

St Mary's Prittlewell
Annual Report
2016



Dear all,

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, in the midst of the congregation I will praise you." And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Hebrews 2:10-13 NRSV

Well 2016 came to a close and at the end of eleven months here, Sue and I looked back in amazement in all that had happened. There was of course the expected and unexpected, the great and the not so great! The scripture passage I chose for my introduction to the Annual Report for 2015 also came from Hebrews. The writer of Hebrews had wise words for the church of the day and those powerful words echo through the ages to us today.

The family that God has given me to minister to at St Mary's and in the community of Prittlewell have experienced different traditions and clergy for hundreds of years and it is rather wrong of me to take pleasure in that when someone says "it's always been this way vicar" I can cheerfully say "no, it hasn't". Our predecessors, both clergy and laity, whilst experiencing many similar emotional ties to St Mary's and the community, would be shocked at how the world has changed in the last 20 years let alone the last 100 or 200! It's always felt that change seems to happen more rapidly at some times more than others but in our multi-media internet world, the Smartphone can be our friend as well as our enemy. The forms of communication that we choose to use, be it email, text messaging, Facebook or Twitter and even the use of a pen in the form of a hand-written letter can all be either encouraging or discouraging, sadly sometimes completely inaccurate or even incomprehensible. Gossip and hearsay are as rife today as they were in the time of Christ. We have just invented more ways to spread them! But, what follows in these Annual Reports I hope and pray you will find

encouraging. Yes, when a new incumbent comes into post, there will be changes and sadly over the course of this year some folk have not felt able to stay with us as those changes have occurred.

However, what hasn't changed and what will stay the same is the mission that Christ has set before us in proclaiming the Gospel, opening the doors of our church as a place of worship as it has been for centuries and the privilege and opportunity that we have to share the love of Christ. There have been many highlights this year for me personally, especially as we welcomed Rev'd Jacky Lindoe into our midst in her Deacon year, to this her training parish. Jacky has quickly grown into an invaluable colleague and we look forward to her ordination to the priesthood in July 2017.

No incumbent should be without a great Leadership Team, and I am fortunate to say that is true for myself, and I want to make special mention of our Churchwardens Carolyn Evans and Peter Sloman; they have been very supportive and encouraging in these early months. Peter comes to the end of his tenure in 2017 and we have already been "nurturing" his replacement together. I am grateful to Jenny King for the years that she served as PCC Secretary but in April my wife stepped into her shoes; Sue and I enjoy working together as a team and have done so for many years in ministry. Matt Pinnock as our Treasurer continues to work solidly for us maintaining our accounts and gently advising us as to our financial resources! I would like to express our collective thanks to him.

In my early days here finding my way through the administrative systems that have been in place was made much easier by the loyal and careful support of Marianne Fowle; my thanks to her for holding my hands so considerately. Marianne has indicated her desire to step down as our Administrator in January 2017 and again we thank her for her time in office.

Paperwork and record keeping is an important task in the life of any organisation but particularly in an ancient church such as ours, and this year our archivist Phil Briant has undertaken a huge "sort out" of our records and much has been sent to the Central Record offices in

Chelmsford; this is an example of one of those time-consuming yet valuable tasks that happens in the background. And so our thanks go to Phil for all that he has done.

Taking the reins of leading worship in a church so rich in its tradition was made easier for me by our Verger, Penny Stone, and the team of Servers. Penny who is paid both as a Verger in the church and as Halls Cleaner helped me find my way through many “foggy” moments and so my thanks go to Penny for that.

Our worship of course would not be so fulfilling without musical accompaniment. Sadly, as you will read further on, our Director of Music, Warren Symes, felt his time had come to an end here in November, and we are spending some time reflecting on the way forward, seeking God’s guidance. However, my grateful thanks go to the choir for their continued efforts, especially through the Christmas period when so many people came among us as guests and visitors to hear the Good News of Christ coming in to the world.



There have been a number of groups and committees within the life of our church in the past and in the coming year I will look to review these. However, this year I disbanded the Mission & Evangelism Group, and thanked the members for all they had done. This does not mean that the work itself has come to a halt but I will be reconsidering, as already mentioned, the make up of the groups.

It may be easy to take it for granted but our most obvious mission opportunity “field” is our growing relationship with St Mary’s school; from what I gather we are re-

establishing great links between the church and school that has much “history”. It is a great privilege to be a part of that now and work with the current headmaster Nick Booth and Deputy at East St, Natalie Cashell.

