



*St Mary's
Prittlewell
Annual Report 2018*

PRITTLEWELL PARISH CHURCH

East Street Prittlewell SS2 6LQ

☎ 01702 466471

stmaryprittlewell@gmail.com

www.stmarysprittlewell.co.uk



Priest in Charge

☎ 01702 343470

Not available on Fridays

Revd Paul Mackay

email revpaulstmarys@hotmail.com

Assistant Curate

☎ 01702 308373

Revd Jacky Lindoe

email revjackystmarys@icloud.com

Children's and Family Worker **Lois Blakey** email cfwstmarys@gmail.com

Churchwardens **Carolyn Evans** email CarolynG5261@aol.com

Keith Turner email wardenkeithstmarys@gmail.com

Archivist

Philip Briant

Parish Administrator

Christina Turner ☎ 01702 466471

Wednesday or Thursday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm

Parish Safeguarding Representative

Carolyn Evans email safeguarding466471@gmail.com

Steward

Penny Stone

The church is open Monday – Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Treasurer

Matthew Pinnock

email stmarysprittlewelltreasurer@gmail.com

P.C.C. Secretary

Sue Mackay

Organist and Music Leader **Melanie van Looy**

email melanie_van_looy@hotmail.com

Ringing Master

David Sloman ☎ 01702 545568

Magazine

Richard Anderson

email stmarysprittlewellmagazine@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Committee

Margaret Harvey

email margaret.g.harvey@blueyonder.co.uk

Flower group Coordinator

Patricia Johnson

email john38son@icloud.com

Enquiries about Marriages & Baptisms. If you have an enquiry about a Baptism or Wedding please come to the church on the first and third Tuesday evenings of the month between 7:00 and 8:00 pm (see website for dates) to meet with one of the clergy who will be pleased to discuss your plans with you and make arrangements. Or contact Christina our Parish Administrator any Wednesday or Thursday between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm. 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 2018

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28 verse 16 to end)

Dear Reader,

I am sure my reputation as someone who has a fear of heights has reached far and wide (if it's not too much of a pun—and high and low!). Therefore, as I begin this review of 2018 I reflect that sometimes ministry in God's church can feel like a mountain that needs climbing. I do know someone who is into, what I would call, the madness of "serious climbing" and when asked why they do it? There is that oft quoted reply "because it's there". As I approach the beginning of my 4th year here I can tell you that all that is undertaken is not because "it's there" but because we have the privilege of serving a great God who calls us to share the love that through Him has been given to us by His Son.

And so as you read the following reports I pray that you see the driving force behind all that we do here at St Mary's is the mission of Christ. I do wish to say though this is not a new challenge that St Mary's faces; throughout its 1000 year plus history, I would expect that at the heart of all that has been done that to be true as well.

I believe it is always important to start with some thanks and recognition of the many people who contribute to the life of our church and parish. In the past when writing these reports there is always someone who has featured at the end of my initial reflections and it might seem she may have appeared as an afterthought. And so I wish to rectify that this year by acknowledging and thanking my wonderful wife Sue for all that she does through the life of our church

as our PCC Secretary, and for me personally, both assisting me with my work and supporting me in too many ways to share here. I think it's fair to say that both Sue and I have come to love and enjoy our place here at St Mary's and find it a privilege to work alongside many of you. At the risk of sounding too gushy "Thanks Sue!"

Moving on and in no particular order—my great and continued thanks go to Revd Jacky Lindoe who I have now had the privilege of working alongside for two and a half years. Jacky's own contribution has grown and, I believe, she is now vital to the ministry and life of this church in ways that many of us would not have appreciated when she joined us in 2016. Many I know, not least myself, feel Jacky's wisdom, care and love. Whilst I remain Jacky's training incumbent, it will not be long now before her curacy finishes and I am pleased to say beyond that Jacky wishes to stay here at St Mary's. I do think it is important for all of us though to remember that Jacky is a self-supporting minister and gives her time freely for God's work in this place. Please uphold Jacky in your prayers and I hope that when you have a moment you thank her too!

I would now like to thank our Churchwardens, Carolyn and Keith, for their commitment, concern and care—not just of the church fabric, but also for all who come through our doors. Of course there are many who contribute to the life of our church, not least the Standing Committee, the PCC and Welcomers (Sidespersons). Finally, I wish to thank Margaret Harvey as she has continued to care pastorally and prayerfully as our Pastoral Coordinator. In a church of our size it is inevitable that I have missed someone particular that I should thank, so my apologies if you feel left out, but whoever you are – thank you!

You will see, as you read through these reports that I believe our church moved forward in its mission in 2018 in a positive way. And, so again thank you to all that contributed to help it do so.

- Deanery and Diocese: Once again, we welcomed our Archdeacon Mike Lodge who came to preach at St Mary's. During the year it was announced that we were to welcome a new "Bishop of Bradwell", another Bishop John. And we hope to welcome him to

conduct a Confirmation Service in 2019. As mentioned in previous years our contact with other Deanery parishes is minimal and whilst there is still a drive for Mission and Ministry Units, we seem to be a long way from this here in the Southend Deanery. Sadly, in October we heard of the death of Revd Bob Magor who was a friend of St Mary's for many years particularly during the interregnum. Many of us attended his funeral service at St Clement's, Leigh officiated by the Bishop of Chelmsford.

- Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals: We continue to examine how we may best serve those who come to us with these occasional offices in mind. Our numbers of Baptisms remain static compared to previous years but I am grateful to those who assist Revd Jacky and myself on a monthly basis. A faithful small group of ladies (men, you are allowed to help as well!). It was great however though this year to baptise Jason as an adult and to see others coming to faith in Christ. Our numbers of weddings likewise have stayed similar to previous years. However we are obviously up against much commercial pressure when it comes to weddings and it may well fluctuate in years ahead. As regards to funerals we are starting to see, after a couple of years, an improving picture in our relationship with some of the Funeral Directors. It was with sadness though in the summer when I was approached by a family, who were anxious for the funeral of a young woman to take place in church, having been told elsewhere that as they do not attend church on a regular basis, they would not be able to have the funeral there. I/we have no such policy here at St Mary's and only pray that the wider church looks again at how it deals with those who approach us in their moment of need. We are now sending, having adhered to the new GDPR rules, anniversary cards for baptisms and weddings to remind those who have come to us, that we still hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

- Services: All of our services of worship, I believe, we handle with skill and dedication by all who assist at them. We have a wide programme of services throughout the week and at weekends and of course at festival times. At Easter time, as far as I am aware, for the first time, we held a Sunrise Service on Easter Day followed by a breakfast and then our 8:00 am service was followed by bacon rolls and Bucks

Fizz prior to the 9:30 am service. All were well attended and well received. Revd Jacky, myself and Lois Blakey (our Children and Family Worker) have met on a number of occasions throughout the year to review our All Age Services and plan for other events. We also held a meeting with the uniformed groups to improve our engagement with them. Again in September we held an Education Sunday Service to which staff and children from St Mary's School were invited to join us and I am pleased to say it seemed to be thoroughly appreciated. As previously decided in 2017 we moved the Toy Service from Christmas Eve to the second Sunday in December (9:30 am service); this was due to it proving more difficult to pass the toys on in time for those who we would hope would receive them for Christmas. I guess the numbers who came, as we would have expected, dropped—but the quality and number of toys received and passed on was high. On Christmas Eve we held a Crib/Nativity Service at which a number of people of dressed up as their favourite nativity character, including myself (I'm not sure who had the most fun!). Across the Christmas period the numbers at all services were higher than my previous years here, which was very encouraging. Musically, I believe our standards remain high and I particularly wish to thank Melanie Van Looy and the choir for assisting us and for Melanie and Richard Anderson who have spent many hours choosing hymns for our times of worship. And of course to all those who read, lead intercessions or help our services in any way a huge thank you!

