



***St Mary's
Prittlewell
Annual Report 2017***

PRITTLEWELL PARISH CHURCH

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Every Wednesday between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm and the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month between 7:00 and 8:00 pm (see website for dates) please come to the church to meet with one of the clergy who will be pleased to meet with you to discuss your plans and make arrangements. Revd Paul and Revd Jacky look forward to meeting you.

If you have an enquiry regarding a funeral or are concerned about a loved one please always telephone the vicarage in the first instance 01702 343470.

Welcome to our Annual Reports for 2017.

As you will see from the following, the life of our church and parish goes on with some things looking very similar and some changes. Such is the life of any church, and moving on in our journey with Christ should/will always involve elements of change and reflection. We also need to constantly review the way in which we engage with the world otherwise we will cease to be relevant, but what won't cease to be relevant is the great love of Christ that He has for us and our need to share that love with others.

As I look back I need to start my own reflections with some words of thanks.

I don't suppose this will come as any surprise to any reading this, the importance of thanking everybody and the risk of missing out someone renders it difficult to say thank you to anyone by name. However, I do feel I have to single out particular thanks to the following:

My dear colleague Revd Jacky Lindoe whose service of ordination to the Priesthood, as you will read later, was a wonderful privilege to host such a special occasion and an opportunity to rejoice in her ministry along with others and to worship God together. Jacky has been and continues to remain a very supportive and encouraging colleague. Although Jacky is still in "training" herself, I refer to her as my colleague, as in no way is she an "apprentice", although by her own admission she still has things to learn, we are though committed together to grow in God's mission and ministry and in this place.

To both Churchwardens, Carolyn and Keith, a huge thanks for all they do, often behind the scenes, helping myself and the life of this church. As this is Keith's first year as Churchwarden, laughingly being "retired" he is and has been able to give a huge amount of his personal time, whereas Carolyn being in full time employment is naturally restricted but they compliment each other remarkably well.

To the Standing Committee and PCC, and Side persons again thanks for all they do.

Also to Margaret Harvey for her huge contribution pastorally in caring for our folk, and assuring those who are unwell that they are in our prayers, thank you.

Last, but not least, a thank you to my wife Sue in her role as PCC Secretary and for her love and support at all times, both for myself personally and for our church.

2017 was a busy year, but you could argue that all years in ministry are busy, but this year some amazing things happened and were achieved. What is mentioned below is of course, just some of the highlights in no particular order.

- Deanery and Diocese: During the year we were fortunate to welcome our newly appointed Archdeacon Mike Lodge to preach at St Mary's. And we were saddened by the news of the death of the Bishop of Bradwell, Bishop John who passed away in July. Our connections within the Deanery remain mediocre at best sadly, and Jacky and I attended the Diocesan Conference at the university of Essex in Colchester – without wishing to sound ungrateful was an interesting event, but not “life changing”
- Occasional Offices (better known as Hatches, Matches and Dispatches...): The number of Baptisms continues apace here and it was a “special” joy to baptise Bobby as an adult in addition to many infant baptisms. Weddings – ebb and flow somewhat due to the economic climate and pressures of other “venues” but I believe we provide an excellent service here at St Mary's. During my first year here I realised that the door into providing for funeral services for the community as a whole, was not quite shut but only very slightly ajar! In this area there is much still to do but “wider” influences with support from the Diocese wouldn't go amiss.. Within the “team” we are looking to enhance our admin of these “events” and hope to start sending anniversary cards etc. All of these “offices” are a huge privilege and Jacky and I hope not to lose sight of this!

- **Services:** Our services continued to be well attended especially at festival times. Through the year though we did review the Friday lunchtime Holy Communion Service and in September decided to stop offering this service. We have also considered our evening services providing twice monthly Sung Evensong and on other occasions now Said Service of Evening Prayer and Taize. We hosted a number of additional Carol Services in December for other organisations which was a privilege to do so. Our regular services with St Mary's Primary School, on Tuesdays in church, although disrupted in the Autumn, continued and in September we held our first Education Sunday Service to which staff and children were invited, with the added incentive of bouncy castles and hotdogs! We hope to offer this again in 2018. Also thank you to Melanie Van Looy, for further developing her own musical skills as our "lead" organist and the members of the choir for their valuable contributions, and to all those who read, lead intercessions or help assist at our services – Thank You!

- **Mission/Spirituality:** At the heart of all we do should be how best we can proclaim Christ – As my first Advent/Christmas came and went I realised our unique position as folk travel past the church should be exploited and I/we should "think bigger"! We started by putting fresh posters in our signboard on the junction of East St and Victoria Ave. Displayed Stations of the Cross during Holy Week and Easter on Victoria Avenue, and then placed banners on the churchyard walls. Considering our journey of faith should not be reliant on just Sunday worship, but developed through attending for instance a House Group and or a Lent course and both have been available to all this year. In 2018 though I want to start to consider "nurture" groups or courses perhaps hosting an Alpha course or such like. We extended the church open hours (now Monday to Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm), Jacky and I decided we should begin "meet the clergy hours" for those enquiring about Baptisms or Weddings etc. which have been well received.

- **School:** Our relationship with St Mary's Primary school continues to grow. Jacky and I regularly take services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, we visit classes and have for instance undertaken

studying Holy Communion with the children amongst other things. Through the year we hosted many special services: Easter, Year 6 Leavers (including “gifting” a bible for each young person), Education Sunday, Harvest and Carol Services.

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- Staff: In January of 2017 Marianne Fowle stood down as our Administrator, after many helpful years. Thankfully we were able to replace Marianne in this role with Christina Turner who has taken on the role well and enjoying keeping me on my toes! Penny Stone continues in her role as Steward/Verger. After many months of preparation, prayer and finally interviews, I am thrilled to say Lois Blakey was employed to be our Children’s and Family Worker in September. Lois was commissioned on Advent Sunday with guest preacher Steve Kersys, the Children’s & Families Advisor for the Chelmsford Diocese in attendance.
- Works in and around the church: It came to my attention early on in my time here that there were, and are still, some serious maintenance issues that needed addressing sooner rather than later. You can read about these works elsewhere, but needless to say the overseeing of these works, along with Keith, has been somewhat time consuming for us, but also rewarding in ensuring that the life of the church continues for many years to come. Enhancing the Vicar’s Vestry, Warden’s Vestry and Choir Vestry has I hope provided a much better and brighter working environment for all concerned. For the rest of the works you can read the Fabric Report, but please do not be fooled into thinking that these items are just for maintenance, they are an integral part of the mission and life of the church!
- Personal: With regard to my own time and ministry and mission, it has also been an important time. As I was in my second year here – there were a number of courses and conferences I had to attend as part of my role as training incumbent and also being “new” to the Diocese, it felt that I was “away” a lot! Those times did allow me some “personal” space and it’s good to step back at times and consider the “highs and lows” of parish life. There are many highs and many of you my dear readers have been

supportive and encouraging. Conversely, sadly some folk do like to be “negative” and “critical” all very normal really but sad nonetheless, especially when you see/hear how folk treat each other... Remember the words of Christ...in Mark’s Gospel...