In the last few months, our website has been completely revitalised; thanks go to Keith Turner for his dedicated efforts to bring it to fruition. We have begun Home Groups (Bible Study Groups) which is an exciting new venture for us and very importantly, we have been spending some time planning to employ a full time Children’s and Family Worker, which we hope and pray will happen in 2017. We have also started a film night in church, our first film being *The Way* starring Martin Sheen and we hope to continue these in the future.

There are many people (too many to mention here—but thank you all!) who contribute to the life of our church and the commission that we have been given by Christ to share the Good News should be central to all that we do. The writer of Hebrews calls upon us to “proclaim the name of Christ” in so doing I look forward to an exciting and eventful 2017 and all that God will bring with it.

I repeat this paragraph from my letter of last year because it still applies as much today as it did then.

We have much to do here and, much to look forward to. I pray that together we can embrace “all” that He brings and rejoice in the good and the not so good—remembering it’s not about what we want but what He wants that matters most. Read on brother/sister in Christ and consider perhaps what you can do to help His cause, His mission. God Bless...

Paul Mackay Priest in Charge
January 2017



In this report we have sought to cover as many aspects of our Church Life here at St Mary's as we can; including services, the Church Building, Church Halls, Church School, the East Street site and Parish activities. Many of those topics have been dealt with in the reports you have read in the APCM paperwork, but, as was the case last year, we need to look ahead to the future and try to determine what we must do, under the leadership of the Reverend Paul MacKay and the Reverend Jacky Lindoe to continue to grow our Church Family, presenting a united and welcoming face to the outside world.

In no particular order:

The Rev'd Paul MacKay

Paul and Sue have been with us now for just over a year. It has been like a whirlwind of changes which have been welcomed by the great majority of the congregation. The Bishop of Chelmsford asked for us to be set on fire at Paul's installation service. This has certainly been the case! We feel that both Paul and Sue have settled in and are now part of our Church Family and thank them for all the really hard work they are putting in.

The Rev'd Jacky Lindoe

We were delighted to welcome Jacky as our curate and thank her for all she is doing for us here at St Mary's. Jacky's Priesting service will be at St Mary's on Sunday 2 July.

The Rev'd Ian Fisher

The Rev'd Dr Ian Fisher who helped us during the interregnum left the area to take up the position of Team Vicar at St Mary's Linton. Ian and his family had become part of our congregation, and we were sorry to see them go, but sent them off with our good wishes and prayers. We were represented at his licensing service on 29 January.

Director of Music

Warren Symes tendered his resignation in December. The appointment of another organist and the role to be undertaken by that person is currently being considered. We were very fortunate that Joe and Melanie stepped in to keep the music and the choir going. Our gratitude goes to them for all the efforts they have made.

Services

The sides people continue to do an excellent job of welcoming those attending our services on Sundays.

Attendances at Evensong and the 8:00 am Holy Communion services are still a little disappointing. However there is a marked increase in attendances at the Wednesday and Friday Communion services. The Friday services are lead by The Rev'd Bob Magor to whom we are very grateful.

The introduction of Morning Prayer from Monday to Friday is very fulfilling for those who attend.

Weddings and Baptisms

We continue to have a fairly large number of these services. They do not just happen. A great deal of administrative work is involved in arranging them. We are grateful to Marianne Fowle for her voluntary work as our Parish Administrator and welcome Christina Turner who has recently taken over the role from her.

Halls

Ray Mason was successful in obtaining a grant towards the replacement of the flooring in St Mary's Hall. This has been done to a high standard with Karndean Flooring. St Mary's Hall is in the need of redecoration and this work should be put on the ever increasing list of "work to be done"!

The Church Building

A report on the church building is in the paperwork presented for the meeting. A further grant application was made to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund but was not successful. The repairs to the lead south aisle and copper vestry roofs are now becoming quite urgent.

East Street and the School

The newly refurbished East Street School site is fully operational. It is pleasing that we are able, once again, to make regular use of the parking area in the school.

Church Yard

The two dangerous and dying trees near to the small rear playground have now been removed. The church lighting has been repaired and the church is now fully lit.

Church Fete

The future of the annual church fete is still in doubt due to a critical lack of volunteers.

Unwelcome attendee at services

During the year we had the unpleasant task of excluding a person who had been banned from all churches in the Diocese. The last occasion involved calling the police which seems to have stopped the person from coming to the church.

Carolyn Evans
Peter Sloman



This report covers the period from 1 January 2016 to 31 December 2016

Quinquennial Report

The report was carried out by our architect Simon Marks in 2013.

The following items were listed in Simon's report as being matters requiring urgent attention:

1. *North, South and Chancel Roofs*: lead theft last took place in August 2010. The stolen lead replacement and necessary repairs need to be done. Robin Wilkins regularly repairs the temporary felt covering on the areas where lead is missing.