- **Mission/Spirituality:** In the summer of this year, I suddenly realised we had, in my short time here, quite a number of new people who had joined us and so in September we arranged to have a "Welcome Lunch" which gave us the opportunity to ask them and consider their needs. Which, in turn led to facilitating our discussions at our PCC Away Day and its focus upon a nurture/outreach course. The PCC spent half of the day discussing this important consideration, and a small group was formed to consider it in more detail, from which we agreed we would try an Alpha Course beginning in February 2019. This is an exciting opportunity for us at St Mary's and I look forward to being part of this new initiative. Without a doubt the biggest impact upon our mission this year was the appointment of Lois in 2017 (see her report elsewhere). Our interaction with children and families has grown and it was exciting when Junior Church began at the start of the year.

On a different but equally exciting note, we began bi-monthly opportunities within our 9:30 am services for Prayers for Healing to be included. This is done in a very simple but powerful way and incredibly, although I should not be surprised, folk have shared how through God's great grace they have experienced His healing power. This is a ministry that I hope we can expand further.

- School: Revd Jacky and I continue to take services on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Tuesdays the children (now nearly 200) come into church from East Street and on Wednesdays Jacky and I take services at Boston Avenue. Throughout the year individual classes have also attended our Wednesday Holy Communion Services and their behaviour has been impeccable. Again we have hosted many special services, including Easter, a whole school St Mary's Day in church, the Year 6 Leavers Service when we gift each child a bible and of course now Education Sunday, Harvest, Christingle and Carol Services. Lois has also organised Prayer Spaces weeks on both sites and she reports on this separately.

- Staff: Thanks to our Administrator, Christina Turner; Penny Stone, our Steward/Vergar and Lois for all they do. We meet monthly for staff meetings and for the first time in the autumn we have begun annual staff appraisals (something I never thought I would be doing as a Clergy person).

- Personal Reflection: To say we are blessed at St Mary's would be an understatement. To be in the position that we can employ members of staff, and to undertake many other tasks with the help of some amazing volunteers we have much to be thankful for. Be assured that I do not believe any of this happens by chance and that as I said, God has truly blessed us; however we do need to pray God's protection around His church and His people that minister, work, and worship here.

In the summer of this year I was asked by the Diocese to consider being a training incumbent for another curate in 2019. At the time of writing at the end of 2018, it looks very much like that someone will join us in July of 2019, but at this stage I am unable to confirm who that may be (watch the church notices for further information).

I continue in my role as Chaplain to the Royal Naval Association on East Street, District Scout Chaplain for the Southend Estuary District and Jacky and I remain chaplains at Southend Police Station. These roles continue to be a source of challenge and encouragement and as with many things, we could always do more!

I am pleased to confirm that we have sufficient numbers for our Pilgrimage to the Holy Land for 2019 and in January of 2019 I will be travelling with other church leaders as part of a preparatory trip and look forward to sharing that experience on my return.

In the summer of this year I had a cycle “retreat” with a good friend of mine to Holland and as we cycled we prayed for each other as we shared in each other’s ministry. As always, for me this is a very uplifting time.

Sue and I enjoyed a wonderful holiday in November, but returning at the start of Advent was perhaps not the best plan. But amongst the many highlights for 2018 was for me, our Remembrance Day Service where for once the 11th hour of the 11th Day was on a Sunday. This of course was also the Centenary of the First World War. This Remembrance Day prompted me to consider afresh all those who have helped us along our way—especially those who took seriously the great commission in Matthew’s Gospel. I pray that one day, those of us of this generation at St Mary’s will be considered in the same light. I do however look forward to 2019 and all the excitement that it will bring.

God Bless

Paul



Last year was another whirlwind year for everyone at St Mary's, with significant progress made in a number of areas !

We began the year following a very busy Advent and Christmas period, when we might have hoped for a lull; however, we were soon planning for all our exciting activities. This was also against a background of completing work to the fabric of the Church, and exploring different ways of engaging our local community.

In February, "Pop in For Pancakes" proved an immediate success with children and families, both those already at the School, and some from the external area. Lois worked hard to not only devise sessions which appeal to those who perhaps do not usually come to Church, but also to meet the requirements of Christian outreach.

The Lent course took place as usual in the early part of the year, and was well-attended, in addition to being extremely thought provoking.

We had good attendance at our Easter Services in 2018, and an opportunity to share fellowship at the Maundy Thursday Supper, which all seemed to enjoy. Those of us who suffer from insomnia attended the Sunrise Service on Easter Day, which was a truly special and uplifting event. We reached out further to the local community in our summer activity, which this year did not take the form of a fete, but instead was replaced by "Teas at the Tower". This new format encouraged local residents to become actively involved in our Church, and resulted in some additional members coming along on a Sunday morning. The St Mary Bells are highly valued in the community, and many welcomed the opportunity to "inspect" them and explore the source of the melodic sounds. 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.

During the summer period, we were also visited by Bernard, and his wife Cornelia, who came to explore the possibility of a curacy in 2019 with St Mary's. They were given a splendid welcome by all concerned,

and although their visit was brief, certainly felt the love and warmth of those they were able to meet.

In August our Children and Families Worker, with support from others, ran our first ever Holiday Club. We were thrilled that the Holiday Club was such a success, no doubt as a result of Lois' ongoing and hard work to increase the numbers and activities of Junior Church. Our thanks, as ever, go to Lois and her Team.

In September we also had a successful PCC Away Day at St Andrew's in Shoebury. 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 ! As a result of the work which was undertaken, the embryonic idea of running an Alpha course was born, and this was taken forward by a "working party" which was identified at the end of the day.

There was also a "Welcome Lunch" held around this time for our new members of the congregation, as a way for them of getting to know each other, as well as getting to know all of us! This was a very successful event, and certainly helped to make "newcomers" feel more included.