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, “Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.” Mark 12:28-31

During the year I was invited to take on some extra roles, Chaplain to the Royal Naval Association on East Street, District Scout Chaplain for the Southend Estuary District and Jacky and I have jointly taken on chaplaincy roles at Southend Police Station. Which have all proved fascinating!

Sue and I enjoyed some time away visiting friends in Romania in the late Spring, a day trip to Greenwich organised by the social committee and hosting afternoon “Tea in the vicarage garden” in 2018 I hope to start planning a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for 2019 so watch this space!

Finally thanks to God for His many blessings and His continued Grace – we continue to pray that we will know the joy of sharing His love with and without the church and as we remember those who have gone before us during 2017 we thank God for them and pray that they as part of the great cloud of Saints will cheer us on doing His work!

God Bless

Paul



Last year was a busy year for everyone at St Mary's, and when we started to review the progress we have made over the previous 12 months, it was truly amazing !

We began the year quietly enough with our usual Services, but we were soon planning for our big July Event –the Ordination Service, at which our own Revd. Jacky was ordained, and which St. Mary's was proud to host for all the candidates. We began to think about who should be invited, the practical arrangements, and to work closely with the Diocese very early on in the year. At the same time, Revd. Paul and the Team were steaming ahead with making our dream of finding a Children and Families Worker a reality. This was also against a background of completing work to the fabric of the Church, and praying for a new Organist, and/or someone to lead the musical side of our worship.

We had good attendance at our Easter Services in 2017, and an opportunity to share fellowship at the Maundy Thursday Supper, which all seemed to enjoy. We reached out further to the local community in our Summer Fete, which was a resounding success, although accompanied by a lot of hard work and aching limbs ! As the year progressed, the volume of our Baptisms and Weddings increased, and we were able to welcome many couples and families into our Church.

In July, as mentioned, we celebrated the Ordination of our own Revd. Jacky Lindoe, which was a splendid occasion and showed everyone the warmth and community of the St Mary's congregation. We were also thrilled that God found us Lois Blakey, who has become our Children and Families Worker, and who began the task in September of developing our worship for young people and in outreach to the local community- it seems impossible that Lois has been with us for six months already, and that we now have Junior Church on a Sunday, and a number of events which have taken place, or are planned, for the coming year.

In September we also had a successful PCC Away Day at Holy Trinity Church in Rayleigh. This was an opportunity to spend some time together and look at ourselves as a group and to start to develop an agreed plan for what we want to focus on to take us forward in the future. It was also a great opportunity to get to know each other better and laugh a lot !

Throughout the year there have been Social activities (detailed elsewhere), ongoing work to the fabric of the Church, and generous financial bequests, which have enabled us to make so many improvements (our wonderful Wall of Light !) as well as allowing us to employ our Children and Families Worker.

We look forward to the coming 12 months with anticipation and excitement, but continue to hold in our prayers those amongst us who are sick and housebound, and in our own joy, do not forget their suffering. We would like to thank everyone for their support to us as Churchwardens, and are grateful to those who give so freely of their love, time and effort, to make our Church the beacon we want it to be.

Carolyn Evans
Keith Turner
Churchwardens



Fabric Report

This year has seen a substantial amount of work both inside and outside the church, as much work was needed to bring us up-to-date with the last Quinquennial, as well as the ever-growing list of long overdue maintenance, which due to previous financial decisions was unable to be carried out. This combined with improvements and enhancement of the church grounds has made it a very busy time.

I won't go into the costs as this will be covered in the finance reports. I will attempt in this report to summarise the works and rough dates, which will hopefully give a good idea of how things are progressing.

January began with searching out companies and getting quotes for:- new gas central heating for the church, as the existing system became totally inadequate; the damp proofing (tanking) of the boiler room itself to prevent further rotting of gas boiler; the damp proofing of the organ blowing chamber, to prevent further rotting of the wooden bellows and water ingress; quotes for Organ restoration and refurbishment; and quotes for vestry roof repairs to stop leaks.

February/March saw works begin on the vestry roof and a new gas boiler and smart Intelligent central heating system (using existing radiators and pipework) installed.

In April new Books of Common Prayer were purchased replacing the old tired and worn out ones. New pavement signs advertising the church services and opening times were bought. Repairs to the damp stonework above the vestry door were undertaken. Redecoration and new colour designs for the vestry were discussed, as well as quotes and designs for a new entrance ramp. The vestment chest in the vicars office (main office) was taken apart by professional cabinet/joiners as it was too big to fit through the door (the office had been built around it!) and reassembled in its current location.

May saw the vestry redecoration start. All the light bulbs in church replaced with modern LEDs and the entire electrical system was tested and certificated.

In June/July works started on the boiler room tanking and entrance hatch repairs/improvements, and this was completed towards the end of July.

August saw the outside wall (East Street entrance) repaired and external lighting embedded in it making the entrance safer and more welcoming. The notice boards outside the main entrance were lit up

with LED strips. The church grounds also enjoyed some much needed trimming and pruning. Pathways were cleared and overgrown light fittings cleaned and cleared. The hedges along the borders were also pruned and cut back making the school pathway much safer and neater.

October the vestry roof was repaired and made leak free with insulation being added for the first time ever. The organ blowing chamber work was started with the blower and bellows being removed, the blower was repaired and serviced, the bellows taken away by an organ company and totally repaired/replaced with new parts using traditional methods. The organ was also repaired and refurbished at the same time. The blowing chamber now has de-humidifier and humidity controls to preserve and maintain the wooden bellows. The Wardens' Vestry floor was completely damaged by rot and fungus and had to be replaced; the whole office vestry areas then had a sanding down and varnish to finish the decorations works off. A new entrance ramp was also fitted.

In November following all the building works, a deep clean was organised of the entire church, roof beams, light fittings, windows inside, brasses, pews, floors, and even walls washed down from top to bottom. The church grounds saw more work as the memorial gardens were restored and brought back to life with treating of wood rails and new plants planted in dug over flower beds. Cushions for the main church pews were ordered to bring more warmth and comfort to us all (except the wardens!).

In December a new interior alarm system was installed bringing security right up to date with 24/7 monitored police response and remote monitoring and setting for key holders.

This year hasn't seen any significant works being undertaken to the trees in the grounds, but we would very much like to thank Victor Riley who has given us many years in his role as Trees Officer. Victor will be standing down at the APCM in April 2018.

There are probably a few little bits I've missed here and there but that's the bulk of works this year. It's important to maintain the church for those who will come after us, keeping its traditional look and feel as well as making it a modern useable building for us today.

Keith Turner (Fabric Lead)



PCC Report

St Mary's PCC meets 6 times a year (one of which is an Away Day) to discuss important issues and make decisions on behalf of the church.