2. *North Aisle Junction with the Tower*: the stone work between the tower and the roof is badly worn and there are signs of water ingress.

3. *Defective lead flashings*: South Porch, South Aisle Crossing, defective downpipes. Items 1 to 3 are necessary to prevent water entering the church.

4. *Flat Vestry Roof*: this is in urgent need of replacement. A specification was drawn up for this work some two and a half years ago with an estimate of £44,700. The DAC gave initial approval to this work.

Other matters

1. *Organ Blowing Chamber*: this has, in the past leaked badly but, following work by Robin Wilkins to fix a stone step in front of the rear south door, the problem has been alleviated. The blowing chamber is still very damp and needs urgent attention to prevent damage to the organ.

2. *Alarm System*: this has been upgraded to install tamper proof detectors to prevent thieves neutering the alarms prior to attempting to

steal lead. Vestry CAMS have been installed to record comings and goings in the church allowing the playback of recordings should, for example, someone break into the church when it is closed.

3. *Lighting*: the external floodlights have been repaired and are now fully working. The internal bulbs are being replaced with more efficient LED bulbs.

4. *Church heating*: although not occurring in 2016, the church, as opposed to the vestry, heating system failed and will, by the time of the APCM in April 2017, have been repaired. The cost of this work, being absolute priority, took precedence over any of the other work listed above

Peter Sloman



Parochial Church Council

St Mary's PCC meets 6 times a year to discuss important issues and make decisions on behalf of the church. During this year we have been looking at what it is to be a PCC representative using the CPAS study material "PCC Tonight"—we all need reminding at times, to keep us on our toes!

Your 2016 representatives are:

Linda Barnard (Deanery Synod – Lay Chair)

Derek Barrington

Michael Bliss (Deanery Synod Rep)

Teresa Church

Carolyn Evans (Churchwarden)

Michael Field

Jennie Goddard
Shah Haider
Margaret Harvey
Pat Johnson
Jenny King
Ray Mason
Matt Pinnock (Treasurer)
Peter Sloman (Churchwarden)

This year we have looked at many issues. Our meetings are never boring there is always something interesting to discuss and mull over. As well as being good stewards of the church's finances, looking at pastoral issues and concerns there is also the upkeep of the church and decisions are made for our future work and mission in this place. One such decision that has been agreed upon with no hesitation is looking to appoint in the new year (2017) a Children's and Family Worker. As you can imagine this is so important for the furtherance of spreading the news of the Christian faith, to have someone on board working with children and families from within our community, showing them church can be fun and sharing the love of Jesus. So watch this space and remain excited for what lays ahead.

Much work has been done on St Mary's Hall (this will be covered in the Hall's Report), but again everything that has been undertaken is discussed, proposed (and thankfully) accepted by your PCC.

How we go about looking after our church (inside and out) as well as the grounds, how we can promote our church to the parish surrounding us, be it by replacing old worn out sign boards with lovely new ones, is all part of our saying to the community 'we are welcoming, we are a relevant and alive church and we are here for you so come on in'.

As PCC (Interim) Secretary it has been a privilege to sit and work alongside a great team of people in my short time here and I look forward to more exciting times ahead.

Sue Mackay
PCC (Interim) Secretary



Finance

2016 has been another year of just managing to pay for everything. We have had some extra costs (work towards making gradual improvements in and around the church) but our receipts have been sufficient to cover these.

2016 has been successful in that we have undertaken some major work on the hall without having to forgo other areas, eg hold back on parish share. The work on the hall was possible only due to generous grants from Awards for All, Southend Roundtable, Essex Community Fund and Fowler, Smith and Jones Trust.

Receipts for the year totalled just over £173,000 (£136,000 in 2015). This is higher than last year primarily due to the grants for the hall work but also due to the £10,000 general grant received from Ameris.

Payments totalled just under £161,000 (£137,000). Again the hall work accounts for the significantly higher payments in 2016 compared with 2015.

As such, we had a surplus of cash on the 31st December 2016 of around £12,000. This surplus is really just a matter of timing! A bulk of this surplus is represented by invoices due in January and does not represent an amount investable for the future.

Matt Pinnock Treasurer



Last year marked the beginning of a determined effort to archive material at the records office in Chelmsford as well as clarifying what should be retained. Several factors have contributed to this process:

- 1) Our new priest Paul in identifying the need for going through material which has accumulated over the years.
- 2) The need to archive historical material in a safe, off site environment rather than be kept at St Marys', which has limited free space for storing such itmes.
- 3) The help and advice from a member of staff at the records office in Chelmsford, providing information for St. Mary's for determining the criteria for keeping/binning material.
- 4) The additional help from churchwardens and other members in providing advice and 'muscle' in dealing with the accumulated material.