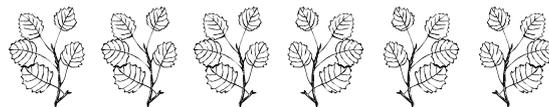
December was another busy month for us. Revd Paul and Revd Jacky had decided the previous year that it would be much better to move the Toy Service to earlier in the month (instead of holding the Service on Christmas Eve), in order that the gifts so generously donated by all, could be delivered prior to the festive season. This was done with many grateful thanks. We also experienced the excitement of the children and families who came to the Christingle Service, especially as this year they were able to go into the Hall beforehand to make their own Christingles. We're still not sure how many made it through the Service without being eaten!

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 as well as allowing us to continue to employ our Children and Families Worker. We have also been privileged to welcome a number of external speakers from agencies such as Havens Hospices, who have continued to extend not only our knowledge, but have also made us think about our Christian values of care and love.

As we did last year, 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*



Fabric

This year has seen more significant works taking place, both inside and outside the church.

January saw the installation and commissioning of the 24 hour monitored CCTV roof alarm system. This runs independently to the church's internal alarm system although both are run by same Company, ADT.

February. There were substantial Floor works undertaken and the blowing chamber hatch replaced with a safer remote electric-hydraulic system. The floors were chemically stripped throughout the church and recoated many times to maintain and protect them. The Jesus Chapel floor and vestry floors were sanded back and recoated. In the churchyard five trees had their crowns reduced by skilled tree surgeons using specialist equipment.

March. All our electrics were tested and any faults repaired before our annual certificates were issued. The blowing chamber was finished; the main motor having been refurbished and serviced all electrics were replaced by electricians and the bellows sensitively restored using the traditional methods by the organ company. A new safer staircase with handrail was made and fitted. The porch received a deep stonework cleaning including careful cleaning of the stained glass windows. The pews and decorative wood work was French polished and restored where necessary including the memorial plaques in the porch way. The door to the tower roof needed replacing due to old age and wear and tear, so a bespoke door was made and fitted.

Vestry toilets were updated to economical flush toilets and the disabled toilet replaced to an industry standard one, and an emergency alarm fitted as there hadn't ever been one!

April. New efficient automatic lights were fitted in the vestry hall outside the toilets and the toilets had automatic lights and fans fitted negating the need to touch switches which can harbour germs and bacteria. New air fresheners and cold air hand dryers were fitted in toilet areas.

June. The Halls Security had become unmanageable due to lack of accountability around key holders, so all locks were changed and new security keys made which cannot be cut without a letter of authority.

July. All drain pipes from the church roof were inspected and repairs made to the lead and cast iron ones. All plastic pipes were replaced with the correct type of pipe specified in Quinquennial i.e. cast iron.

August–September. The Vestry Roof was finally repaired with the correct materials and new brighter sky lights fitted. Some Churchyard works took place; cutting grass, tidying out old trees, clearing paths of debris and re-laying raised and dangerous flagstones. The CCTV was upgraded internally and externally to double the amount of cameras to ensure 95% of the church interior and exterior could be covered for safety and crime prevention purposes.

October–December. Winter groundworks took place; clearing drains, roof gulleys and leaves etc. from the churchyard. Some redecorating took place following other works. General maintenance of course continued throughout the year.

So as you can see there was and still is a lot to be done within the life of the church, including our responsibilities as landlords for some of our properties.

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), Marianne Fowle, Jennie Goddard (Deanery Synod Rep/Gift Aid Secretary), Margaret Harvey, Sue Mackay (Deanery Synod Rep/PCC Secretary), Ray Mason, Wendy Perry, Peter Sloman, Keith Turner (Churchwarden), Melanie Van Looy

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 are made for our future work and mission in this place.

Our PCC Away Day this year was held at St Andrew's Church Hall, Shoebury on 29 September 2018 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. One important decision was made in that we will be holding a “nurture course” in the new year for those new to the church and Christian faith and those who have been coming for many years but might appreciate a refreshing of their “faith buds”. What type of course is still yet to be decided so watch this space....

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 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, those who have stood down and those who have stepped up, and I look forward to more exciting times ahead.

My prayer is that as the representatives for St Mary’s we will remain unified and focussed on God’s work in this place. I’m sure we will.

Sue Mackay PCC Secretary



Finance Report

PCC Income for the year totalled just under £433,000 (2017 £219,000) —the increase over last year is due to a generous legacy, full year effect of new rental income streams and generous funding by the Ameris Trust.

Expenditure totalled around £419,000. The increase in spending (2017 £239,000) reflects the expenditure on work in and around the church, funded through use of restricted funds and Ameris Trust funding. Parish Share was paid in full for the year.

As such, the PCC has made a profit this year of £14,000, with just over £60,000 in the bank—but this is predominantly restricted for specific uses. In general fund terms (ie cash that the PCC can use freely) the PCC had a small surplus of £4,500 at year end. There was a significant level of creditors (ie monies owed by the PCC) at the year end, but these have been paid early in 2019, making use of the debtors (ie monies owed to the PCC) at year end, that was received in 2019.

2019 will see continued benefit from rental incomes from the properties in Leigh bequeathed to the PCC. These rents are being reviewed and so the PCC should see greater income here. This does not negate the need for congregational giving and other donations, since the rent ensures the PCC can cover its Parish Share but other sources of income are used for day-to-day operations.

Matt Pinnock



St. Mary's Church, Prittlewell
Balance sheet (Church of England)
As at: 31 December 2018

	As at 31/12/2018	31/12/2017
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	1,250,300	1,250,300
Investments	11,468	11,278
	1,261,768	1,261,578
Current assets		
Debtors	42,088	—
Cash at bank and in hand	60,204	61,156
	102,292	61,156

Liabilities		
Creditors: Amounts falling due in one year	27,978	240
Net current assets less current liabilities	74,314	60,916
Total assets less current liabilities	1,336,083	1,322,494
Total net assets less liabilities	1,336,083	1,322,494
Represented by		
Unrestricted		
Unrestricted - General fund	4,523	13,904
Designated		
Designated - Fabric Reserve 1	—	1,000
Designated - Church Music & Organ	—	119
Designated - PCECSC Grant Funding	—	1,566
Designated - Social Fund	—	1,087
Designated - Vicar's Discretionary	—	407
Designated - Freehold Property at NBV	1,250,300	1,250,300
Designated - Porter Donations	—	600
Designated - Vicarage Maintenance	(112)	3,500
Restricted		
Restricted - Children & Family Worker	1,985	—
Restricted - Legacy - Phyllis Dearsley 2007	—	570
Restricted - Legacy - Audrey Pacey 2007	—	16,874
Restricted - Fabric Reserve 1	—	—
Restricted - Main Roof Repairs	5,058	7,059
Restricted - Vicar & Churchwardens'	—	27
Restricted - Frank Webb Memorial Fund for fabric of church	—	1,007
Restricted - Heal Roof (South Aisle)	59,693	—
Restricted - Joan Chessher Legacy for organ upkeep	(139)	364
Restricted - Vivian James legacy for churchyard gardening	—	1,554
Restricted - Peter Spenceley legacy, altar linen & Bells	1,747	1,739
Restricted - RF Organ Upkeep	1,557	—
Restricted - Bernard Riley Legacy	—	9,532
Endowment		
Endowment - Tithe Chancel Trust	11,468	11,278
Funds of the church	1,336,083	1,322,494

