The year progressed with what seems to be exertion versus relaxation. Watching Helen Wilkes' cycle ride across America and Norma Kershaw's travels in Canada was inspiring. The annual walk was organised by Dawn Hyett along the Hayling Billy line, with a quiz. Then relaxing in the Ship followed.

More exercise appeared at Glendene, with swimming, tennis and croquet and in November, the longed-for battle against George's Men. This included Jenga, Connect 4, Dominoes and indoor cricket. No-one was quite sure who won, but a good evening was had by all who attended.

Linda Wainwright invited Tweenies to watch a DVD of the 'Footsteps of St. Wilfred' – his journey through the Meon valley. Seeing places that are so well known, in a different light, with a lovely commentary made an excellent evening. A more riotous time ended the year with a Christmas party hosted by Mo at her new home, which included carols (accompanied by Anne), sumptuous food and drink, quizzes and an amusing but vicious 'snatch raffle' with Rosemary.

More relaxing evenings including making jewellery, and being thoroughly pampered at Lesley's with massages, nail-painting, and facials. One very successful evening was the inauguration of a Book Club, by Dawn Trimby and Anne Morgan. This book club has taken off during 2017 and now includes new members – not just Tweenies. It is always great to welcome ladies at Tweenies – there is no membership. The group aims to provide fun times for fun-loving ladies.

Exertion and relaxation are optional!

Lynda Sheffield

Walsingham Cell Report

The group of 18 pilgrims set out on the Friday after Easter and as usual, we travelled with our friends from St. Alban's, West Leigh and St. Faith's, Havant. This other group celebrated in that they now have a priest who is keen to lead them – Bishop John Hind, who has retired from the Chichester diocese and now worships at St. Faith's. This therefore meant that Fr. Mike felt that at last he had a companion and had help with working out the worship. Several of St. George's pilgrims were unable to come as their families had booked surprise holidays for them, which clashed with the Walsingham weekend. However, there were two newcomers with the group this time, namely Sandra Hewett and Jane Cook. Both enjoyed themselves so much that they felt they wanted to commit themselves to becoming part of the Walsingham cell group. This cell now has 23 members.

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

We are sure you all appreciate coming into a clean and tidy church, and our two teams of volunteers do their utmost to keep it that way. Cleaning is done every two weeks, with Adina's team covering every fourth Friday and Jaye's every fourth Thursday. We are extremely grateful to our stalwart volunteers [Margaret Deal (now returned after her operation), Eve Inwood (who has been away following her operations but we hope she will return when she is fully recovered), Tony Kightley, Wendy Clarke and Daphne Wilkes] and we are delighted to welcome Lindsay Hood to our happy band.

To ensure that we have cover during times of illness or holiday, it would be brilliant if we could persuade a few more people to join us. Could you spare an hour just once every four weeks? Alternatively, would you consider joining a rota (much as we have for keeping the church toilet clean) to cover those areas that need more frequent attention: straightening the hymn books or tidying the children's corner or cleaning the glass doors or brushing the entrance mat? None of these tasks would take longer than ten minutes. Which duty and when (within church opening times) would be entirely up to you. Please have a word with either of us.

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 number of people subscribing to the Bible Reading Fellowship New Daylight notes has risen to 18. The booklet gives a printed passage from the Bible for each day of the year, with prayers and comment written by a wide variety of theologians. Published 3 times a year the church group subscription rate from May 2017 is £4.40 per copy. I can arrange new subscriptions at any time and there is now the option to receive the notes via a computer or phone if preferred.

Linda Wainwright

Deanery Synod Report

Three meetings were held in 2016, St George's was represented at Deanery Synod by Elaine Shimbart and Barbie Lloyd.

Summary taken from Deanery Synod minutes:

1. Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at St Faith's Church, Havant

The Venerable Dr Joanne Grenfell, Archdeacon of Portsdown, and Revd Canon Dr Anthony Rustell, Head of Mission, Discipleship and Ministry and Portsmouth Diocese. Together they presented the Diocesan Strategy, "Live/Pray/Serve".