One pre-arranged visit by 'our man' from records office one Saturday morning resulted in a substantial amount of material being removed for deposit at Chelmsford Records office, comprising of baptism, marriage, banns and burial registers, PCC minutes, faculties and parish magazines, amongst other material – a veritable car load of material. No news on the fate of his car!

It is hoped that this year further material will be sent to Chelmsford as well as identifying what the church can/might keep and what it can depose of.

Phil Briant



Bellringing

Ringling has been maintained for Sunday mornings and evenings as usual. Monday night practices are well supported.

One of our loyal supporters, John Lambert, who learnt to ring at the Ringing School, has moved to Luton to be near his son. We are pleased that John has joined the band at St Mary's Luton and hope to arrange our Bank Holiday outing based on Luton in 2017.

This year's annual outing ventured as far as Great Yarmouth and proved popular as we had a full coach.

The Ringing School continues and we are pleased to welcome Louisa Hennessy, who has now graduated from the school and rings with us each Sunday.

If anybody would like to come up the tower at any time, they would be most welcome, please contact one of the ringers.

David Sloman Ringing Master



1st Prittlewell Brownies and Rainbows

Applications for places within the Brownie and Rainbow units have continued to be in such great demand that some have been referred to other local units or placed on our waiting lists.

The Brownie unit with 27 girls has continued under the leadership of the two District Commissioners and a young leader together with support from a parent rota. However, at the latter part of the year we were really pleased to welcome Kiley and Emily, who are now doing the Adult

Leadership training with the Brownie unit. The Rainbow unit with 16 girls is run by a qualified leader, a leader in training and a young leader.

Both units have attended Renewal of Promise ceremony at St. Augustine's Church, Thorpe Bay, a District Sausage Sizzle at Guideacres, an evening at Kids Kingdom and a Division Handicraft competition. Some of the girls entered the competition individually and were awarded certificates for their high standard of work. 1st Prittlewell Rainbows were very honoured to receive the division trophy for their unit entry. Brownies have had a day out at Colchester Zoo in the summer and they have gained the Cook badge. Rainbows have gained the Woolly Sheep challenge, Tea challenge and Beatrix Potter badges.

Rainbows and Brownies are encouraged to attend Church Parades, which are held approximately seven times in the year. Although the numbers attending are not very high, some of our girls do come along on a regular basis and take part in the service. Brownies and Rainbows made their own wreaths and laid them at the memorial in the churchyard on Remembrance Sunday. Some girls attended the Christingle service.

Eileen Wilkins



The Children's Society

From the period of January to December 2016, our church groups and school raised a considerable amount of money for the Children's Society. As always, a co-ordinator from the Youth and Risk department wrote to the church expressing their gratitude and explained about the vital work that the Society does and how the money we have raised contributes towards this.

For the Smarties appeal we raised a total of £386.80. This includes donations from the children of St Mary's school, Jack and Jill's Playgroup, the uniform groups and also the ladies at the Women's Fellowship.

For our Christingle Service we raised a total of £418.69. We were slightly down on figures for the Christingle this year; however, the Children's Society were overwhelmed with the amount that was donated.

Stephanie Stanley

How the collection boxes help this important work

Help to transform the lives of vulnerable children - support our charity and our direct practice on child sexual exploitation

We fight child poverty and neglect, and help all children have a better chance in life.

We worked with over 18,000 vulnerable children and young people last year, while our campaign wins will bring life-changing support to more than 5.6 million

We defend, safeguard and protect the childhood of all children and young people throughout the UK through our network of services.

Our services support children and young people who go missing from home or care, or are at risk of doing so.

We ensure that children in care or in the child protection system have a say in important decisions that are made about their lives.

We are leading the way in developing programmes to identify and support children living in families where parents are affected by drugs or alcohol misuse.

We run children's centres throughout England that support the needs of children under five and their parents or carers.

We run services around the country for young people who are desperately in need of mental health support. Services include therapeutic support, befriending, counselling or advice.

This year the Children's Society home boxes have raised a total of £684.63 plus £58.15 in Gift Aid. We currently have 31 box holders, the majority being church members but also some are held by members of the local community.

The monies are down on last year but we have lost a few holders due to death, moving away and some just not returned even though lots of reminders have been given. There's a limit to how many times you can chase people.

Normally the collection from the toy service is given to me for the Children's Society. I presume it was used elsewhere this time.