St. Mary's Church, Prittlewell
Statement of Financial Activities
For the period from 01 January 2018 to 31 December 2018

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Incoming resources					
Incoming resources from generated funds					
Voluntary income	161,485	93,176	—	254,661	71,189
Activities for generating funds	3,892	132	—	4,024	9,641
Investment income	124,805	—	—	124,805	91,400

Incoming resources from charitable activities	42,295	—	—	42,295	34,734
Other incoming resources	4,937	2,032	—	6,970	12,386
Total income	337,416	95,341	—	432,757	219,352
Resources used					
Cost of generating funds	147	—	—	147	1,057
Charitable activities	358,808	60,103	—	418,912	238,042
Governance costs	300	—	—	300	318
Total expenditure	359,255	60,103	—	419,359	239,418
Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer	(21,839)	35,237	—	13,398	(20,066)
Transfers					
Gross transfers between funds - in	64,324	63,624	—	127,949	27,888
Gross transfers between funds - out	(60,259)	(67,690)	—	(127,949)	(27,888)
Other recognised gains / losses					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	190	190	1,269
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, own use	—	—	—	—	1,070,000
Net movement in funds	(17,773)	31,172	190	13,588	1,051,202
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	1,272,485	38,730	11,278	1,322,494	271,292
Total funds carried forward	1,254,711	69,902	11,468	1,336,083	1,322,494

Archives

2018 proved to be a quiet year regarding archiving material, partly due to the fact that so much had already been achieved in the previous year(s) but also because some papers had to be kept for “a while” before anything could be done with them.

As a result, only 1 amount of material was sent to Essex Records Office in Chelmsford during 2018. One item in particular however proved to be of interest to the records office as well as Essex Radio (Heart Essex). A recording, subsequently transposed onto CD, of Nine Lessons and Carols at St Mary’s church, dated 1991.

It is hoped that the remaining quantity of material still left in the church will be dealt with during the rest of the year.

Phil Briant



Bellringing

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

This year's annual coach outing was to the Berkshire and Oxfordshire areas. We were pleased that Adam Carlill was able to meet and ring with us at Reading. Adam's father was a curate at Prittlewell many years ago, and both Adam and his brother Dorian learnt to ring at Prittlewell.

We were pleased that Paul and Sue were able to join us for our Christmas Lunch at the Rochford Hundred Golf Club and Bernard Sadler, who was the previous Tower Captain for 37 years and who is now in a care home, was also able to join us.

The ringing school continues, attracting a large number of people each Saturday morning and we are happy to welcome Theo, Mike and David, who have graduated from the school and ring with us on Sundays.

Anne has now achieved her first quarter peal of Cambridge Surprise Major, Sarah, her first quarter peal of Stedman Triples and Theo his first ever quarter peal, ringing the treble to Plain Bob Doubles.

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 Ringing Master



Children's and Families Worker

We have had an exciting year, which has seen the launch of Junior Church, the first St Mary's Prayer Spaces in School (one in January and

one in May), Pop in for Pancakes, Journey Through Easter, Pentecost Picnic, Holiday Club, a Light Party and The Star (Christmas event) and Advent and Elf Hunt.

Junior Church

In January we launched St Mary's Junior Church. Since then we have grown in number and have established a wonderful team of helpers who make the weekly sessions possible. The children arrive with their parents and leave after the first hymn; they return so the family can go for communion together. Each session incorporates a game, worship, prayer, a story or discussion and the opportunity for the children to create something to take home that links to what has been discussed or explored during the session.

Prayer Spaces at Boston Avenue

In January we hosted our first Prayer Space at St Mary's School. It was fantastic to see the children engage with the space through prayer and reflection. The space allowed the opportunity for the children to think, reflect or pray around several topics and was set up with a variety of activities to guide them. Each class was divided into two groups in order to visit the Prayer Space. Whilst one group visited the Prayer Space the other stayed in class and completed an activity called thankful flowers. For this activity, each child cut out a flower then wrote or drew things that they were thankful for onto each of the flowers petals. This provided an opening for the children to express gratitude; one parent shared that at home one of their children shared with their sibling that they were thankful for them.

At "Global Prayers and Flag Prayers" prayers focused on countries around the world. Some of the pupils took this opportunity to find on the map countries where they were born or had family connections, enabling the children to share with their peers and the adults in a practical way. A teacher reflected that this opportunity "... really supports their wellbeing".

Children of all faiths were welcomed to engage how they felt comfortable; one child felt able to openly express their Islamic faith in

a prayer written and placed on one of the bubble tubes. Another child said that as they wrote their prayer and placed in on the bubble tube they imagined the prayer being absorbed into the bubble tube and carried up to God.

Children engaged well with the opportunity to explore forgiveness and saying sorry with some choosing to do this alone whilst others approached the activities with a peer. One child shared with their class how they had taken their time at this activity to forgive others and let go of the hurt or pain they caused and felt ready to continue with their day, able to leave those feelings behind.

At the end of each session pupils had the opportunity to feedback to their peers what they had experienced or enjoyed about their time. Different children highlighted separate activities with many identifying their time in the space as relaxing and one child stating it felt like coming home.

Pop in for Pancakes

Our Pop in for Pancakes event held on 13 February, Shrove Tuesday, was a great success. Throughout the three hours, we saw 148 children and adults through the door. Visitors enjoyed a free pancake, table games, table top drawing and participating in a variety of challenges. The record for the most pancake flips in a single minute was 131 not quite reaching the Guinness World Record of 140. One child managed to flip six pancakes stacked upon one another and several children managed to flip a pancake on the first attempt whilst blindfolded. There was a wonderful buzz throughout the event.

Journey Through Easter

On Good Friday morning, we held a children's activity morning called a Journey Through Easter. Throughout the event, we shared the story of Holy Week with the children through dramatized reading and videos. The story was broken into segments between which the children played games and had the opportunity to be creative by making a salvation bracelet, an edible Easter nest and decorating a cross keychain. The children had the opportunity to reflect on the story of

Easter and were all given a bag to take home with their creations and a short book, which retold the story of Easter.

Prayer Spaces at East Street

The space allowed the opportunity for the children to think, reflect or pray around several topics and was set up with a variety of activities to guide them. Classes were divided into two groups, whilst one group visited the Prayer Space the other stayed in class and completed an activity in the classroom. The activity provided an opportunity for the children to explore how we are all unique, we all look different and we have distinct likes and dislikes. It was explained to the children that we have fingerprints and these are unique to each individual. The children then had the opportunity to place their fingerprint on a card and collect the fingerprints of their peers.