Joanne explained that one of her responsibilities is to think of strategy at grass-roots level, rather than a grand management plan, to become more thoughtful, co-ordinated and prayerful and co-ordinate ministries within the Diocese. She seeks feedback from the parishes on how the Diocese can help and work with the parishes to create excitement and a flourishing ministry. This is a work-in-progress.

Joanne and Anthony then gave a PowerPoint presentation which started by looking at the National Church's "Reform and Renewal" process (training, simplification, discipleship) trying to encourage everyone to refocus their minds to growing the church, not just numerically but also in the depth of our engagement both spiritually and with our communities.

The new Diocesan strategy of Live/Pray/Serve came out of ideas, fleshed out at last Spring's consultations with parishes. Focused on those three words, the Diocese wanted to understand better the communities it serves and what would make a difference to those communities, and wants to think about hope and transformation, through releasing the gifts that are there in the churches in the Diocese, and also wants to help to serve the communities better, becoming involved with the schools and through other exciting projects. These three words are essential to this, and we must never lose sight of them.

Live: The aim is to equip people to live as God created them to, as disciples of Christ not just at church on a Sunday morning, but in their homes, their workplaces, their communities.

Pray: To support people in prayer, on their own and together, and to grow congregations to draw people into God's house; to recognise people's skills and the gifts that God gave them in; to release lay people to do more in their church; to release more people to become ordained, SSMs; to help new growth in churches to become the heart of the community; to pay attention to young people (the youth sector *must* be addressed; it's a sharper drop-off than adults.)

Serve: To speak out about the Gospel and promote the common good.

Seemingly depressing statistics were given but Joanne emphasised that all is not gloom. The general decline in church attendance is in line with population decline, not because people are "fed up with the vicar"! And the Portsmouth Diocese is not very different from other Dioceses.

The decline must be addressed through the new strategy. Four key areas enabling growth are:

- Making disciples
- Growing churches
- Learning for life (and individual's growth, and through education)
- Transforming society

An action plan has been developed for each section, and the Diocese needs to work with the parishes and be clearer about how the central resources are used and made available.

Much is happening: Rapid Development, Mission Action Planning, Pioneer Ministry appointments, LYCIG (not just for vicars but also lay people), a big investment in Ordinand and Reader training, and discipleship development.

Anthony then discussed church growth - how do you know if when you refocus all your energy and come up with new ideas, it is necessarily going to

work? The National Church has spent many resources on working out what it is that makes churches grow. Their results are perhaps surprising:

- One of the success stories has been in Cathedrals where numbers have grown and held up really well.
- Fresh Expressions - 40% attending had had no previous meaningful experience of church. This is particularly exciting because it is statistical proof that the drop-off recorded between generations is being reversed.

Two examples of things which have been shown to work are:

- children and youth work,
- having a clear sense of mission, direction and purpose.

The statistics show that if we think about what is going to be important, and marshal our resources to particular aims and purposes, we are likely to make an impact. Not only are there more people coming to church (bums on pews) but people are actually engaging with church life because the church is giving them something which they need, making a difference to their lives.

There is no single recipe for growth. Each parish knows its own market and needs to come up with a plan specific to its needs. The Diocese can alert parishes to trends, and tools, and facilitate and help in the process of drawing up those plans and making them happen - but won't dictate how parishes meet their targets. Clergy and lay people can be equally involved, so long as it is good. The danger is stagnation.

This is an on-going process which has had consultations with the Bishop's Council, Deanery Synods, various interest groups and the Diocese wants parishes to feed into this process.

2. Thursday 9th June 2016 at St Thomas' Church, Bedhampton

Revd Robert Sanday, the Diocesan Adviser to People with Disabilities, and vicar of Netley Abbey.

Robert presented many serious facts in an often humorous manner. He started by discussing deafness. Having been raised by deaf parents his experience is deep-rooted. He talked about the growing number of services for the deaf, where the hymns are sung to the rhythm of the words, not the tune (they have no music); and the Bible for the Deaf sets out the text in crystal clear language. He explained that sign language is adapted to the individual occasion with its mood/emotions, by building a picture. When text is complex (St Paul's letters for example) or flowery (some Christmas Carols), this is difficult to translate into sign language. Robert was positive about the modern day deaf community with its integration within the hearing community, such as schools with deaf units, and technology aids in public

