



Papers for the St. Mary's Church
Congregation AGM
24th March 2019

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**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
ST MARY'S CHURCH CONGREGATION & COUNCIL**

The AGM will be held in St Mary's Church on Sunday 24th March 2019
after the 9.30 am service

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 18th March 2018
4. Matters Arising
5. Thanks a Million Project -update
6. Church Council Mission Action Team Reports
 - 6.1 Worshipping and Praying
 - 6.2 Growing as Disciples
 - 6.3 Caring as a fellowship
 - 6.4 Serving and Transforming the Community
 - 6.5 Proclaiming the Gospel
 - 6.6 Building & Fabric
 - 6.7 Admin & Finance
7. Safeguarding – Report included with AGM Report pack
8. Nominations
 - 8.1 Churchwardens
 - 8.2 Parochial Church Council (1 person to serve for three years)
 - 8.3 St Mary's District Church Council (10 – 15 people)
 - 8.4 Family Support work representative (1 person)
 - 8.5 Deanery Synod (1 person)
 - 8.6 Sidespeople
9. Chairman's Comments
10. Closing Prayer

PARISH OF HORSHAM

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of St Mary's Church Congregation and Council held in St Mary's Church on Sunday 18th March 2018 following the 9.30 service

Revd Canon Guy Bridgewater was in the Chair and **53** Members of the congregation were present.

1. Opening Prayer

The meeting opened with prayers led by Guy

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Revd Alan Mayer, Val and Keith Burgess, Pam and Martin Dexter, Chris and Hennie Sleeman and Sheila Pilkington.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 2nd April 2017.

Minutes of the 2017 AGM were proposed by Frank King, seconded by Jane Gorrie, approved and signed as a correct record.

4. Matters Arising

7.1 PCC

Guy stated that the initiative for Growing Leaders in the Laity would be organised during the Year of Vocation in 2019. This will include exploring prayerfully the discovery of gifts and ministries.

5. Update on Current Projects

5.1 St Mary's Conservation and Renewal Project (Thanks a Million)

Nigel Stalley gave a comprehensive resume of the progress of the Thanks a Million Project. The focussed fundraising event to raise £50k in 50 days was extremely successful and grateful thanks were given to all who responded so generously and raising over £100k. Two teams were set up to oversee plans, one for the Church and one for the Church Centre.

Following the Quinquennial Inspection in 2012 repair works were identified which resulted in the Conservation and Renewal project. A grant was received from the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund and with the launch of the TAM appeal, fabric fund reserves and a Diocesan loan, together this enabled us to undertake much of the roof work. Whilst the scaffolding was in place, additional work was identified and repair work to the valley gutters on the south side of the church was carried out. A new access ladder in the bell tower was also installed giving safe access into the church roof void. These repairs have addressed the major items of the inspection.

Inside the church we hope to install a hot air curtain in the north porch before next winter to improve the heating. Longer term, we hope to make changes to the south aisle creating space flexible worship, refreshments and room for buggies and scooters. Plans have been discussed with the Diocesan Advisory Committee who has given general support and we expect to appoint an architect shortly and start the process for these changes. Grateful thanks were extended to Glynn Wright who is overseeing this TAM team.

The vision for the Church Centre is to be a vibrant and welcoming facility, serving not only St Mary's Church but the wider and expanding town of Horsham. We would like an easily accessible building, a welcoming foyer with comfortable seating, coffee area, a Christian bookstall, together with quiet spaces for prayer and pastoral counselling. We will continue to house the Church Office with the necessary equipment and office space. We also intend to incorporate our Pre-School in a permanent dedicated space and in future to develop before and after school clubs. At present discussions are taking place with the architects and it is hoped that outline plans will be available in the next few months. All changes must take account of the Grade II listing and the fact that the Centre is in a residential street and we will to welcome and serve our immediate neighbours. Warm thanks were given to Janet Palmart for all her time and effort in overseeing the Church Centre TAM team.

Jenny Holden asked the timeframe for these various works. Considerable work still needs to be done in finalising plans and costing these, consultation, planning applications and fund raising will be needed so

unfortunately it is not possible at this stage to predict when work will start. Mike Overend asked whether we were actually looking at raising £1million or was the Thanks a Million just a slogan. Guy confirmed that it was a slogan to focus minds on the task ahead and Nigel stated that it is necessary for precise plans to be formulated before detailed costing could take place. Guy reiterated the thanks to all those involved in the TAM project and asked for us all to continue to pray for this project.

6. Church Council (Mission Action Team) Reports

All reports were available to be read in paper form in church and on the website so they were not presented in detail. The Chairman briefly reviewed the reports and invited questions.

6.1 Worshipping & Praying

Guy confirmed that from October to March services would be at 5 pm and from April to September at 6.30 pm.