The children seemed to really enjoy the prayer space and got involved with the activities around the prayer space. One teacher commented that it would have been nicer if the children could have had longer in the space and the children thought the space was “amazing”, with some commenting that the space was peaceful. The Prayer Space that was set up in the Year One hub and was visited by all the children at the East Street site including those with additional needs and for whom English is an additional language. On Friday we were able to welcome in the parents as they picked their children up from school; it was wonderful to see children so eager to share with their parents what they had been up too over the two days. Some of the children who visited a second time with their parents were reluctant leave as they were enjoying being the space so much.

Pentecost Picnic

On Pentecost Sunday, after the morning service a group of us went to Priory Park for a picnic. People had the opportunity to spend some time getting chatting and enjoying the weather. There were some games and activities available for those who wished to partake. It was a fantastic opportunity for the church family to spend some time together.

Holiday Club “Shepherd to King”

This year we held the first St Mary’s Junior Church Holiday Club. Throughout the week we followed the story of David from when he was anointed by Samuel while he was still a shepherd boy in the field, through his infamous battle with Goliath, his friendship with Jonathan, being on the run from Saul to when he was crowned king over Israel. Throughout the week the children worked in their teams to earn points through challenges and games and be creative with their Big Project, an art piece that summarised the themes of the week: God looks at our hearts, He gives us courage, He gives us friends, He never leaves us and He keeps His promises. Children could earn bonus points for their teams through completing their take home sheets and memorising the daily bible verses. Each day the children had the opportunity to make something that related to the theme of the story we had explored that day. Throughout the week the children learnt a song together called “You are Stronger” by North Point Kids; this included the actions and choreography with which the children helped.

Light Party

This year we hosted a light party for the children and their families. As they arrived there were games and challenges for the guest to complete and hotdogs for them to eat. Reverend Paul then shared a short message about Jesus being the light of the world which lead into some creative making focusing on this message. After playing a game together there was an opportunity to spend some time praying and reflecting through interactive activities. As they left all guests were given a s’more to enjoy on their way home.

The STAR

On 2 December, we had our children’s Christmas activity afternoon. Thirty children joined us to watch the animated film “The STAR”, which tells the story of Christmas from the perspective of Bo the donkey as he travels with Mary and Joseph from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The film was watched in three instalments, and in the intervals there were challenges, games and crafts. The children enjoyed stacking nuts, hanging Christmas cards, decorating

gingerbread men, making their own hanging star decoration and nativity stained glass windows. The afternoon was a fantastic opportunity to share the story of the first Christmas and share in some Christmas fun. Thank you to our wonderful team who made this event possible by giving up their Sunday afternoon to help.

Advent and Elf Hunt

For the last three weeks of school before the Christmas break, we opened the church for Advent and Elf Hunt activities. As we counted down to Christmas using our giant advent calendar, we were able to share the story of the very first Christmas. The children also had the opportunity to hunt around the church for an elf who would find a new hiding place each day. Other activities were made available for those coming into the church; these included our colour in advent calendar, activity sheets, making their own tree hanging decoration and Nativity stained glass window. After a slow start our number of visitors increased and by the end of the three weeks we had had over sixty children come into the church. This would not have been possible without our fantastic team of volunteers who gave up their time to meet and greet the children and their families.

Lois Blakey



Children's Society

This year the Children's Society home boxes have raised a total of £847.70, a record amount as far as I am aware, plus £48.70 in Gift Aid. We currently have 30 registered box holders, the majority being church members but also some are held by members of the local community. This is a slight decrease on last year. We also have several boxes held by people who do not put names on their box.

The monies have increased from last year with one new box holder 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.

Unfortunately the number of boxes returned at the Christingle was only two again this year. I did, however, give out about 20 new boxes so let's hope that next year's return will be even greater.

Linda Corney



From the period of January to December 2018, 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 £346.00. This includes donations from the children of St Mary's school, the uniform groups and also the ladies at the Women's Fellowship.

For our Christingle Service we raised a total of £274.85. These figures are slightly higher than 2017.

Stephanie Stanley



CMS

The Rev Bisoke Balikenga is the diocesan youth coordinator for the Anglican Church of the Democratic Republic of Congo and our Timothy partner which means the money we give to CMS goes to

support him. He holds seminars to train more youth leaders so that young people can hear the gospel and have a base for making informed decisions about their future. Through this work he hopes to bring peace to his country.

Bisoke is based in Bunia where there is a small Centre. 20,000 families displaced by the fighting between a military government forces and foreign-backed forces are staying there. A new water supply is available at the Centre which means the women no longer have to walk 7-10 km to get water and face the risk of being attacked, robbed or raped. Counselling and training are available to help the women earn a living.

At the moment there has been an outbreak of Ebola and further unrest after the presidential election but Bisoke continues in a calm and cheerful way to work among his own people to bring peace. He asks for our prayers to support them.

Celia Tyler



Deanery Synod

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

Below is a brief outline of the 3 meetings held in 2018:

20 February 2018 at St Peter's, Prittlewell

Various reports were given in particular from parishes on what is done for new housing and new parishioners also an update on what has been happening in various parishes. Revd Colin Baldwin spoke on forming Mission and Ministry Units. Following which there was a questions and answers opportunity.

26 June 2018 at Saviour's, Westcliff

During this meeting a Diocesan Synod report was given by Revd Canon Louise Williams. It was also advised that although there were three clerical places two were elected being Louise Williams and Colin Baldwin to serve on Diocesan Synod. There were also three lay vacancies with four candidates. Revd Marion Walford, Women's Adviser for the Southend Archdeaconry attended the meeting to introduce herself to the deanery. Nathan Whitehead gave a presentation on GDPR and there was an opportunity for questions and answers.

13 November 2018 at St Michael and All Angels, Westcliff

Various reports were given.

Jackie Bliss spoke on her work as CEO of HARP, Matthew Pettit (Co-ordinator of Street Services) gave his testimony and spoke about his work. Phil Norton spoke about the work of Street Pastors.

Sue, Teresa and Jennie

Deanery Synod Reps



Fairtrade Coffee Mornings

Having become a Fairtrade Affiliated Church we set about organising a date for our first Fairtrade Coffee Morning for Wednesday 28 February 2018.

Setting up along the South aisle of the church, with tables laid for people to sit around in the Jesus Chapel, sadly the "Beast from the East" decided to offload a large quantity of snow across the country. Not to be deterred, and having purchased various Fairtrade products in readiness we went ahead with the coffee morning anyway. It was

wonderful that despite the awful weather conditions, some people managed to fight their way through the snow, either by car or on foot. All in all our first Fairtrade Coffee Morning was a great success.

We hold these Coffee Mornings once a month on a Wednesday following our 10:30 am Holy Communion Service, and it's wonderful to see people relaxing and taking time out with friends. A big thank you to Richard who suggested he could take a list of dates with him when visiting his mum and we could advertise our events in Bradbury Home—this now means we have the joy of welcoming residents and carers too. A lovely opportunity for them to have a short trip out and enjoy a cup of coffee and a biscuit in the beautiful surroundings of our church.