Your current representatives are:

Richard Anderson

Derek Barrington

Teresa Church (Deanery Synod Rep)

Carolyn Evans (Churchwarden)

Michael Field

Jennie Goddard (Deanery Synod Rep/Gift Aid Secretary)

Shah Haider

Margaret Harvey

Patricia Johnson

Sue Mackay (Deanery Synod Rep/PCC Secretary)

Ray Mason

Matt Pinnock (Treasurer)

Wesley Taylor–Stone

Keith Turner (Churchwarden)

My report will not be much different to that given last year. We have looked at many issues. Our meetings are never boring (in fact, at times there is actually "laughter" involved !!!) 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 to be made for our future work and mission in this place. One such decision, amongst many that have come to fruition, is the appointment of Lois Blakey as our 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. A very exciting year lays ahead with much planned.

Our PCC Away Day this year was held at Rayleigh Parish Church and I think it's safe to say that everyone appreciated the day and that it was well worth spending a few hours together on a Saturday thinking, talking but more importantly praying for the needs and life of our church. St Mary's has a PCC who are very committed to working together, ensuring that the gospel of Christ is proclaimed in thought, word and deed and that all of us, as the body of Christ in this place play our part in ensuring that we remember all that has been done in the past, but looks ahead to the future, so that our church, God's church in Prittlewell, is still here in another 1000 years and with that in mind, much needed work has been carried out (with still more to be done!) on St Mary's and her grounds and this is detailed in the Fabric Report.

As PCC Secretary it has been a privilege to sit and work alongside a great team of people and I look forward to more exciting times ahead.

Sue Mackay

PCC Secretary



2017 has been a year of change – there has been lots of work carried out, generous gifts and initiatives which should bring benefits in 2018.

PCC Receipts for the year totalled just over £220,000 – the increase over last year (£173,000) is due to a generous legacy received in the year. This included receipt of commercial properties in Leigh which will provide the PCC with a steady and substantial stream of income for years to come.

Payments totalled around £240,000. The increase in spending (£161,000) reflects the expenditure on improvements made in the church (eg work on the organ) and churchyard. There has been an increase in paid members of staff to help with the administration of the church on a day to day basis as well as our new Children and Families Worker.

As such, we have made a deficit this year of £20,000 – the bulk of this is represented by payments made in early 2017 that related to 2016 Parish Share and ensuring the 2017 Parish Share was paid in full by the year end.

The PCC has current assets (eg bank accounts) totalling £61,000 to draw upon and the full impact of the properties in Leigh will be felt in 2018. This means the PCC remains on a strong financial footing.

Matt Pinnock

St Mary's Church, Prittlewell

Statement of Assets and liabilities by Fund at 31 December 2017

			Balance 2017	Balance 2016
Fixed assets				
6430:	Guild Hall Freehold Property at NBV	Designated	40,000	40,000
6440:	St. Mary's Hall Freehold Property at NBV	Designated	60,000	60,000
6450:	27 Tickfield Avenue Freehold Property at NBV	Designated	80,000	80,000
6460:	Glenwood Avenue Freehold Property at NBV	Designated	300	300
6461:	86-88 Broadway/Ashleigh Freehold Property at NBV	Designated	450,000	-
6462:	59-61 Broadway Freehold Property at NBV	Designated	620,000	-
6470:	CBIFS Shares - Tithe Chancel Trust Tithe Chancel Trust	Endowment	11,279	10,009
Fixed assets			£ 1,261,279	£ 190,309
Current assets				
6501:	Santander Bank Current Account			
	General fund	Unrestricted	3,720	18,604
	Porter	Designated	600	600
	PCESC Grant Funding	Designated	1,567	2,858
	PCESC Grant Funding	Restricted	-	2,090
	Social Fund	Designated	1,088	766
	Vicar's Discretionary	Designated	407	407
	Agency collection	Restricted	240	(35)
	Church Music and Organ	Designated	119	-

	Fabric Reserve	Designated	1,000	-
	Vicarage Maintenance	Designated	3,500	-
			12,241	25,290
6510:	CAF Bank Current Account			
	Vicarage Maintenance	Designated	-	3,500
	General fund	Unrestricted	-	1,874
	Tickfield Maintenance	Designated	-	2,063
	PCESC Grant Funding	Restricted	-	63
			-	7,500
6530:	CBF Deposit Account 608401001D			
	Legacy Phyllis Dearsley 2007	Restricted	570	568
	General Fund	Unrestricted	8,824	8,538
	Legacy Audrey Pacey 2007	Restricted	16,874	16,827
	Peter Spenceley legacy, new altar linen and Bells	Restricted	1,739	1,876
	Bernard Riley Legacy for maintenance of church	Restricted	9,532	9,504
	Main Roof Repairs	Restricted	7,060	7,039
	Frank Webb memorial Fund for fabric of church	Restricted	1,008	1,004
	Chessher Legacy Organ Upkeep	Restricted	365	483
	Vivian James Legacy for churchyard	Restricted	1,554	1,550
	Vicar and Churchwardens	Restricted	27	27
			47,555	47,421
6590:	Cash in Hand			
	General Fund	Unrestricted	1370	734
	Debtors (credit on Gas account)	Unrestricted	186	-
	Current Assets		£ 61,351	£ 80,946
	Less: Liabilities			
6699:	Agency Collections			
	Agency collections	Restricted	240	(35)
	Invoices received but unpaid at year end	Unrestricted	7,114	-
	Liabilities		7,354	(35)
	Grand Total		£ 1,315,576	£ 271,292

St Mary's Church, Prittlewell
Receipts and Payments Account
For the period from 1 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endow-ment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Receipts showing fund paid into</i>						
Receipts from generated funds						
Voluntary income	58,719	1,220	11,250	-	71,189	57,124
Activities for generating funds	8,492	1,149	-	-	9,461	16,909
Investment income	91,400	-	-	-	91,400	34,206
Receipts from charitable activities	34,734	-	-	-	34,734	34,206
Other Receipts	2,386	10,000	-	-	12,386	40,714
Total Receipts	195,733	12,369	11,250	-	219,352	173,576
<i>Payments showing fund paid from</i>						
Cost of generating funds	1,057	-	-	-	1,057	815
Charitable activities	198,402	37,334	2,296	-	238,033	159,687
Governance costs	318	-	-	-	318	450
Total Payments	199,778	37,334	2,296	-	239,409	160,952
Excess of payments over receipts before transfers	(4,045)	(24,965)	8,953	-	(20,057)	12,623

Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,423	25,213	252	-	27,888	17,015
Gross transfers between funds - out	(14,215)	(2,161)	(11,512)	-	(27,888)	(17,015)
Excess of receipts over payments after Transfers	(15,837)	1,068,086	(2,306)	1,269	1,051,211	13,959

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<i>Grand totals of all Funds</i>						
At 1 January 2017	29,751	190,494	41,036	10,009	271,292	257,332
At 31 December 2017	13,913	1,258,580	38,730	11,278	1,322,503	271,292

Represented by

Unrestricted

General Fund	13,913				13,913	29,751
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Designated