Linda Corney



Church Mission Society

The Church Mission Society has been our chosen overseas charity for many years. We chose the Democratic Republic of the Congo after our partners in Pakistan retired. The Reverend Bisoke Balikanga is our third partner in the Congo but he is our Timothy partner which means all the money we send goes to him. We send two contributions a year from the takings of the Summer Fete and the Christmas Fayre.

He is the Provincial co-ordinator of youth work and has trained the youth leaders working in various districts. He worked to build houses for boys and girls living on the streets when they had come from the countryside and could not be returned to their families. He founded a refuge in Bunia for women and girls who had been raped by rebel forces where they could recover from the trauma and learn practical skills so they could earn a living. He has also worked with the pygmy people who were being oppressed by their neighbours.

Please pray for Bisoke, his Christian congregations and all the people they try to help.

Celia Tyler

Flower Arrangers

We continue to arrange fresh flowers mixed with good quality silk flowers. Fortunately, we receive donations from the congregation for Christmas, Easter and Harvest Festivals. We also receive donations of money and sometimes flowers in memory of loved ones and celebrations such as wedding anniversaries. These donations are mentioned in the church magazine.

We are always happy to have new helpers and Christina Turner joined us in the Autumn.

Patricia Johnson

Flower Group Coordinator



Gift Aid

The threshold for claiming gift aid on anonymous donations in the offertory plate was increased to £8,000 last year and we are currently getting 25% back on all plate collections. However we may well exceed the limit before the end of this tax year so it is very important for tax payers to join the regular giving schemes or to use the yellow pew envelopes.

I would like to thank the sidesmen and women who stay behind to count the collections and also Pat Johnson and Penny Stone who pull all of this information together. We could not claim these funds back from HMRC without your help.

If you would like to know more about the envelope schemes or to set up a standing order please let me know.

Jennie Goddard

Gift Aid and Giving Scheme Officer



Halls

Both Halls continue to be well used by several different organisations and cared for by the bookings secretary.

St Mary's Hall

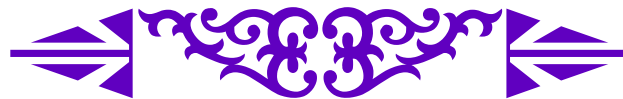
2016 saw the arrival of the long awaited new floor in the Hall and kitchen area and new windows to the south side of the Hall. This was part funded with a grant obtained by Ray Mason.

Following a visit from Southend Council, to check the processes involved in the selling of food in the Hall (such as at Nearly New), everyone involved in the cooking and preparation of food to be sold and consumed in the Hall, is now required to hold a Food & Hygiene Certificate, Phase 2.

Guild Hall

Work had to be done on the boiler house as this was falling away from the main part of the Hall.

Patricia Johnson



Havens Hospices

Thank you all for continuing to supply Foreign and old English coins---it all mounts up. The foreign coins are converted by Travelex for which we thank them, as it produces varying rates from 75% to 60% of their value in Pounds Sterling, depending upon the countries concerned. Foreign notes are exchanged either via Travelex if they are out of date or by The Post Office for current currency notes, and who looks at us kindly. Old English coins with silver content are sold by me to a "Smelter" in Hatton Garden in London where we get top scrap value for the silver, which last year amounted to over £400. Early decimal coins are changed for us by Barclays Bank, and this too is not insignificant. All other coins which are non-negotiable are saved and sold as scrap either to a local Scrap Merchant who is generous to us or to Travelex who are very supportive.

Since 2001, I have converted nearly £21,000 and the coins you have donated are included in that figure, so please keep up the good work. I also sell suitable coins on line via Ebay and in the last year this has contributed approximately £600 to the total converted.

The charity has an agreement with Bellway Homes to purchase 3.5 acres of their land on the old Ekco site in the south–west corner running alongside Priory Crescent to build a new Fair Havens Hospice, so it can care for twice as many patients as it currently is able to support.

The decision by the Council to grant planning permission means we are moving forward, but as we need to match funding with our generous benefactors we still need all we can get to enable us to put in the footings of our new development, so your important donations are gratefully received.

Highlights from the emerging hospice proposals include:

Crescent-shaped building, wrapped around the therapeutic outside space and gardens

Large Day Care centre so more patients can attend the proposed daily care services

Four treatment rooms to offer more outpatient treatments such as blood transfusions and chemotherapy

A Chapel/Spiritual Space will be at the heart of the building and is a unique part of the Hospice

16 in–patient bedrooms with en–suite facilities, all with bed balconies overlooking the gardens

During this last year the Hospice had been asked to nominate two volunteers to attend a Royal Garden Party on 10 May 2016, and Margaret and I were chosen. It was a great honour to have represented Havens Hospices and the many volunteers at the Hospice, without whom the Hospice would have great difficulty to function effectively at the level it does at present. The many hours donated by the volunteers amounts in real terms to a significant donation to the work of the Hospice. We had a fantastic time despite the rain and although Her Majesty was not due to retire until about 6:00 pm, she graciously decided to return to Buckingham Palace soon after 5:00 pm which allowed her rather damp attendees to leave the Palace grounds. Protocol dictates you do not leave an event before her Majesty, so we were very grateful to return to our car which was parked in the Mall, having been allocated parking in the Mall on our arrival.