For those who are unable to make these mid-week events we felt it important to extend the opportunity to purchase items to those who attend our Sunday morning services, so on the following Sunday each month our stall is available and is greatly supported by so many.

Sadly we heard later in the year that Traidcraft may need to reduce their “supply partners” due to lack of support. We must ensure that wherever and as far as we can, we as a church support those people who work tirelessly to provide us with some amazing products. Yes, they may cost a few pennies more and we appreciate that those “few pennies” can make a big difference to our personal budget, but those “few pennies” on those products will go a long way to help those working in the fields or trying to make a living from home by making hand-made products live a much more comfortable life.

So if you would like to help us help those who have much less than we do, why not come along to our next Coffee Morning (dates can be found on the display board on the Fairtrade table).

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported this venture over the past year, it really is appreciated.

Sue Mackay and Pat Johnson



Flower arrangers

Our team of flower arrangers have continued to decorate our beautiful building throughout the church year, changing the colours to suit the seasons.

2019 was the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War, and we focused our efforts on delivering a display of poppies, roses and carnations to remember the people who had given their lives in order for our ancestors to live their lives in peace, safety and freedom. We were all rather pleased with our efforts! Easter, Harvest and Christmas, thanks to the generous giving of our church family, saw the church decorated with fresh flowers, and greenery.

Several people give donations for flowers to be arranged in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a happy occasion in their lives. There is a form on the photograph table for this purpose so please do take one if you would like flowers to be arranged.

Another successful year for our team, why not join us!

Patricia Johnson Flower Group Coordinator.



Gift Aid

The overall rebate from HMRC for our service offertory giving in 2018 was £8997.04 which is a slight increase on 2017.

93% of all donations were eligible for gift aid reclaim. These donations include the envelope schemes, standing orders, yellow pew envelopes and plate offerings.

If you are a tax payer and use the pew envelopes on a regular basis please ask me for a Gift Aid declaration form. I will then be able to keep your details on file and this will prevent you from having to fill out the envelope each time.

I would like to thank Pat Johnson and Penny Stone who count the collections, co-ordinate the financial information and do the banking. We could not claim these funds back from HMRC without their help.

If you would like to know more about the regular giving schemes or gift aid please speak to me in church or email me at jenniegoddard@sky.com

Jennie Goddard Gift Aid and Giving Scheme Officer



Halls

As was reported last year we are no longer taking occasional bookings for our halls, partly as the income they generated was low previously, and also because the administration and bookings for our halls is undertaken by our Office Administrator, Christina Turner and in the absence of a volunteer, the cost of a "caretaker" would be prohibitive.

Our regular hirers continue as previously, with one major change. The Jack and Jill pre-school closed for business at the end of the summer term. Sadly, its owner left with bad grace and rumours circulated as to our part in its closure (as well as other spurious ideas) all of which was highly inaccurate and unnecessary.

Again there have been some minor maintenance issues undertaken in the halls during the year but both halls as previously reported are in need of some major refurbishments, which as I stated last year we intend to reflect on, especially if we are looking to “market” them for new hirers. However, our church business has been focused elsewhere and a review is a major undertaking.

In November the PCC reviewed our hourly charges and we intend to raise the costs slightly and review all our contracts etc. in early 2019.

The halls though, do provide a “good” income. I do hope in the future we can look to appoint a small group to consider recommending a “way forward” and report to the PCC; we should always look to be good stewards of what God has provided.

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 a new company (Travelex have moved their centre to Heathrow) 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 The Post Office. 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 and old £1 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 £27,000, 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 building a new Fair Havens Hospice on the old EKCO site in Priory Crescent and the steelwork is now up

Based in Prittlewell opposite Priory Park, the new Fair Havens will care for twice as many patients compared to the current building in Westcliff, which only accommodates 8 beds, not all of which are accessible. You will also have read in the Evening Echo that I was also able to get a donation of £84,800 from a Masonic charity "The Mark Benevolent Fund", which will pay for all 16 new beds which are designed to make patients more comfortable and to assist nursing staff when treating patients.

"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 £1 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 neighbouring 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



Monday Homegroup

Our monthly House Group sessions begin in September and end in June—that had been the plan; however the Beast from the East and ill health did cause a couple of changes in 2018!

We finished the Group year with 11 members (two new members have now joined). Revd. Jacky provides us with Bible Readings and questions which we endeavour to answer—generally we are surprisingly of a similar mind and we have some interesting discussions.

We share a soup/sandwich light lunch from 12:15 until the meeting begins at 1:00 pm. We finish with tea/coffee and biscuits and leave for home around 2:45.

Suzanne Mattingley



Thursday Homegroup

The Thursday evening Home Group has been operating for over two years, with meeting taking place bi-weekly. Our group currently has

seven 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. These thoughts and feelings are gathered up into a single unified prayer at the end of our meeting, where we pray for one another.

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, several Saints of the early Church and Middle Ages, aspects of Mysticism, Moses and the Exodus.

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

Shah & Alex Haider



Music

Early in 2018 we were joined by Colin (bass) Liz (soprano). Later in the year though we were sad to lose first Jenny and then Emma who have both moved away, leaving the alto section rather depleted. Later, we welcomed another bass, Keith, to expand the men's section when he is not serving or being Church Warden.... The ebb and flow of different sections of the choir offers both challenges and opportunities all the time!

In February things had calmed down enough to finally have our Christmas Choir dinner, retitled "Not the Christmas Dinner" which involved the choir and partners, with Paul and Sue and some special guests. Some enthusiastic singing with melodica accompaniment was enjoyed by everyone at the Pipe of Port.

On 18 March we had the marvellous Will as a guest organist for Choral Evensong and sang some challenging settings and anthems. It was very hard work for us all, but it was good to know that we can do great things.

10 June was Music Sunday which was one of several occasions when we encouraged more people from the congregation to sing with us in the service. Another event was Harvest when we all sang "What a Wonderful World".

It is my aim to form a more informal group of "melody" singers in addition to our robed choir.

The Water Aid Concert on 3 November was a chance to sing a wide variety of music on the theme of water. We raised about £400.00 for Water Aid.

On 16 December the Nine Lessons and Carols was a lovely service and we were joined for the first time by Hannah and Elsa in the treble section. We are hoping to welcome more children into the choir.

We did not expect to have an organist to help us, but were joined by Colin (another one) at the last minute. However, this meant that the choir music I had planned was mostly unaccompanied as I needed to sing and conduct. Since we have worked so hard this year though, unaccompanied singing presented no terrors for us! It is very liberating to know that we can sing anywhere, without an organ or piano.

This has been a good year for the choir, singing, practising and willingly putting in extra hours while overcoming our own difficulties and being adaptable to whatever happens.

Traditional church choirs are an endangered species, but there is a good spirit of friendship, support and trust in our choir, which is so important for our survival.

