

# WORSHIPPING & PRAYING

## REPORT TO THE ST MARY'S CHURCH CONGREGATION

AGM 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2017

Team members: Karen Ind, Karen Inglis-Taylor, Jeremy Weaver,  
Veronica Kidd, Valerie Lintott, Guy Bridgewater (Team Leader)

We would like to thank the members of the Worshipping and Praying Team and all the many who are involved in planning, leading and participating in the worship at St. Mary's.

### 2017/18 Objectives to Date

### Achieved

<p>Trial New Pattern of Services (inc new midweek &amp; 5.00pm Sunday services)</p> <p>Review Prayer Life (inc "Thanks a Million" prayer support)</p> <p>Plan 2018 "Year of Prayer" programme (eg Retreat, Quiet Days, Conference)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Alternating Evensong/Informal service established</li><li>• Following congregational survey, DCC decided to trial a seasonal pattern of 5.00 in Winter, 6.30 in Summer</li><li>• New worship band established; plans introduced to link Informal Service &amp; Homegroups</li><li>• Thursday 10.00 Communion (&amp; coffee) numbers up</li><li>• School for Prayer grown into Parish wide "HOPE" monthly prayer meeting</li><li>• Planned trial of initiatives as part of Year of Prayer</li><li>• New 9.30 Intercessors trained &amp; introduced</li><li>• Prayer stations &amp; materials for "Thanks a Million"</li><li>• Full &amp; varied programme prepared</li></ul>
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### Objectives for the Year 2018-2019

Implement plans for Year of Prayer

- Lent Course & termly Homegroup Courses on Prayer
- Thy Kingdom Come prayer vigil
- Training days on prayer
- Guided week of prayer, Etc

Plan year of Vocations

- Enable prayerful discovery of gifts & ministries
- Call & train further worship leaders & intercessors

## **Comments on other areas that the team oversees**

- **St. Mary's Choir**

This has been a year of transition in the choir, as key senior choristers moved on to university, and less experienced singers have taken on increasing responsibility. It is good to report that the number of junior choristers continues to grow, thanks in large measure to the enthusiasm of Valerie Lintott, who not only takes a major part in these singers' vocal and musical training, but also coordinates the Royal School of Church Music award scheme which provides the training with a useful framework. The RSCM awards have proved popular with adult choir members as well as with younger choristers, and it is good to report that as well as the 3 choir members who have achieved awards this year, a further 4 adults and 12 children are currently working towards awards at various levels.

The choir has maintained its usual full programme, adding to its regular commitments with a choral evensong as part of the Horsham Festival, and singing carols in the Carfax, and at the Strawford Day Centre. The joint concert with Slinfold Concert Band was again well received, raising a significant sum for the Thanks a Million appeal, and another event is planned for May 2018. We are also looking forward to our forthcoming visit to Tewkesbury Abbey, where we will be singing all the services from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> August.

Our thanks are due to all who support and encourage the music-making at St Mary's, and who see the choir and organ as an important part of our parish worship. In the words of the choristers' prayer which we say together in the choir vestry after each service, what we sing with our lips may we believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts may we show forth in our lives.

Mike Overend

- **Servers Report**

The serving team provides servers for all the main Sunday services and additional services as required. The team currently has 14 members which is under strength and we continue to look for new members, and have had to operate with a reduced three person server team for the 9.30 Eucharist over the last year. However the team remains very dedicated and it is through their support, enthusiastic hard work and commitment that we can help support St Mary's worship.

Chris Button

- **Sidesmen's Report**

Everyone has carried out their duties faithfully and when requested have willingly helped at special services. However, we do need more help at 9.30 services so please volunteer.

Laurence Windwood

- **2017 Annual report from Kairos**

Kairos has evolved and yet it is still an informal and welcoming service for the noisier (possibly the noisiest?) part of the church family! Looking at the numbers of people, including children, attending, the Kairos congregation is about 1/5 of the whole church family (about 200 per month).

The planning team meets 3 times a year to discuss themes, logistics of the service and social events. This year we have looked at the themes of Jesus is a person, a king and a God, the Kingdom of God parables, two prayers of Jesus, Easter & Pentecost, exploring worship, going out & telling others, WWJD on holiday, God's creation & our responsibility, and God's love.

We have established the annual events of the summer Kairos picnic in the vicarage garden and the Advent Christingle service. This year there were some extra special events with a praise party to celebrate the patronal festival/St Mary's birthday party, a visit from OPEN THE BOOK and a praise music workshop using masses of percussion and ribbons.

Huge thanks to the dedicated music team of Billy Crook, Mike, Jeremy, Jenny Watts and Becca IT who are so conscientious and skillful supporting the worship in an often fluid format! Jane, the verger, is often challenged but never defeated!

Thanks to the office support especially in coordinating all the volunteers who enable the service, vis. those who greet folk as they arrive, who serve coffee, who set up and clear away the audiovisual equipment, and the readers.

We are also grateful to Emma McLaughlin who produces the attractive and essential PowerPoints for each service.

Our services are also made more engaging and, let's be honest, fun by the production of wonderful visual aids and interactive prayer activities created by the 'dream' team. They were called this after they made inventive and delightful props for the service about the story of Joseph and the story of Moses. We will not forget the hundreds of origami frogs that helped us visualise one of the plagues! The creative team - Karen, Krystle, Hattie, Sarah and Becky - also produce the passports and monthly passport pages which the children enjoy collecting.

We miss Jimmy and his inspirational talks & upfront leading, as well as his obvious enjoyment of being with the families. We look forward to welcoming Kate and Rebecca in 2018!

Fiona Prentice