spaces etc. Today's young deaf have a choice as to in which world they want to be. However, because of this, many deaf centres are closing down. Robert is working with the hospital chaplains to ensure deaf patients' communication needs are tended to; and with the prison service to ensure that deaf inmates are not discriminated against because of their disability in areas such as the use of the telephone. There are many ways in which parishes can enhance their experience, most often by installing the loop system for services and house groups etc. The RNID Solutions catalogue has many ideas. The second part of the presentation was on disability. Having been appointed to his current role last September, Robert would like to find out what parishes are doing, or if there is something they would like to do, to enhance the experience for people with disabilities. Please contact him direct (robertsanday12@gmail.com). Robert handed out a leaflet with guidelines on what can be done to improve things for disabled people but he pointed out that mostly it boils down to common sense. He asked that issues are at least discussed, and appreciated that nothing might be done (due to cost/impracticality/planning permissions etc) but at least it has been brought to awareness. Robert would like to see a disability representative in each parish to work with himself and the archdeacon. Examples of overcoming obstacles were: if the church does not have a disabled loo, advise visitors if there is a pub with this facility nearby; where disabled parking is available, make sure it is on level ground; could a ramp be installed beside steps?; if there is more than one church in the benefice, give people a choice of being in the one with the best facilities/access for their needs; have the churchwardens sit at the front so the deaf members of the congregation can follow their lead on standing/sitting/kneeling. Robert has a team of volunteers who speak British Sign Language available for baptisms, weddings etc. He asked that each parish produce a leaflet outlining the awareness of, and help that they can offer to, people with disabilities. He stressed the importance of thinking laterally and imaginatively as there is a huge range of people and difficulties.

3. Tuesday 22nd November 2016 at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn

Guest Speaker #1: Revd Giles Harris-Evans "The Plight of Christian Palestinians (The Work of Friends of the Holy Land)"

Karina introduced Revd Giles Harris-Evans, former parish priest in Petersfield and now involved with, amongst other extra-parochial/diocesan activities, Friends of the Holy Land. Giles has led pilgrimages to the Holy Land, spent part of a sabbatical in Jerusalem, and has been an ecumenical accompanier in Jerusalem. He is the Diocesan Representative for Friends of the Holy Land.

Giles explained that Friends of the Holy Land (FHL) was started in 2009 when Archbishop Rowan and the presiding Bishop of Birmingham, Vincent Nichols, felt deeply conscious that something should be done for the Palestinian Christians in the Holy Land - similar to St Paul on one of his missionary journeys saying to the Gentile Christians that the Christians in Jerusalem needed to be supported. From the start, FHL has run on an ecumenical basis, Anglicans and Catholics. A DVD was then projected which showed what Palestinian Christians are feeling. The DVD was a series of interviews with members of the church and lay community and covered the whole spectrum of worries: split communities, emigration because of the warfare, faith persecution, education, care for the elderly, the availability of water just once every three weeks, being just some of them. An overriding message was that the best way people can understand the current situation is to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, to meet the people, become well-informed and to pray for them - as well as continue with much needed fund-raising.

Guest Speaker #2: Ben Mizen, Diocesan Youth and Children's Work Adviser: Pray.Bake.Read

Pray.Bake.Read is a Lichfield Diocese initiative to encourage a working and pastoral relationship between church communities and local schools. Ben advised that this was "a simple idea" which entailed no monitoring aspect. Synod members broke into groups and prayed for three minutes for a local school in the deanery. Ben then discussed ways in which church communities could build on the relationship with their local schools: setting aside a specific Sunday in the month to pray for the school; baking a cake (or providing an appropriate treat) for the teachers within the school on a regular basis or at pertinent times (such as to ease the strain of an imminent inspection); offering the specific skills of church members to help schools meet their needs, such as listening to the pupils reading, or setting up a wildlife garden. In closing, he asked members to let him know if they followed up on this initiative, purely to keep him informed, and to share experiences at next Synod. A question about confidentiality was raised, and it was discussed that it is better not to have too much detail about the situation being prayed for, but to ask for the person in question to be "held in prayer".

Barbie Lloyd and Elaine Shimbart

St George's Communications Team

In broad terms the overall goal of the communications team is summarised by the underlying mission statement:

"To be the focal point for all internal and external communication both

within St George's Church and in the wider community with a view to helping to guide people to faith."