Melanie van Looy



Pastoral Care

During 2018 there was a great move forward in Pastoral Care within the Parish. Bradbury Lodge has regular visits from Revd Jacky and their residents are brought by the Care Assistants and Richard to our Fairtrade tea and coffee mornings. Parishioners and others had greatly missed the Nearly New refreshments and social time so these church coffee mornings have been a good addition to the parish calendar. It is important to recognise that Pastoral Care is not just visits with perhaps Home Communion to our housebound in their homes, yes it is and always will be an important part of the care, but there are other considerations and the coffee sessions are a prime example. Regular members of the congregation do tend to rely on home visits with or without Communion to some extent, and it is so important that members of the congregation keep the Care "committee" fully aware of people's needs. Thank you to those who do let us know about poorly members of the congregation and those in need especially those admitted to hospital. When I visit someone in hospital I always leave a card saying that they have been visited by St Mary's so that their family are aware. I did this once and the staff noticed it and when I went in again, they checked because nothing had been told them about any church connection; they then arranged for the Chaplain to visit.

I have at this point to thank those who are part of the team of visitors to our housebound, both socially and with Home Communion. Particularly we would wish to thank John Lynes who has recently retired from taking HC out due to his recent spell of poor health. I am sure that we all wish him well. Also thank you to Suzanne Mattingly who commenced by visiting Vera Farrow in St Edith's and then added on Tony Hill, both of whom have now died. Thanks also due to Penny Sloman and Elizabeth Sloman. Many elderly parishioners are visited by the friends from the congregation and this is very good but sadly many think that unless it is someone wearing white around their neck the church is not interested.

Care for individual parishioners is, of course, confidential, but there has been a welcome increase in the number that are being visited by either Revd Jacky or Revd Paul. Paul has prepared and copied service sheets for housebound communion and I have had the privilege of going out twice now with him and they were very special times; both were people who were members of the congregation when we joined St Mary's 43 years ago, so it was like visiting old friends with an added dimension. I expect now to go out on my own when required.

Pastoral Care is and should be something that every member of the congregation feels applies to them and they can assist with and it has been good to see that some members of the congregation will advise if they know someone is ill or just missing from services. They will also let me know, as well as telling the clergy, if they feel that visiting has been ignored. Sadly, however reports that someone has been in hospital and now discharged without a visit, having not been told, is not helpful!

Margaret Harvey



St Mary's Magazine

All the photos on the outside cover of this report have appeared in the Magazine over 2018. 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.

The Magazine has changed its name this year, to "St Mary's Magazine". We think this more accurately describes what the Magazine is "about". If you're doing something at St Mary's, the Magazine is your chance to tell us all about the great job God and you are doing, and what joy you have doing it. So please don't find it a chore to send in your words and pictures.

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

stmarysprittlewellmagazine@gmail.com

PS I know this strictly applies to the 2019 report, but please note once again that I have had to change the Magazine's email address. (The curious could type in "vfemail cyber attack" into a search engine to find out why.)



Social Committee

The committee meets five times a year and at the moment there are two members from the PCC and six non-PCC members with either Revd Paul or Revd Jacky attending. We meet to discuss and organise any events taking place, the two main events annually being the Quiz Night and the Parish Outing.

Quiz Night in January was the first social event of the year. Once again it was popular and well attended with not only church members taking part but many people from outside of church life, making it a great social occasion with the possibility of out reach.

The Parish Outing in August was to Hever Castle with plenty to do and see for all ages. Besides the Castle and grounds to look round there was also jousting to watch, with some people saying they had seen Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn!

In November a trip to London's West End by coach was organised to see the stage musical 42nd Street.

All the outings and events are non-profit making with fellowship the main purpose.

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

Teresa Church



Summer Event

Our Summer Event this year was “different” than previous years for a number of reasons. Firstly, we wanted to move from a fundraising event predominantly, towards a more community invitational and social event.

There were some familiar attractions, i.e. tower tours, music, refreshments, etc. We also had church tours explaining some of the church history (Thanks to our very own tour guide Keith). Again we were very fortunate with the weather and although the numbers were lower than at previous events this gave us the opportunity to spend time chatting with folk and showing that our church is “open and welcoming” to all who come. It would seem those who came thoroughly enjoyed the day and I have had numerous conversations subsequently with folk who loved the music and the “odd” instruments Melanie played!

Finally, a huge thank you to all those who helped with the setting up and packing away, and to those who helped with washing up etc. Even on the day people had ideas about 2019....! So thanks to God for His blessings with us and for us

Revd Paul Mackay



Uniformed Groups

1st Prittlewell Brownies

The Brownies remain popular in the local community. We often operate at our unit capacity of 24 or slightly over; unfortunately sometimes we have to refer girls to other local units to avoid them having a long time on our waiting list. We have as our unit leader Kiley who is assisted by Eileen and Judy, and we were pleased to welcome Alicia to the team in early 2019.

Last year during our weekly meetings the Brownies were able to gain their Brownie Skills, Number Fun, Agility and Friend to Animals badges, which involved a visit to the local Pets at Home store for a pet workshop and a visit from Guide Dog user Rosie and her Guide Dog Polly. The Brownies ran stalls for a mini Easter fete and raised money for the Guide Dogs charity and money towards our trips and holidays fund. We also celebrated some saints' days and holidays, and for Christmas we did the Reindeer Challenge badge. We had visits to the local bowling alley, Kids' Kingdom, Priory Park, a tour of St Mary's bell tower and an evening at Guideacres campsite for a sausage sizzle.

The Brownies also had the opportunity to attend a Division Renewal of promise event on Thinking Day, where they had the chance to try circus skills, cheerleading, drum playing and various crafts from around the world. We had an adventure day at Belchamps Scout centre where the girls tried high ropes, water zorbing, archery and an assault course. We held our first pack holiday for a number of years in October and 15 girls stayed at our local Guide campsite for a unicorn-themed indoor residential weekend. They tried lots of different crafts, played games, and had a campfire as well as mucking in and helping with all the jobs.

We invite the Brownies to attend church parade and we do have a few who regularly attend. They particularly enjoy taking part in the service by saying prayers, giving things out, helping with the collection etc.

We are as always really grateful to St Mary's Church for their support, which enables us to keep our fees low and therefore Girlguiding open to all girls in our community.

Kiley Ebanks



1st Prittlewell Rainbows

The Rainbow unit is run by two adult leaders with the help of a young Leader and occasional help from parents. At the beginning of the year we started back with quite low numbers but with the help of a recruitment campaign and an open invite to a Princess Party, our numbers recovered somewhat.

Throughout the year the Rainbows have had the opportunity to attend a number of events, the first being the Division Renewal of Promise/Thinking Day event, which offered circus skills, cheerleading, drum playing and a selection of crafts from around the world. In the summer some of the girls went to Guideacres for an evening sausage sizzle and later in the year a visit to Kids' Kingdom for a fun evening.