Church music & organ		119			119	-
Fabric Reserve		1,000			1,000	-
Freehold property at NBV		1,250,300			1,250,300	180,300
PCESC Grant Funding		1,566			1,566	2,858
Porter		600			600	600
Social Fund		1,087			1,087	766
Tickfield maintenance		-			-	2,062

Vicarage Maintenance	3,500	3,500	3,500
Vicar's Discretionary	407	407	407
Restricted			
Peter Spenceley legacy, new altar linen/Bells Fund	1,739	1,739	1,876
Bernard Riley legacy for church maintenance	9,532	9,532	9,504
Chessley – Organ	364	364	483
Frank Webb memorial Fund, fabric of church	1,007	1,007	1,004
Legacy – Audrey Pacey 2007	16,874	16,874	16,827
Legacy – Phyllis Dearsley 2007	570	570	568
Main roof repairs, Ameris grant	7,059	7,059	7,039
PCEC Grant Funding	-	-	2,154
Vivian James legacy, churchyard gardening work	1,554	1,554	1,550
Vicar & Churchwardens	27	27	27
Endowment			
Tithe Chancel Trust		11,278	10,009

The notes on pages 20 to 27 form part of these accounts

ST MARY'S CHURCH PRITTLEWELL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

1. Accounting policies

The financial statements have been prepared as Receipts and Payments. Monies received and payments are accounted for on the date they are dealt with. The accounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of Church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those of informal gatherings of Church members. Any discrepancy from the Statements found in the Notes is due to rounding. The usual convention has been used for this. £x .50 and greater has been rounded up to the nearest pound, while £x .01 to £x .49 has been rounded down.

1a. Funds

The General Fund of the PCC represents unrestricted monies available for the general purposes of the PCC. Some unrestricted funds may be designated for a particular purpose by the PCC. Such a designation may be revoked or changed by the PCC at any time. Funds that are shown to be restricted have been given by the donor for a particular purpose or are subject to a condition governing their use (e.g. at the discretion of a specified office holder). Such funds must not be used for any other purpose or without complying with any condition, unless in accordance with a determination of the courts or the regulations of the Charities Commission.

1b. Receipts from donors and other voluntary income

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving is recognised when received. Claims for recovery of tax are submitted monthly to HMRC.

Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for on receipt.

Funds raised by the fetes and similar events are accounted for gross.

Amounts distributed to home and overseas mission from such income are accounted for as donations of the PCC. Amounts received as agent for unrelated charities by way of collection or organised event are not included as income nor expenditure of the PCC.

1c. Receipts from charitable and ancillary trading and from investments

The parts of wedding and funeral fees due to the PCC (PCC fees, statutory and otherwise) are recognised as income when paid into a PCC account. Gross wedding and funeral fees are completely separate from the PCC accounts and are held elsewhere in a Fee Account. PCC fees, Dividends and Interest are accounted for when received and paid into the General Fund. Rental income derived from Church premises or other premises that generate rental income for the PCC is recognised when received.

1d. Gains and losses on investments

Gains or losses are only shown in the accounts when investments are sold. Unrealised gains or losses are accounted for on revaluation of investments at 31 December 2016. See Note 4, Tithe Chancel Trust, which is regarded as a fixed asset (see also 1f)

1e. Payments

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over.

Activities directly relating to the work of the Church

The Parish Share and all other payments are accounted for when paid.

1f. Fixed Assets

Consecrated land and buildings and movable Church furnishings

Consecrated and beneficed property is excluded from the accounts by Section 96(2) (a) of the Charities Act 1993 (as amended or modified). No value is placed on movable Church furnishings that may be considered inalienable or historic assets held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and/or which may not be disposed of without

grant of a faculty. The cost and complexity of obtaining a value for such assets is regarded as disproportionate to the benefit likely to be derived by users of these accounts. All expenditure incurred during the year on consecrated or benefice buildings and movable Church furnishings, whether maintenance or improvement, is written off as expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities and separately disclosed.

Freehold properties held for investment or charitable trading purposes are included in the balance sheet at the amount determined by independent valuation carried out in October 1997.

No depreciation is provided against land and buildings held for investment or charitable trading purposes.

1g. Other fixtures, fittings and office equipment

Individual items of equipment with a purchase price of £2,000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired, as is expenditure relating to repair, replacement or renewal of existing assets. As a result of this policy, no value is currently being carried in the PCC's accounts with regard to fixtures, fittings and office equipment.

1h. Investments

Investments other than property are valued at market price at 31 December each year.

Current Assets and Liabilities These are shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. Receipts and Payments are grouped and summarised on the following two pages.

2 RECEIPTS

2a From donors

Planned giving, reclaimed Gift Aid, plate service collections, wedding baptism and funeral collections

2b Other voluntary donations

Specific gifts, Legacies, Grants from PCESC, Fete, Fayre, Nearly New, other fund raising

2c Receipts from Charitable Trading

Magazine sales and advertising, church halls lettings, mens' club, wedding and funeral fees paid to PCC, certificates, away bans, cancelled wedding deposits, register searches, cards and books, candles, spiritual growth and the summer read, other income.

2d Receipts from investments

Interest and dividends, property rental

2e Other Receipts

As disclosed in attached accounts.

3 PAYMENTS

3a Cost of Generating Funds

Fete and Fayre costs, blue white and yellow envelopes

3b Grants

Overseas mission, Home mission (includes Vicar's Discretionary Fund)

3c Charitable Activities

Parish Share, Clergy expenses, Vicarage expenses, church running expenses (includes utilities, insurance, alarm systems, licences, cleaning and other church expenses), church repair and maintenance, upkeep of services (includes wine & wafers, linen, service books and sheets, pascal candle, weekly sheets and clergy cover during the vacancy), magazine, cards & books, salaries and staff costs organists' salary and fees (all organists), Halls running expenses (utilities, insurance, licences, cleaning), Halls repair and maintenance, other PCC property costs, Church music, Social events, Education and development (includes training & mission, spiritual growth and the Summer Read)

3d Church Management and Administration

Office costs (office and computing, copier, sundry administration), Professional fees, including Examination fee (category large due to fees associated with the vestry heating), printing and stationery, phone and broadband.