This year, I have been delighted to lead our communications team. In the early part of the year we sought to concentrate on the essential building blocks of our church communication strategy which we divided into two parts. First the 'internal' communication with members of the church through email, through our bulletin and via our social media. And secondly to then be outward-facing to our community by publicising what we do at St George's through our website, through the placing of 'good news' stories in the press and elsewhere and by reaching out to new contacts on social media.

Our website was re-launched on its 20th anniversary in February. It now has a much more user-friendly launch page and dashboard. It is easy to amend and update (for example during Advent this year we changed the scrolling pictures). All of this is a credit to the hard work put in by John Johnson.

Our social media presence at the start of the year was virtually non-existent. There was a Facebook page but it was barely used, was out of date and had virtually no engagement with either parishioners or the wider community. We had no Twitter presence whatsoever. All that has been reversed.

We have managed to successfully place a series of stories in the local press (principally The News of course but also Meon Valley News and Pompey Chimes). We appeared in The News 18 times during the year.

Undoubtedly, however, the major success in terms of press reach and impact (outside of the music festival) was the Harvest Festival broadcast. As well as over **2000** views of our broadcast around the world, the event was very widely covered in the Press including The News, The Church Times and The Church of England newspaper. We were mentioned in local church and news bulletins from Singapore to Sydney.

It now falls on the communications team to find something similarly newsworthy for 2017!

Having undertaken the steps that we have to cement our presence online (and formalise our internal communication), it is now incumbent on the communications team to move to a very important part of our remit namely reaching out to the community and growing our numbers. I see the Diocese 'Leading Your Church Into Growth' (LYCIG) project (of which much more later this year) acting as an essential template to assist us and anticipate the team being heavily involved in this.

St George's News and Website

The Church Magazine, St George's News, continues to be published six times a year. We have seen a growing number of advertisers, but are always looking for more as ultimately it all helps in contributing to the running costs of the church. So please use the services of those businesses advertising in the magazine and let them know why you are using them. We welcome contributions for publication and are grateful to those who regularly provide interesting material for the magazine content.

The website provides the opportunity to look back across the years, and is a fascinating history and record of the past life of St George's. All the past issues of the magazine are there since 1997, a huge library of reference going back some 20 years. You can also find the Sunday Bulletin, the PCC Minutes, and even this (and previous) APCM reports.

The website also has an a diary of future events (and record of past events). Please help to ensure this is always correct and up-to-date by letting us know of new events planned, or of any changes and cancellations – just email feedback@stgeorgesnews.org It's the same email address for sending any articles or any other communication with the magazine and website.

Chris Gadd/ John Johnson / 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 pleased that Oliver has decided to graduate to the serving team from the boat team. This offer is available to anyone wishing to follow the same route.

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 Imogen, Euan, Piper, Wendy, Martin and Simon for enhancing the Eucharist in their own individual way.

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 after the service has finished as the servers have to tidy up afterwards. Kindly 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

Sunday School numbers tend to be generally quite low and of varying ages. We continue to run with two leaders each week and usually work in one group. Although lessons suitable for the three individual age groups have been prepared. Whilst the children do work extremely well together, the majority of lessons have needed amending slightly for the younger children hence older children are not being stretched as they could or should be. Please pray for more children!

All the lesson plans for the three-year cycle have been prepared and distributed to the leaders. We are very grateful to Anne Morgan for compiling and completing this task and to Barbie Lloyd for ensuring that each Leader has a copy in their preferred form, be it paper, CD or electronically. Sincere thanks too to both Linda Wainwright and Rosy Stone for overseeing the rota and for their support over the years. It is much appreciated. Thank you.

Each week, Sunday School follow a similar pattern, commencing with our welcome song, a Bible story and a prayer, then working on lessons reflecting our theme for the day. To this end, the list of themes reflect the main Church themes, for example, Easter, St. George and Pentecost, in order to link in with the Church Year. Last year was particularly exciting because of the live Harvest Festival in which the children present were involved.