During the weekly meetings the Rainbows have celebrated various Saints' Days and festivals and gained some challenge badges including Discovering our Promise, Butterfly challenge, Space challenge, Roald Dahl challenge and Christmas challenge.

A few of the Rainbows attended church parade and were willing to take part in the prayers or help with the collection. They enjoyed making their own Christingles at Christmas and doing the various activities.

A new Girlguiding programme has been introduced throughout all age groups and we were able to share information with the parents in preparation for when we start working with it in the New Year.

Eileen Wilkins



1st Prittlewell Scouts

During 2018, the group experienced leadership changes in the Beaver Scout Cub Scout sections, although the changes with the Cub section did not come into effect until 2019.

Both Kemar and Arkela had been section leaders with the group for many years and this change was not really foreseen. Fortunately, we were able to find new leaders without any disruption for our young people.

The Beaver Scouts have had an exciting programme, a tour of the church tower and a visit from Snakes Alive which included a talk about snakes and the opportunity to hold some snakes and a Tarantula: they were very brave.

Other highlights were cooking, rock painting and a visit to the fire station and played Crazy Golf in the summer. The Beavers also sang carols for the residents of Priory House during December.

The Beavers have also been camping, once with their parents and a Christmas Camp with the Cubs.

The Cub Scouts have had an equally exciting programme, working on challenge and activity badges, there are many elements to Challenge Badges, so earning them is a real achievement.

The Cubs have also been busy making kites, learning knots and lashings and learning how to safely light a fire. They have also had a tower tour in the church and tried some cake decorating.

During Cub Camp in July, the Cubs completed their Athletes Badge and Disability Awareness Badge.

Leading up to Remembrance Sunday, the Cubs and Scouts made Poppies moulded from clay to display in the church.

The Scouts have also worked on challenge and activity badges. They have cooked over fires and made scones from scratch and baked them.

The Scouts have also had a drugs awareness presentation and forums discussing faith, attitudes towards disabilities and peer pressure. The Scouts also enjoyed Snakes Alive with the Beavers.

The Scouts have attended 5 camps and had a day trip to London to visit museums and made up Christmas boxes for the elderly, which the Beavers took to Priory House when they went Carol Singing.

All three sections went to Duxford aircraft museum during October Half Term, and had the opportunity to earn air activity badges.

Shaun Carey (Scout Leader)



Website

The website is growing in size and popularity. 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 around its look and feel but with over 1000 people visiting it, it continues to be one of the many ways St Mary's advertises its events and services.

The children's and family workers page is a valuable space 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, Alpha, Lent Courses and 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 new 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. 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 Revd Paul.

Keith Turner (Web Designer)



Women's Fellowship

2018 was the 56th Anniversary of the founding of Women's Fellowship. The year began with a new Chair—Jenny Cousins; however it developed into a year of change and we had to say "Goodbye" to not only Jenny, but also Iris Schofield, a Committee Member for many years—both of whom moved from the area. There were also Final Farewells to long-standing members who will be much missed.

We had some good Speakers/Entertainers: Terry Hiscock about "Save the Children"; Keith Turner (our Churchwarden) giving us a tour of St

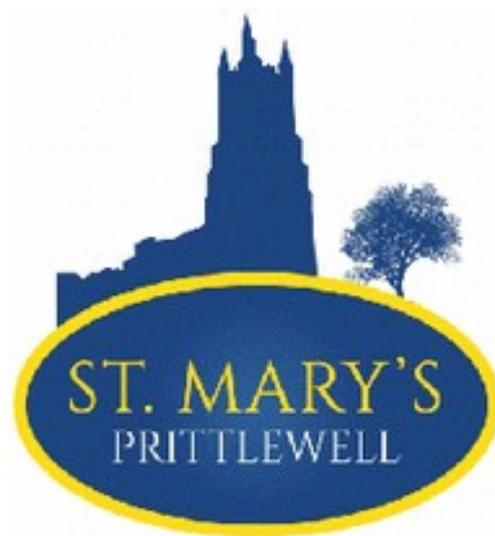
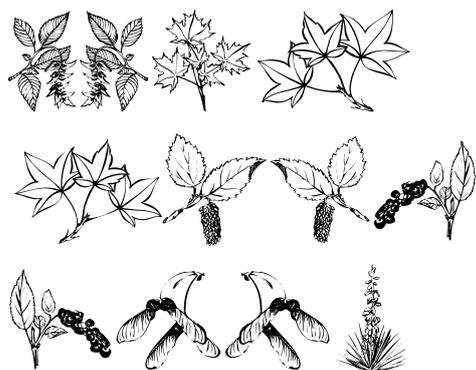
Mary's Church, and the Yard Arm Folk Orchestra. All were exceptional—Yard Arm booked too for 2019! We also enjoyed a photographic tour of Essex Gardens, a speedy factual trip around London and an unusual "Life of Hats" (how many different "hats" have we each worn in our lives?)

Introduced in November was a Christmas Table Decoration session, ably led by Jenny King—and repeating in 2019. With a Birthday Lunch in May; tea party in August, and Christmas Lunch in December, we enjoyed a time of fellowship at each meeting—and are still financially viable with an Annual Subscription of £6.

However, Ladies, we need more members/visitors—Why not come along on the first Monday of the month? 1:30 to 3:00 pm in the Guild Hall, Hill Road. You will be most welcome—AND our September 2019 meeting with the Yard Arm is open to EVERYONE—men and children too—come and enjoy a happy afternoon—and a dance!

I had not expected to be making this Report again! A sincere thank you to the Committee members for their support last year: Jenny King (Secretary); Dorothy Webb (Treasurer); Mary Porter; Ethne Ndlwana; Glenys Nariel; Vera Field. Also to all the members who came along to meetings and supported each other—you are all great! Thank you to each and every one of you.

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 All Age/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



Weekly events

Sunday

Bellringing 9:00 – 9:30 am & 5:30 – 6:30 pm

Monday

Women's Fellowship 1st Monday at 1:30 pm

Suzanne Mattingley smattingley@waitrose.com

Bellringing Practice Night 7:30 – 9:30 pm

David Sloman ☎ 01702 545568

Tuesday

1st Prittlewell Scout Group

Scouts 7:30 – 9:00 pm

Cub Scouts 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Beavers 6:00 – 7:00 pm *in the Guild Hall*

Shaun Carey ☎ 07941 242789 email scouts@1stprittlewell.org.uk

Rainbow Guides 4:15 – 5:30 pm

Eileen Wilkins eileenwilkins@blueyonder.co.uk

Wednesday

Brownie Guides 5:30 – 7:00 pm

Kiley Ebanks 1stprittlewellbrownies@gmail.com

Friday

Choir Practice 7:00 – 8:30 pm

Melanie van Looy email melanie_van_looy@hotmail.com

Saturday

Saturday Ringing School 9:00 – 12:00 noon

Peter Sloman ☎ 01702 545889



Photos of 1st Prittlewell Scouts from Shaun Carey — see report on page 41