6.2 Growing as Disciples

This is the 8th year of Little Footprints which has welcomed an average of 23 families each week. This has resulted in some space problems so there is now a limit on the number able to attend. Guy thanked Caroline Comper and her team for their skill and expertise in providing such varied and fun sessions. Heartfelt thanks were extended to Fiona, Matt and their teams for all their wonderful dedication. Guy also thanked Katherine Potter for her work with the Home and Small Groups and said he would cover this as part of the Chairman's comments.

6.3 Caring as a Fellowship

The restructuring of this MAP team now sees Liz Lickiss our Churchwarden in the role of Pastoral Care Lead and Morag Davies as the Care Co-ordinator and this combination is working well. The Seaside Spectacular or Holiday at Home, a new initiative similar to the Holiday Club but for adults, will run in July and a full programme has been arranged. Numbers have been limited this year but if successful this will be open to a wider section of the community.

Liz thanked Liz Hawkins and Eve Phillips who stood down last year for all their help and input to the MAP team.

6.4 Serving and Transforming the Community

Lent Angels is running again this year thanks to the able management of Veronica James.

St Mary's Pre School is the new name for the nursery, there is a new uniform and website and are very proud to be the first pre-school in the country to be accredited by the Forest School Association.

6.5 Proclaiming the Gospel

Midweek Church Welcomers are much appreciated and Terry Brinkworth was thanked for co-ordinating this team of faithful volunteers.

6.6 Buildings & Fabric

The dedication Nigel Stalley and Steve Benson for their untiring work with the maintenance and upkeep of church property was noted. Jane Gorrie was thanked warmly for her continued care and efficiency in looking after the church. Guy gave an especially heartfelt thank you to all those who willingly do many small jobs behind the scene in and around the church and grounds and church centre.

6.7 Admin & Finance

There will be a review of the office function to ensure that it is properly resourced. The work of Alison Carre and her team of volunteers in St Mary's Church office is hugely appreciated but there are times when the workload uncomfortably high. Alison's skill in coping and organising helpers for everything that comes across her desk is invaluable and we are grateful to her for her patience and tact. Profuse thanks were also extended to Keith Burgess and Paul Kirkbride giving the time needed to deal with the accounts and budgets.

Guy noted that the projected deficit of £15k became an overall surplus of £6k. He thanked God and all the many people who gave so generously to achieve this.

Nick Davies asked if enhanced facilities for a shop within the church could be considered in order to help

with income. Guy stated that when plans for the development of the south aisle were put together this would be considered and that when the redevelopment of the Church Centre is in hand, a shop may be incorporated into the Christian bookstall.

Guy thanked all members of MAP Teams and their leaders for all their diligent hard work, time and effort.

7.0 Safeguarding

Chichester Diocese is having a legal investigation at present to ensure that all safeguarding policies and procedures are robust and fully implemented. The initiative “Simple Quality Protects” is being followed and Nigel has met with Joyce Brown the Parish Safeguarding Officer to ensure our compliance.

Enormous thanks were given to Joyce and Caroline Crook, St Mary’s Safeguarding Officer for their help, expertise and advice. Guy stated that both Joyce and Caroline had indicated that they wished to step down from these posts and we therefore need to recruit replacements.

All reports from the Mission Action Plan Teams were accepted by those present.

8.0 Nominations

8.1 Church Wardens

Steve Benson gave a brief overview of the duties of a Churchwarden to encourage others to consider standing for office. For the three vacancies, three nominations were received, Nigel Stalley, Stephen Benson and Elizabeth Lickiss and they were duly elected unanimously with a round of applause.

8.2 Parochial Church Council

Two nominations had been received, Peter Fruin and Nigel Stalley. Guy pointed out that as Nigel is also Parish Warden he is automatically on the PCC so there is still the opportunity for another nominee to be put forward. As none was forthcoming, Peter and Nigel were unanimously elected.

8.3 HCT

Tim Pasco was nominated and unanimously elected to Horsham Churches Together and he will join Becky Lickiss as our representatives.

8.4 St. Mary's Church Council

Emmanuel Holden, Morag Davies, Keith Burgess, Veronica Kidd, Kimball Edey, Elizabeth Hawkins, Pam Dexter, Joyce Brown, Delysia Hill, Zoe Malyon, Marie-Emmanuelle Gros-Lemesre, Elizabeth Lickiss, Nigel Stalley and Stephen Benson were all elected to the DCC for a period of 1 year having been proposed and seconded by members of the congregation.

8.5 Sidesmen

The congregation were delighted to approve the list of Sidesmen. Guy stated that in the Sidesmen’s Report the faithful service of volunteers was noted. On behalf of the congregation a gift was given to Laurence Windwood who had faithfully been a Sidesman for 60 years and co-ordinated this service for 30 years.

7. Chairman’s comments

Before his comments, the Guy gave thanks for the lives of those from our church family who have died in the last year together with those we have known and loved personally.