To read the most up to date news on the new Fair Havens project, please visit the Latest News page or “like” Havens Hospices on Facebook.

You can also get an up to date situation by looking at the Hospices website www.havenshospices.org.uk/ then type in “New Fair Havens Hospice” in the search box.

Havens Hospices thanks you more than words can express for your continued support.

Bob Harvey



House Group Monday Afternoons

The Monday group has thirteen members. We meet on a Monday from 1:00 to 3:00 pm twice a month. We have met five times in 2016. 17th and 31 October, 14 and 28 November and 12 December.

At our first meeting, we agreed that we wanted use the Bible as a basis for our discussions. We start and close with prayer

Our discussions have covered topics about what it is to be a disciple of Christ and how it has impacted on our lives and that of our families. In what way, we have used scripture as a guide and how we have recognised when God is speaking to us. How our faith has helped us overcome difficult or frightening situations in our lives.

The group want to express our thanks and gratitude to Suzanne Mattingley, who very kindly welcomes us into her home, providing refreshment during our meetings and for those who want to, a lunch of homemade soup and a sandwich before the start of our sessions.

We have shared much laughter and companionship and in the coming year look forward to deepening both our faith and friendships through our shared time together.

Jacky Lindoe



Nearly New

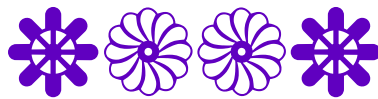
This report covers our activities from February to December 2016. For four weeks in the summer we were unable to use St Mary's Hall because the floor was being taken up and re-laid. During this time we were able to use the Guild Hall, but since the stock room was inaccessible we did not have books, bric-a-brac, linens and clothes out for sale. However, refreshments were served, a weekly raffle was held and homemade cards, marmalades and jams were on sale, with our monthly cake sale on the 1 September.

The total takings for the year were £7,925.80 which was £2,000 more than 2015, when we had to close completely for a while because of the extensive repairs that had to be done. It is increasingly the case that our customers do not come regularly and have cut down on the amount they are spending with us.

Nevertheless, we continue to provide a warm and friendly meeting place on Thursday mornings, with bargains on display and homemade cakes, jams and marmalade once a month. Raffles take place every week and the Grand Christmas Draw in December.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported us and all the Nearly New Team and "stand-ins" for their help and efforts this past year..

Elizabeth Sloman



Parish Magazine

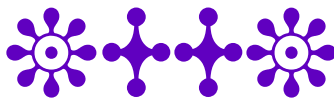
Thank you to all those who write and take photos for the Magazine. The Magazine is a sort of window into life at St Mary's; articles and pictures about happenings and people at St Mary's are always welcome.

There have been some changes this year. The Magazine is now bi-monthly. This is to make it easier for those who produce it; and it is hoped that there will be more content.

The Magazine is produced in full colour, but you get a colour Magazine only if you get the electronic version, either by email or downloading the version on the website. However, since the colour copier arrived in the church office, the printed version now has colour covers, which is a great enhancement. It is hoped that the Magazine cover will be a good place to display "life at St Mary's".

Rev'd Paul, Rev'd Jacky, Keith Turner and I meet regularly to discuss the Magazine and the website. If you have any suggestions please contact us.

Richard Anderson



Pastoral Care

Like all aspects of work within St. Mary's, the Pastoral Care group was greatly saddened by the untimely death of Revd Chris Cousins. During the vacancy he had been very supportive of Pastoral Care; willing to

take Home Communion to the elderly and infirm if appropriate and behind the scenes he was always there with encouragement.

When Revd Paul arrived and started looking into our areas of work, it was quickly apparent that the Licenses of those who assist at Holy Communion were mainly out of date and until this could be corrected the most that could be offered to the ill and housebound, was an official St. Mary's visitor. I have tried to organise these over the past year but naturally I am reliant on members of the congregation offering to fill this role. Here I must mention Suzanne Mattingley, who has been a loyal and regular visitor to so many not just her Womens' Fellowship ladies. Penny Sloman has continued supporting her people in their Care Homes in her quiet and unassuming way. Grateful thanks to both of these and all those who have helped in the past.