Also last year the decision was made to re-instate the end-of-summer-term Picnic/Sports Day. The weather stayed fair and the children enjoyed various races and parachute games before enjoying their picnics. The Christmas Party was also reinstated. This involved yet more games and probably all the toys under the stage and in cupboards, plus more food, of course, and a gift for each child. Both occasions allowed us to invite and welcome some children who are not regular members of Sunday School but who attend

when they can. The Nativity last year was penned by Lisa Toft, a delightful musical retelling of the story, which enabled all children to have a part.

Sadly, during the year, Tressy Allison has needed to step down so thank you Tress for all your hard work and dedication to the team. The Sunday School Team now consists of Sonja Barrand-Pask, Jess Deal, Lesley Handy, Kat Shepherd, Lisa Toft and Lynn Winter.

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 one of the Churchwardens.

The Sunday School Team

St George's Toddler Group

The Toddler group meets on Tuesday mornings in the Church Hall. Up to 30 parents/carers/grandparents and toddlers meet during term time for craft activities, play and singing. There is usually a short waiting list for new members. Claire Rockett runs the group with several volunteers - however time is marching on and several people need to "retire" at the end of the 2017/18 academic year. It would be really useful if more people would be willing to come along during the next 12 months to give a hand with a view to taking over (on a rota basis if necessary). Equipment and toys need getting out before the children arrive at 10am, refreshments are served at 10.30 and then the clearing up begins at 11.30. It is great fun - and you get to cuddle babies if you are feeling broody!

The Toddler Group Team

St George's Choir

This year has been a productive period for the choir. In addition to the motets, learnt and performed for every Sunday service throughout the year, it has provided the choral backbone and musical leadership for each service. I am grateful to Mark, the Deputy Organist, who, during the Advent Carol service, played the organ for the Magnificat enabling me to conduct the choir. For the Christmas Carol service the Church Band provided an excellent selection of Christmas music before the service and I am extremely grateful to Sonja and Julia for providing polished solos during the Carol Service. Much new music was performed by the choir for these two services, particularly the double choir setting of "In Dulci Jubilo" and I am delighted that such a high standard of ability can be achieved in so short a rehearsal period.

I am also indebted to the additional choir members who augmented the choir for this occasion. Candlemass was equally successful and Iain provided a moving additional solo in "Christ be with me" based on Pachelbel's canon.

During the Lent period additional services have seen the choir in action. The Taize Style Evening Worship Service was enhanced by the delightful playing of Violin and Treble recorder music by Rachel and Julia to whom I offer my grateful thanks. Their playing added to the calm and reflective atmosphere which was also enhanced by the choir's most able contribution.

Holy Week was supported by a significant contribution of dedicated singing and the Easter Day and Evening Services completed a sustained period of work by the choir for which I am extremely grateful.

The Choir has been augmented by Sara Brewer who is a delightful addition to the Soprano section and to whom we offer a most warm welcome.

A successful Christmas dinner was organised by Iain, who out did us all by enjoying three main courses!

Rod Starr
Organist and Director of Music

St George's Band

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

Martin Lloyd played Last Post and Reveille for the Remembrance Day service in November 2016, and the band was able to play for the Christingle service in December 2016. We were also able to put out the band for the Palm Sunday service around Waterloo 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 still just acceptable, but if new members come forward we would be able to play at more services.

Don Lloyd

St George's Social and Fundraising Committee

2016 was a year of change for the social committee. Following many years of being chairman, Jane Rice-Oxley stood down from this role – many thanks to her for so much hard work and fund-raising over the years. Lynda Sheffield volunteered to take on the chairmanship, for only one year – Malcolm Brewer will be the next chairman. The decision was made in order to reduce the amount of work for one person.

In addition, the social and fundraising committees merged and this has worked very well for 2016. The main reason for this success is that there are now 15 members of the committee, which spreads the load. All committee members work very hard to provide fun occasions for the congregation, whilst raising money too. This year around £12,000 has been raised.

How?

'Let's make a Song and Dance' kicked off the year with 96 people enjoying a three course meal and entertainment, which included the Sunday School performing songs from 'Frozen', the cast singing songs from Oliver, Mary Poppins and My Fair Lady. Ben Trimby did a great job as John Travolta and Fr Mike was scary as the Phantom.