2. RECEIPTS	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
2a. Receipts from donors					
Planned Giving	29,080			29,080	32,930
Gift Aid & recoverable tax, LPW scheme	10,033	250		10,283	7,609
Service collections	9,433			9,433	9,208
Sundry donations	4,435	11,000		15,435	8,412
	52,981	11,250		64,231	58,159
2b. Receipts from other voluntary sources					
Legacies					
Grants	19,279			19,279	37,415
Fete, festival, 'nearly new' and other fundraising events	10,403			10,403	17,789
	29,682			29,682	55,204
2c. Receipts from charitable trading					
Magazine sales & advertising	366			366	296
Church halls lettings	29,937			29,937	28,142
Wedding and funeral fees	2,481			2,481	6,014
Other income	1,255			1,255	1,139
	34,039			34,039	35,591
2d. Receipts from investments					
Interest and dividends received (Note 1c and Note 4)	133			133	222
Rental receipts	91,267			91,267	24,400
	91,400			91,400	24,622
2e. Other receipts					
Total Receipts	208,102	11,250	-	219,352	173,576

3. Payments	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2017	Total 2016
3a. Costs of generating funds					
Cost of fetes, festivals & other fundraising events	930			930	816
	930			930	816
3b. Grants					
Overseas mission	410			410	1,387
Home mission	1,367			1,367	1,387
Grants to other UK charities	702			702	751
	2,479			2,479	3,525
3c. Church ministry activities					
Parish share	82,398			82,398	55,310
Clergy expenses	2,851			2,851	1,799
Vicarage and clergy housing	2,013			2,013	1,162
Church running expenses	29,946	142		30,088	17,726
Church repairs & maintenance	26,765	2,154		28,919	5,342
Upkeep of services	1,726			2,307	2,307
Salaries & staff costs	29,670			29,670	14,532
Organists' fees	4,664			4,664	8,543
Church hall running costs	7,769			7,769	8,010
Church hall repairs & renewals	1,102			1,102	32,824
Other PCC property costs	20,749			20,749	342
Church music	12,297			12,297	1,967
Social events	1,579			1,579	875
	223,529	2,296		225,825	150,748

3d. Church management and administration

Professional fees	344		344	460
Office costs	5,759		5,759	3,124
Printing and Stationery	3,231		3,231	1,828
Telephone & broadband	842		842	451
	10,175		10,175	5,863
Total Resources Used	237,113	2,296	239,409	160,952

4. Fixed assets

	2017	2016
	£	£
4a. Tithe Chancel Trust Fund		
Market Value 1 January	10,009	8,300
Interest received	359	263
Unrealised gain/(loss)	911	110
Market Value 31 December	11,279	8,673
	2017	2016
Number of shares		
Held at 1 January	665.67	640.83
Held at 31 December	687.96	665.67
	£	£
Price of shares (each)		
1 January	15.04	13.53
31 December	16.39	15.04

The Tithe Chancel Trust is a permanent endowment fund that allows income to be spent on Chancel repairs and insurance. It is held by Chelmsford Diocesan Board of Finance, as Custodian Trustee, under investment code 108001204S. The capital element, which is not expendable, is £226. Capital revaluation and interest allocation for 2017 are shown above. Interest is retained and capitalised at year end.

4b. Freehold Property at NBV	27 Tickfield Ave	Church Halls	Glenwood Avenue	86-88 Broadway	59-61 Broadway
As at 31 December 2017	80,000	100,000	300	450,000	620,000

The net book value of St. Mary’s Hall, the Guild Hall and Glenwood Avenue are based on an independent valuation carried out in October 1997. The ground lease at Glenwood Avenue relates to property originally acquired as accommodation for curates of the parish.

The freehold property at 27 Tickfield Avenue was also originally purchased as accommodation for a curate of the parish. The property has been occupied by a tenant for more than ten years. It is no longer used in connection with the principal activity of the parish.

The properties in Broadway were a legacy received in 2017 and valued as at 31 December 2017.



Archives

During the course of last year, further material was sent to the Essex Records Office in Chelmsford, building on what was started in 2016 when a determined effort was made to catalogue and clarify material which the church had accumulated.

As a result, most of the paperwork has now been sorted and dealt with, leaving material which is “current” and essential still at St Mary’s, whilst giving ERO (Essex Records Office) a substantial amount of material for keeping and cataloguing.

Our contact man at ERO has complimented us on providing considerable and informative material for the archives, praise indeed

from people tasked with dealing with “items of interest....or not” as the case may be.

It is hoped that during 2018 a visit from ERO may tidy up any loose ends as well.

Philip Briant

Archivist



Bellringing

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

This year's annual outing was to the Bedford and Luton area. We were pleased that John Lambert, who moved from Prittlewell in 2016, was able to meet and ring with us at Luton. We were also pleased that Bernard and Jose Sadler, both aged 89, were able to join us on the coach and that Bernard rang on the ground floor ring of bells at Tempsford.

Sadly, a few days later, Jose suffered a major stroke from which she never recovered. It was typical of them both, with their love for bells and ringers, that they took part in our annual outing as they had done for very many years. Their contribution to the support, encouragement and wellbeing of the ringers at St. Mary's for well over 60 years is second to none. Those of us who knew them at their best will forever be grateful for their open house to everybody and their amazing gift of hospitality. Bernard continues to be involved when possible and attended both our Christmas Lunch at Rochford Golf Club and our end of year celebration in the church.

The ringing school continues and we are happy to welcome Billie, Gerry, Ryan and Sue, who have graduated from the school and ring with us on Sundays. We welcome back John Tipping into the band also.

If anyone would like to come up the tower at any time, you would be most welcome. Please contact one of the ringers.

David Sloman

Ringling Master



1st Prittlewell Brownies and Rainbows

The Rainbow unit has continued to run with a maximum of 18 girls together with a qualified leader, a leader in training and a young leader. We were able to offer a varied programme of activities, games and stories to celebrate the various Saints' days, festivals and special occasions. The girls had fun working towards the Rainbows 30th Birthday challenge badge and Roundabout the World badge. They joined other Rainbows, Brownies and Guides at Kids Kingdom, the District Thinking Day at St Mary's School and the Sausage Sizzle at Guideacres. At the beginning of the summer break some of the Rainbows went on a division outing with other Rainbows to Boydells Farm, Braintree and Great Notley Country Park. Unfortunately our numbers dropped drastically at the end of the year so we decided to circulate fliers to two local schools.

The Brownie unit has continued to attract a high number of girls and so we have had to operate a waiting list. I am pleased to report that Kiley has now completed her Leadership Qualification and is now leading the Brownie unit with the assistance of the two District Commissioners and a Young Leader. The Brownies have had an exciting programme of activities which contributed towards the Cooks badge, Hostess Badge, Fantasy Land challenge badge and Toymaker badge as well as a variety of themed activities to celebrate special festivals. The Brownies have also joined in the District Thinking Day and District Sausage Sizzle, had an evening at Kids Kingdom and went to the County Craft Dabble day at Sweyne Park School.

We continue to encourage both Rainbow and Brownie units to attend Church Parades. We were pleased that the girls were able to take part in the special Remembrance Sunday service and were very proud as they laid the wreaths which they had made.

Eileen Wilkins



Children's and Family Worker

I started my journey with St Mary's as their new Children and Families Worker at the beginning of September. On 9 December, with a wonderful team of volunteers, hosted our first event, "Journey Through Christmas". The morning of fun and games saw the Christmas Story being shared with thirty children, who were also able to engage with a variety of activities throughout the session. The morning concluded with hot chocolate, mulled apple juice, mince pies and gingerbread men with the children and their families. One parent texted after the event to say thank you and that her children had a lovely time.

We, at St Mary's, are very excited about what the next year holds. We are in particular looking forward to the launch of Junior Church on Sunday mornings and the opportunity to hold a prayer space at St Mary's Primary School. There are also events planned throughout the year for the children and families of community and church.