Though the year Revd Paul assembled a group who are willing to assist with Communion both at services and by people's bedsides. They have to be agreed by the PCC and it is hoped that the Licences for them will be received early in 2017 and then they can be trained and prove a benefit to our housebound, some of whom have not received for over a year.

Margaret Harvey Administrator of Pastoral Care



Scout Group

1st Prittlewell (St Mary's) Scout Group continues to be one of the largest Scout Groups in our District. This is due to the team of volunteer Leaders and Helpers who give their time each week to plan and run weekly meetings, as well as camps and outings. We continue to be grateful for the support the Church gives us, and we are pleased to be able to support the Church at Parade services and at the summer and winter fetes.

We have over 75 young people in our Group and here is a very brief summary of some of our recent activities:

Beavers took part in the District Art Attack, enjoyed a family camp, celebrated Chinese New Year, visited the beach, gained the Team Challenge badge and Animal Carer badges with a visit from the Cat Protection League and Snakes Alive.

Cubs have completed the Teamwork Challenge and Scientist Badge, visited the Tower of London, went to a special camp to commemorate 100 years of Cub Scouting, had a family camp in the summer holidays, a fireworks themed evening, enjoyed a Christmas sleepover in the Church Hall, went to the District swimming gala and to the Fun Factory for a Cubs 100 celebration.

Scouts have made pancakes, completed the Emergency First Aid badge and the Creative Challenge badge, Teamwork Challenge, Personal Challenge, took part in the District Incident Hike, Wakeup Weekend, Outdoor Badge Weekend, Camping Competition, swimming gala and went to the Essex Jamboree.

To add a name to our waiting list for new members, please email cubs@1stpittlewell.org.uk.

Louise Hockey



Social Committee

Two events were organised by the Social Committee in 2016, a Quiz Night in January and a Parish Outing in July.

The Quiz Night was held in the Church Hall on Saturday 16 January. 100 people attended in thirteen teams. The evening's event raised £432 which went towards subsidising children's places on the Parish Outing.

On Saturday 2 July for the Parish Outing 48 people went by coach to Chartwell, the former home of Winston Churchill. After visiting the house and gardens in the morning we hoped to have a picnic in the afternoon; unfortunately the weather took a turn for the worse and this had to be cancelled (although not before some people were thoroughly soaked). Despite the rain, a great day was had by all.

The members of the committee are Ray Mason, Eileen Wilkins, Teresa Church, Mary Porter, Robert Baterip, Mavis Mason and Michael Field.

Michael Field



Spiritual Growth

Last year at St Mary's we had a Lent Course and a Quiet Day both led by Rev'd Paul.

In October we began Homegroups. At the moment there are two groups meeting every two weeks, one on a Monday afternoon and the other on a Thursday evening.

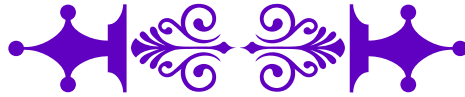
As the name suggests a homegroup is a small group of people meeting in someone's home to pray, study the Bible and to talk and listen to each other about what it means in our daily lives to be a Christian. By praying and sharing together we are given an opportunity to develop friendships and to be supportive of each other.

The hope is for the groups in time to evolve and more groups to be formed. They are inclusive and open to all whether someone is just

starting their Christian journey and is new to the Church, or has been a Christian for a long time. Whatever stage we are at we can all learn from each other.

If you would like to join a group please speak to Rev'd Paul or Rev'd Jacky.

Teresa Church



Summer Fête 11 June Christmas Fayre 3 December

Nearly 2000 attended the fete which was amazing and enabled us to show that our church is very much alive.

27 stalls /attractions manned by church members along with several from the local community raised a great total of £4934, achieved with enthusiasm, hard work and commitment. St Mary's School Choir and Orchestra and the duo Willowsong both provided well attended and enjoyable items.

The Tower tours were there usual popular attraction.

Free parking was available in SUFC car park. Leaders Estate Agents sponsored the event and provided and manned a successful stall; both concerns have been thanked.

The counting of the fete proceeds went smoothly and the setting up of the stalls was well supported both on Friday 10 and on the day and we are grateful for the use of a transit van which meant movement of equipment went smoothly.

All concerned with putting together our successful and happy day are thanked for their outstanding effort.

Fete proceeds went to HARP, Church Mission Society and Church Funds.

The Fayre was opened by The Rev'd Paul at 10am.

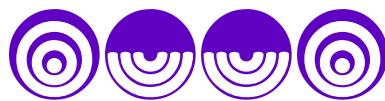
Both Church Halls were used to house the 21 stalls, and refreshments were served in St Mary's Hall; this was as popular as ever. There was a noticeable buzz in both halls and there was plenty of laughter and fun.