Food and drink always pulls a crowd and this included David Cavey's wine-tasting, Marian Haughton's open garden, Margaret Deal's coffee morning, the Parish Lunch and Empty Tomb. Bangers and beans appeared at Harvest, with several games of Bingo to entertain – Malcolm Brewer and Glynn Ross did an excellent job of calling.

Jane Rice-Oxley challenged the poets in the congregation and produced a book – and then went on to arrange a lovely Parish Outing to Cowes during the summer.

Selling to the general public is always a good idea – so the summer fete, table-top sale, book stall and Christmas bazaar were very successful. In addition Patricia Byrne and Chris Gadd masterminded a Church shop for a fortnight – a very successful venture, with many volunteers manning the shop.

Lynda introduced a new concept during the year, to encourage all members of the congregation to meet one another. Those who attend 8am Eucharist don't know the 10am Eucharist congregation, and those who sit on the left, don't know the people on the right. Six events were hosted by the committee, of which most were held at the Vicarage. This included a strawberry tea, coffee morning, pizza and games and lots of wine and nibbles. 120 people came to these events and the venture proved very successful, in that most people went away, having met at least one new 'friend'. Lynda believes that this is a very important part of being 'sociable' at St George's. Long may those new friendships continue.

Huge thanks to the committee who have worked so hard during 2016 for providing these annual events.

Lynda Sheffield

St George's Bonus Ball Fundraiser

This fun fundraising enterprise was started way back 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 that Saturday. 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. We have had a triple roll over winning up to £100 for the lucky holder.

So far £4,100 has been raised for church funds over the years.

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 and congratulations to those who won!

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 £567.79 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 2016 TO 31 DECEMBER 2016 | | | | | | |
| EXPENDITURE | | | INCOME | | | |
| PRIZE MONEY PAID OUT | | £565.00 | BANK BALANCE AT 01.01.16 | | | £334.00 |
| DONATION TO PCC BANK AT 31.12.16 | | £567.79 | CASH BALANCE AT 01.01.16 | | | £0.00 |
| | | £327.00 | SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID | | | £1,123.00 |
| CASH AT 31.12.16 | | £0.00 | BANK INTEREST | | | £2.79 |
| | | £1,459.79 | | | | £1,459.79 |
| ADDITIONAL INFORMATION | | | | | | |
| MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP | | | LIST OF WINNERS | | | |
| JANUARY | 95 | | JANUARY | 57 | D CAVEY | £10.00 |
| FEBRUARY | 93 | | | 78 | M CAVEY | £5.00 |
| MARCH | 94 | | FEBRUARY | 96 | D PALMER | £10.00 |
| APRIL | 94 | | | 8 | S ANDREWS | £5.00 |
| MAY | 95 | | MARCH | 47 | T RICE-OXLEY | £75.00 |
| JUNE | 95 | | | 90 | C MONK | £15.00 |
| JULY | 93 | | APRIL | 53 | C RICE-OXLEY | £10.00 |
| AUGUST | 93 | | | 94 | L SHEFFIELD | £5.00 |
| SEPTEMBER | 93 | | MAY | 99 | M WILLIAMS | £15.00 |
| OCTOBER | 95 | | | 68 | P BARLOW | £5.00 |
| NOVEMBER | 95 | | JUNE | 68 | P BARLOW | £75.00 |
| DECEMBER | 95 | | | 51 | R PALMER | £10.00 |
| | | | JULY | 51 | R PALMER | £10.00 |
| | 1130 | | | 15 | K BURTON | £5.00 |
| | | | AUGUST | 46 | Y JONES | £10.00 |
| | | | | 4 | E INWOOD | £5.00 |
| | | | SEPTEMBER | 12 | D TRIMBY | £75.00 |
| | | | | 31 | J SYMONDS | £10.00 |
| | | | OCTOBER | 45 | L HANDY | £10.00 |
| | | | | 3 | J SPURGEON | £5.00 |
| | | | NOVEMBER | 91 | J PEARCE | £10.00 |
| | | | | 26 | S LEWIS | £5.00 |
| | | | DECEMBER | 67 | B LLOYD | £100.00 |
| | | | | 40 | D HYETT | £70.00 |
| | | | | 77 | P DANCER | £10.00 |

www.stgeorges.church