Lois Blakey

Children and Families Worker



The Children's Society

This year the Children's Society home boxes have raised a total of £712.21 plus £61.72 in Gift Aid. We currently have 34 box holders, the majority being church members but also some are held by members of the local community. This is a slight increase on last year.

The monies have increased from last year with a few new box holders 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.

Unfortunately the number of boxes returned at the Christingle service dropped to only two this year. I did, however, give out ten new boxes so let's hope that next year's return will be greater.

Linda Corney



From the period of January to December 2017, 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 £347.47. 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 £265.90 We appear to be down a bit on figures for the Christingle this year, compared to last year, however the Children's Society were overwhelmed with the amount that was donated.

Stephanie Stanley



Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod meets 3 times a year.

Your current representatives are: Teresa Church, Jennie Goddard and Sue Mackay

Below is a brief outline of the 3 meetings:

22 February at St Andrew's, Westcliff

Reports were given by the Diocesan Synod Rep and the Area Dean followed by a presentation by Steve Gunning, Risk Assessment Surveyor of Ecclesiastical Insurance. There was an opportunity for any questions.

29 June 2017 at St Peter's, Shoeburyness

During this meeting various elections took place. Linda Barnard was duly elected Lay Joint Chair for the next 3 year period. Laura Clegg was elected as Deanery Synod Treasurer, Margaret Henning Deanery Synod Secretary; and Revd Canon Louise Williams Deanery Synod Assistant Secretary. Elected representatives for the Standing Committee were James McLuskey (Clergy), Neil Paxton (Clergy), Christine Ballard (Lay) and Elsie Moore (Lay).

Revd Louise Williams gave a report on the Diocesan Synod and Michelle Tackie a brief report on the General Synod, Revd Jonathan Collis gave his report as Area Dean. Mike Lodge, our Archdeacon, gave an encouraging talk on his early impressions on his new role as Archdeacon and his vision for the near to medium future of the Church. It was very inspiring and uplifting, particularly in his view that churches should not be museums but places of worship and opportunity where all may meet with Christ.

14 November 2017 at Christchurch, Southchurch

The meeting was Chaired by Linda Barnard in the Area Dean's absence and began with a time of silence in memory of Bishop John Wraw.

A short update was given by the General Synod Representative Michelle Tackie saying that Digital Evangelism is the way forward as everyone now uses social media platforms, websites etc. The Church of England are revamping their website and A Church Near You in order to make them more user friendly. As a church we can go into the site "A Church New Year" and update any specific details that might need changing to keep it relevant. Carol Richards, the Diocesan Mission in Regeneration Advisor gave a presentation on new housing developments and how we can engage with those who move into our parishes. A handout was given detailing 10 top tips for outreach to new housing areas.

Sue, Teresa and Jennie

Deanery Synod Reps



Flower Arrangers

We are so very fortunate to have such a beautiful church in which to arrange flowers. Sometime during the year I was told that we are not the best of flower arrangers but that we do our best. I can assure everybody that we are doing our best and that we enjoy what we do.

It is an honour and a great joy, to be able to arrange flowers at St Marys, and we are fortunate to receive generous donations for all our major Church festivals, also donations from people who wish to remember special occasions personal to them.

Last August, Jose Sadler passed away. Jose had led the flower group for many years and taught Jenny, Sally and myself how to arrange "Church Flowers". This she insisted was nothing like "Flower Arranging". For her funeral, which coincided with Harvest, Jose's family donated the money to provide Flowers in church. Jose loved pink and mauve flowers, hence the church looked very different for Harvest on this occasion.

Sadly Margaret Smith, who always helped at Christmas, Easter, etc. died in December, and we remember her with fondness.

The Easter flowers were as usual lots of yellow and white.

Remembrance Sunday this year was also Doreen and John Carter's special wedding anniversary and they made a generous donation towards flowers. This enabled us to buy red roses and carnations to mingle with the poppies.

When it came to Christmas, we decided to move away from the usual, and adopted a more natural look. People remarked how effective the greenery was, touched with some red and gold flowers. At the midnight service several people took photographs of our efforts which was very pleasing.

As coordinator, I am very fortunate to have a team of "ladies" and Richard, who I can rely on to make sure our lovely Church always has flowers for all to enjoy.

Thank you all of you!

Patricia Johnson

Flowers group coordinator



Gift Aid

The overall rebate from HMRC for donations in 2017 was £8946.18 which is a 1.6% increase on 2016.

91% of all donations were eligible for gift aid and small donation scheme rebates of 25%.

We were able to claim for all monies in the collection plate. However there is an annual limit of £8k which we may well exceed before April 2018. It is therefore very important that tax payers join the regular giving schemes or use the yellow pew envelopes.

I would like to thank everyone who counts the collections and particularly Pat Johnson and Penny Stone who co-ordinate the financial information. We could not claim these funds back from HMRC without your help.

If you are a tax payer and would like to sign a gift aid declaration form please let me know.

Jennie Goddard

Gift Aid and Giving Scheme Officer



Halls

2017 saw our halls continuing to be used by a large number of regular groups. For many years the administration and bookings for our halls was undertaken by Sally Ellingford. Sally decided to stand down as the co-ordinator in September 2017. We are extremely grateful for all she did over the years and a number of hall users commented how helpful she had been and how grateful they were for her assistance.

From September, as we had very few occasional hires (i.e. children's parties), we decided for the time being not to take any more of these bookings. Sadly, despite advertising the role of a Halls Booking Secretary in September, this role remains in vacancy. The administration for now, is being handled by our Office Administrator, Christina Turner.

There have been some minor maintenance issues undertaken in the halls during the year but both halls are in need of some major refurbishments, which we will be reflecting on in 2018-2019, especially if we are looking to "market" them for new hirers.

Sadly despite writing to all our hall users about some on-going issues, i.e. parking, given that some of our users are long-standing hirers, it is taking some time to re-educate them.

Our halls though, do provide a substantial income and we are grateful to all those who use these facilities.

Revd Paul Mackay



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 via Travelex. Saleable coins whether silver or just various metals are sold on Ebay by me. Old English and foreign coins with silver content and unsaleable are sent as scrap silver direct to a smelter where I have arranged a trading account for Havens Hospices so we get the maximum rate for the silver content. Early decimal coins are changed for us by Barclays Bank. All

other coins which are non-negotiable are saved and sold as scrap to a local Scrap Merchant who also is generous to us. They are separated out to their various contents, nickel, brass, bronze, copper and the mixtures thereof by me, which is why we get the maximum return.

Currently since 2001, I have converted nearly £25,000, and the coins you have donated are included in that figure, so please keep up the good work and continue to let me have your old coins and notes.

As you will have read in the Press, we are now looking to build a new Fair Havens Hospice on the old ECKO site in Priory Crescent. Havens Hospices has submitted a revised planning application for a new adult hospice in Southend.