Children from both school sites joined together to sing carols and play instruments. Santa had his Grotto, games, crafts and a host of other attractions helped to make a very successful event raising £1500.

Our thanks were sent to SUFC for again allowing us to use their car park on the day and to Leaders Estate Agents for their sponsorship, also for the willing support of so many to make the event successful.

Proceeds went to HARP, CMS and Church Funds

Ray Mason



Trees Report

Significant work was carried out in June on trees around the Fish House. The 3 Sycamores behind the building were overhanging the property and were reduced in size; as were the large Sycamore and smaller Holly to the east of the building. At the same time the Holm Oak adjacent to the school yard was reduced and reshaped as it was encroaching on neighbouring trees.

Later in the year to improve visibility some lower branches were removed from the 2 Hornbeams beside the path from the Lych Gate.

These works were carried out by Southend Council and its contractors.

Victor Riley

www.stmarysprittlewell.co.uk

The administration and creation of the church website was formerly run by Anne Barnard. Having expressed her interest to have someone else run the website, I took possession and control of it on 8 November 2016.

Having looked at the presentation and content it was decided by Rev'd Paul and I that it should be updated reflecting the changes being made at St Mary's. Also the way in which it was uploaded to the host servers needed to be more efficient.

Having personally purchased some website developing software, I set about these tasks. The website was given an overall theme to give a modern and fresh look and feel to it. Pages for the relevant subjects and activities were created, and guides and histories incorporated. There were also event pages showing up and coming religious and social events for all to enjoy. The Parish Magazine is also available to download along with 6 months of back issues.

The website went live on 20 November 2016 and has had 2142 visitors to it. As with all information tools this has to be regularly maintained, updated and reviewed, with changes being frequently made to the content and the design.

Currently there is only one person managing the website updating it and keeping it fresh by updating with information from Rev'd Paul, deleting past events and out of date information.

It is hoped that as the website develops it will become a good source of reference and entertainment to not only the parishioners but the wider community in general.

Keith Turner (Webmaster)



Women's Fellowship

Our 54th year came and seemed to pass so swiftly!

In February 2016 our newly-arrived Priest-in-Charge, the Rev'd. Paul Mackay, joined us at our AGM. After that meeting Carolyn, our Churchwarden, told us of her work with the National Probation Service.

Looking at old photos of the Southend area shows how much of the beach has disappeared, which made our talk about "Jocelynes Beach" so enlightening. Informative too were "War Time Letter" and "Things We Never Knew About London" which had a wealth of interesting facts.

The Fellowship Birthday Party in May and August's Tea Party were most enjoyable afternoons.

We learned a lot from speakers about Age UK Essex, "Sea Divers" and "Rural Life"—the latter talk delivered by Roger Dorkin who had a delightful Essex dialect.

November's meeting kept us all active when we had a "Staying Steady" demonstrator from the Borough Council—most beneficial!

An unexpected situation on the catering front arose prior to our Christmas Dinner Party—a revamped menu emerged and was a successful "first". A quiz, musical entertainment, carol singing, plus the ever-popular Pass The Parcels, kept us happy.

We were sorry that a good number of our members have been unwell during the year—some for lengthy periods—and we look forward to welcoming you back to our meetings as and when you are fit.

Sincere thanks this year to Jenny King—such a kind and capable Secretary to the Fellowship. To Dorothy Webb for her greeting members each month and keeping the finances in good order, and to all the Committee members for 2016: Vera Field, Jenny Cousins, Iris Schofield, Glenys Nariel, Ethne Ndlwana and Celia Tyler. Thanks also to Joyce Canfield for her Women’s Fellowship report to our now-bi-monthly Prittlewell Parish Magazine. To those other members who so kindly assisted with catering and supported the Committee during the year—and to everyone for their generosity—Thank you.

As a Group we could do with some new members so do spread the word to all ladies when you have the opportunity—and don’t forget to tell one of the Committee if a member needs our prayers and support. We meet in the Guild Hall in Hill Road at 2:30 until 4:00 pm except in May and December when we start at 1:30 pm to accommodate our meal.

I continue as Chairman for a third and final year—it has been a pleasure to enable such a happy Women’s Fellowship to continue into its 55th year of existence.

Suzanne Mattingley Chairman



Services at St Mary's

Sundays

8:00 am Holy Communion
(Book of Common Prayer)

9:30 pm Holy Communion
(Second Sunday Parade Service)

6:30 pm Evensong

Monday to Thursday

8:30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday

10:30 am Holy Communion

Friday

12:00 noon Holy Communion