Based in Prittlewell opposite Priory Park, the new Fair Havens will care for twice as many patients compared to the current building in Westcliff.

The updated plans were handed in to Southend-on-Sea Borough Council in February.

Project Director Steve Smith says, “We have always said that we need to build a hospice that will last for generations – this is our chance to get this right. We have gone through the formal stages of developing a building and a normal part of this process is to review existing designs against the ever changing needs of our patients.

“We have a duty to get value for money as public donations will pay for the majority of a hospice that will serve the local community for years to come. We have scrutinised the plans to ensure we build a hospice of the right size and are using space effectively so we can reduce costs.

“We are delighted to say that after this process, our building has been reduced in costs and enables our care specialists to deliver greater levels of care to our patients and their families.

The cost of the whole project after land purchase is now £15.4 million. Previously we needed to raise over £16 million to build the new hospice, but after lots of support from grant making trusts, our Appeal Board members and our Founders we now need only £2.5 million to fund the new hospice.”

The new Fair Havens Hospice will serve the population of Southend, Castle Point and Rochford, bringing together a range of specialist services. The Hospice will support more people in making choices about their care from the day they receive their diagnosis, as they live with their illness and as the end of their life approaches.

It will incorporate 16 in-patient bedrooms, increased Day Hospice services and additional Family Support set in beautifully landscaped gardens and grounds, which have taken inspiration from the neighboring Priory Park.

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 questions box.

Havens Hospices thanks you for your continued support.

Bob Harvey



Home Groups

Monday afternoons

St Mary's Monday Home Group meet regularly once a fortnight, (during term time), and enjoy great fellowship and companionship.

The group comprises of Reverend Jacky, Suzanne Mattingly, Jenny King, Jenny Cousins, Mary Porter, Dorothy Webb, Celia Tyler, Ethne, Derek Barrington, Glenys Nariel, Elsie Bailey, Edna Phillips and Sheila Squires.

Suzanne very kindly opens her home to us and provides a delicious light lunch for those of us who arrive early, where we enjoy some spontaneous conversation.

After lunch we adjourn to a comfortable seat where Reverend Jacky leads us with a prayer followed by a period of study and lively discussion on a Bible reading.

The afternoon finishes with a non alcoholic drink and a biscuit. A very big thank you to Suzanne for her hospitality.

Anyone who is interesting in joining a home Group would be most welcome. Please see either Revd Paul or Revd Jacky.

Glenys Nariel



Thursday evenings

The Thursday evening Home Group has been operating for over a year, with meeting taking place bi-weekly. Our group currently has eight regular attendees. We start at 7:30 with a chat and catch up on

what's been happening in our lives. We share our happiness and our sadness. This aspect of our meeting is important as it helps us to contemplate what's happening on a level removed from the immediate; towards where we need Gods support or to give thanks and praise for Gods presences in our lives, community and the world. These thoughts and feelings are gathered up into a single, unified prayer at the end of our meeting.

Each Home Group explores aspects of Christianity and faith. Sometimes themes are examined over several evening delving into the big picture and the experiences of our daily lives. This year we discussed science's impact on Christianity, poetry as doorway to the Spirit, The Trinity, The Creed and Christianity and Mysticism.

Following our closing prayers we share fellowship with refreshments of tea and cake.

Shah & Alex Haider



Music

2017 had a cold start in church, but the choir bravely refused to give in to wearing coats and hats for services . Handmade blankets came in useful though.

An exciting year with some highlights.

Choral Evensong in March, Joined by Richard, another Tenor!

April first Taizé service for a while, this was new to many of us but everyone joined in with a good heart. Since then the Taizé songs have been used more in services and we have had another Taizé service since, with more to come.

My first playing for the Easter services, including a full house for the school services and extremely enthusiastic singing of "Led like a Lamb to the Slaughter"

The whole Choir enjoyed singing items for the very moving Good Friday service and then for a joyful Easter morning.

May; started thinking about music for the ordination

I played for various weddings, a new experience for me, and funerals, for the first time in many years.

In July we had the ordination, a big service, and the choir did a good job with the anthems, hymns and settings of the Agnus Dei etc.

The summer proceeded with normal services with a steady flow of music despite everyone coming and going on holidays until Harvest and Remembrance Day, without the organ and a cold windy anthem outside!

The cold weather and water in the blowing chamber meant that some work would have to be done and we had to survive without it for a while in November and December for about 6 weeks. We were very glad to have it back in time for the Christmas services.

The Advent and Christmas services started with various groups coming for their services including the school before the end of term.

The Carol service was a success thanks to all the people who gave up time to practice. Similar with the services leading up to Christmas Eve with the Midnight Communion. A great end to the year.

We have new members this year, all together we are;
Sopranos; Melanie, (organ/choir), Mary, Pat, Mavis, Alex and Liz
(welcome!)

Altos; Emma, Karen, Jenny and Wendy.

Tenors; John, Wesley and Richard (welcome back!)

Bass; Ray and H-P (who also sings Tenor and conducts).

Melanie van Looney



Nearly New

Nearly New on a Thursday was one of the first groups of people that I met before I came to St Mary's. During my short time here, I have learned some of its history and I am sure readers know that it played an important part in the life of our church for many years.

The numbers visiting have, I gather, reduced over the years for varying reasons and during the first half of 2017 the numbers similarly fluctuated. A huge amount of effort was put in by a few people to provide this event and as the spring turned into the summer it became clear that it would not be able to continue.

I decided it was best to have a complete break, while I reflected on whatever future it or another venture might have. Unfortunately the events of the autumn overtook me and so no major planning took place. I look though to 2018 and whatever opportunity that may bring.

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who gave so much of their time and energy over the years to Nearly New and the people it served.

Revd Paul Mackay



Parish Magazine

All the photos on the cover of this report have appeared in the Magazine over 2016. Thank you to all those who send in their pictures and words. The Magazine, the website (see Keith's report later on) and the Weekly News Sheet are a window into life at St Mary's.

I said last year about the covers going full colour — well this year the entire Magazine has gone full colour. Very definitely an improvement. (But if you can get your Magazine by email please let me know your email address to save a few trees).

Rev'd Paul, Rev'd Jackie, Keith Turner Lois Blakey and I meet just before the Magazine deadline to discuss the Magazine, the website and other "printing and publication" matters. Your views are always welcome so please speak to any of us about your own ideas.

Richard Anderson
pittlewellparishmag@vfemail.net



Pastoral Care

2017 was a sad year with several members of our church who were looked after by the Pastoral Care group dying. Among them were Vera Farrow, who, as well as being a strong support to her late husband Len who was PCC Secretary, had been the founder of Womens' Fellowship; Joy Heal, another long time member of St Mary's who, with sister Una, raised so much of the money for the Tower Appeal; Jose Sadler who was an artistic flower arranger and organised the St Mary's group—many brides were amazed by her creations—and lastly Eileen Wright who was an inspirational teacher, loved by so many past pupils and their parents, a regular whilst fit at the 9:30 taking her usual

unassuming place behind a pillar. We thank God for the work of these ladies within our church, may they never be forgotten.

It has been good to notice that I am being told far more often about members of the congregation, both those already known to be poorly and previously healthy ones, being admitted to hospital. I try to visit as soon as I am told if this is deemed to be appropriate. I always advise Revd Paul and Revd Jacky plus the Church Wardens, so that they are aware. I am grateful to those who do let me know about friends and church members, also to those who visit the housebound on behalf of Pastoral Care.

Revds Paul and Jacky both said early in 2017 that once urgent matters within the church had been dealt with, they hoped to be able to carry out home visits. Revd Jacky has visited many of our housebound and ill members and Revd Paul has begun to visit as well taking Home Communion where requested. These visits will increase in 2018 and it is hoped that the group who have already received their Licenses will be trained and then can assist in this very worthwhile work.

Please keep your eyes open for missing faces and ask the question, are they ill? Please let me know if they are and then we can all show that St. Mary's cares.

Margaret Harvey

Administrator of Pastoral Care Team



1st Prittlewell (St Mary's) 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 events during the year. 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 Christmas Camp, enjoyed a family camp at Belchamps, made Father's day gifts, had a sponsored bike ride along the seafront and celebrated Chinese New Year.

Cubs have completed the Our Skills Challenge and Communicator and Photography Badges, had a weekend camp at Belchamps in Hockley, a fireworks themed evening, enjoyed a Halloween Camp at Thriftwood Scout Campsite and joined the rest of our District at St Marys Church for the District Christmas Carol Service in December.

Scouts have made pancakes, completed the Emergency First Aid badge and the Creative Challenge badge, Teamwork Challenge, Personal Challenge, took part in the District Expedition around Danbury, Wakeup Weekend, Outdoor Badge Weekend, Camping Competition, the District swimming gala and gave Christmas gifts to the residents of Priory House.

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

Louise Hockey

1st Prittlewell (St Mary's) Scout Group, Akela



Social Committee

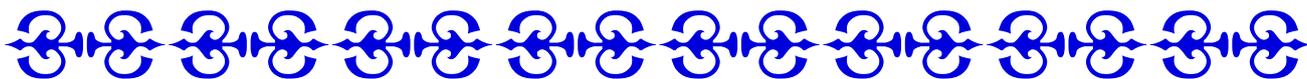
There were a total of 5 meetings throughout the year where the two main social events that the committee organise were discussed and planned, The Quiz Night and the Parish Outing.

The Quiz Night took place on 28 January with a total of 15 tables of eight to ten people. This event is good for outreach as well as being a good social occasion as many of the teams taking part were not church members.

The Parish Outing in July was to Greenwich. We went by coach from St Mary's to London and got the boat from Westminster Bridge to Greenwich where the coach would pick us up when time to leave for home. The boat trip had a very good commentary from the captain pointing out places of interest along the way and a chance to have tea and coffee on board. There was time when we got to Greenwich to have lunch and visit many of the attractions including The Cutty Sark, Maritime Museum or walking in the park.

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

Teresa Church



Summer Fete

The Summer Fete took place in June of this year. For this year I became the default co-ordinator for this event and due to circumstances, ended up being on holiday just prior to the day happening, it was then quite amazing the event took place at all!

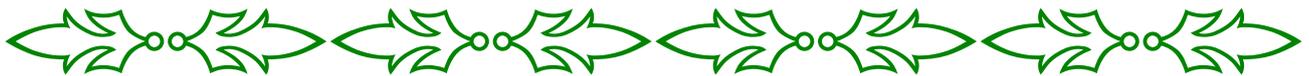
However, it had a familiar format to previous years, with Tower tours, bouncy castles, stalls, BBQ, music, refreshments, etc. I did however decide that we would not be asking people to pay to enter the church grounds as I felt that the church and its grounds should be open and accessible at all times, to all.

We were fortunate that the weather was good although quite windy, and whilst perhaps there were not as many people as in the past, a large number attended and on the whole had an excellent time, with some staying for many hours. There was sadly though an incident between some “unruly” folk which could have, so easily, had serious consequences. Thankfully, this was not the case and did not, on the whole, spoil the day.

The emphasis for me for this event was more about it being an “open day” for the church rather than a fundraising opportunity, however people were still extremely generous and gave of their time and money with a good heart to support the church.

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who helped with the setting up and packing away, and to those who helped on the stalls etc. Let’s see what 2018 will bring!

Revd Paul Mackay



Website

The website is going from strength to strength. What is essentially a website created, run, updated and administered by one person on their home PC in their spare time, is not doing too bad. It could do with a professional tweak maybe and a bit of modernity around its look and feel but with over 1000 people visiting it, it has become one of the many ways St Mary’s advertises its events and services.

This year saw the additions of the children’s and family worker’s page advertising and encouraging children to involve God more in their lives. More information around service types and times were published and the events page was filled with film nights, Christmas events etc. The parish magazine and diary of events have also been

well received allowing everyone to see what the church is doing for the rest of the year.

There is an interactive guide to the church and a downloadable guide book, as well as information about weddings, baptisms and funerals. Did you know there are actually two websites? One is for main PC use and the other is specifically designed for mobile phone use. So depending which media you are using you will get slightly different content, you can also walk around the church with the interactive guide on your mobile phone.

The website has received some good reviews and people who look at it seem to like it, but there is always room for improvement and if anyone who would like to be involved in the creation and managing of it, just speak to me or Paul.

Keith Turner
(Webmaster)



Women's Fellowship

This last year at Women's Fellowship—our 55th—has been another for members to look back on with some good memories, but, for health reasons, I unfortunately missed two meetings.

At our AGM in February 2017 our President, Paul, gave us an insight into the women who have so far influenced his life.

Visiting speakers spoke of Joyce Grenfell, Monuments, Decorating Eggs and the Essex Horse and Pony Protection Society. Other months Joyce, and former member Sylvia, told us about volunteering with the Deaf/Blind, and the impact of "Women's Lib." since its early days.

The Yard Arm Folk Orchestra was so popular with members that they have been booked to return in 2018.

Each month the tea and chat time is welcome and our three “Special” meals (May, August and December) have been most enjoyable and well supported.

In our 56th year in 2018 we plan to have some trial differences to our meeting times and also decided to change from the first Monday of the month in January and April owing to Bank Holiday clashes, although we will still be meeting on May Day Bank Holiday. I trust the changes will benefit us all and enable new ladies to join our Group or visit on occasion! Visitors are always welcome and membership costs £6 per year (a bargain these days!) plus 20p for tea or coffee at a meeting.

After almost three years as Chairman I plan to relinquish the post. A most sincere thank you to the Committee members and others, who, each month, have helped set up the Guild Hall, organise the catering and generally assist with the meetings – your support has been invaluable!

I look forward to continuing my attendance at Women’s Fellowship and helping in any way I can.

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 Evening Service

(Second and fourth Sundays Sung Evensong)

Monday to Thursday

8:30 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday

10:30 am Holy Communion