Guy drew attention to the wonderful booklet of thanksgiving texts from the Bible which were illustrated by the church family. In particular Hebrews 12 verses 1 – 3 delightfully illustrated by Isaac Tomlinson depicting a race over hills and dales to reach Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. St Mary’s feels like and is a team of teams and the 7 MAP teams play an important part in this as we encourage one another, supporting and caring as we run together on our journey of faith.

Guy expressed grateful thanks to the Leadership Team and to members of the Church Council who serve faithfully and give so generously of their time and skills. So many deserve thanks that it is impossible to name them all, however appreciation was shown to Laurence Windwood who has been a Sidesman for 60 years and organised the volunteers for the past 30 years. Guy presented him with a gift on behalf of the congregation.

The ministry of Jimmy Young amongst us was a gift of God and now we are happy to share him with St

John the Baptist in Crawley offering him our thanks and prayers. Guy thanked Alan Mayer for his wonderful depth of experience and willingness to serve so generously. We are also indebted to Karen Ind and Simon Quail for their inspirational addresses. Guy stated that the use of icons had been mentioned this year and that he was privileged to actually live with one in Jebs. She continually reflects the character of Jesus and Guy felt sure that he would not be able to function without Jebs by his side.

Guy commented that St Mary's is very like a glorious river, full and sparkling bringing new life. Sometimes it is fast flowing, yet simultaneously slow, with currents and eddies, at times shallow but also deep. St Mary's Home and Small Groups are exploring faith in more depth and will be linked with the Informal Service, where thoughts and ideas can be shared encouraging all to explore our faith and deepen understanding both in head and heart.

Returning to the book of Bible texts, brilliantly illustrated by Max Booth Guy commended 2 Timothy 1 verse 3 to everyone: Every time I say your name in prayer, which is practically all the time, I thank God for you, the God I worship with my whole life in the tradition of my ancestors. Blessed are you who run to Him.

On behalf of the family of St Mary's, Liz Lickiss gave heartfelt thanks to Guy for his leadership, dedication and loving care.

9. The meeting closed in prayer and those present linking hands and saying the Grace together.

Dear All,



Your churchwarden team: Nigel, Steve, Liz, and Morag, welcomes you to this compendium of reports about the life at St. Mary's prepared specifically for the Annual General Meeting of 2019.

Last year saw some significant changes at St. Mary's when we said "Goodbye" to Guy and Jebbs who had been part of our Church Family for eleven years as they set off for new horizons in Bath. We hold them in our prayers in their new surroundings. Matt Lee completed his course as trainee youth worker and has now taken up a permanent role at the Matrix Trust in Guildford.

As one season finishes then another begins. In June we welcomed Rebecca as our new curate and her family: Simon, Abigail and Noah. Laura Fletcher joined the leadership team to work alongside Fiona Prentice (who reduced her hours) on the Families and Children's Ministry. We look forward to hearing of new ideas and activities.

We offer immense thanks to Joyce Brown and Caroline Crook for their many years of dedication and who have now handed on their roles as Safeguarding Officers. We are extremely grateful to Richard Pearson who has taken on the role of Parish Safeguarding Officer and to Rachel Tomlinson who now looks after us at St. Mary's.

We have been well cared for by the clergy during this time of vacancy with visits from Archdeacon Fiona, Bernard, Fr. David, Alan, Natalie and our readers Simon and Karen. Each has presented us with thought provoking sermons.

2018 Was the "Year of Prayer". A dedicated prayer room was set up and a week of intercessory prayer was held. This proved so beneficial that the prayer room is still used.

We continue to be grateful to Alison and her team of office volunteers who bring great support across the board. To our verger Jane Gorrie for her diligence and warm welcome to the many visitors we see. Thank you to Keith Burgess for looking after our finances. Thank you to our faithful teams of sidespeople, servers, sacristy helpers, flower arrangers, church welcomers, coffee teams and bell ringers. Grateful thanks to all those people who play a vital role in our MAP teams and our pastoral visitors who give so freely of their time. Our thanks to Denise Herrington and Manny Holden and their team of volunteers from St. Mary's who for the seventh year running have staffed and volunteered at the Night Shelter.

We are immensely proud of the staff and children of St. Mary's Pre-School. The "Forest School" activities are fun for children as well as adults. We take pride in our close links with St. Mary's (Church Aided) school, particularly to Alex Bird who, having taken on the position of headteacher just over a year ago, saw the school attain an overall standard of "Good" in the recent Ofsted. Alex is supported in his role by a dedicated team of teachers and also governors, a large majority of whom are from St. Mary's and led by the chair of governors, Claire Swarbrick.

Organised by Judy Brinkworth and Jo Benson, another successful Flower Festival took place in 2018 to the theme of "Inspired" based on books, music and works of art inspired by the Christian story. The event was complemented by prayer spaces in the church, the opening concert, closing Civic service and St. Mary's school country dancing in Causeway.

Headed up by Jeremy and Mike, together with chorister trainer Valerie and our worship band leader Billy, we are blessed by our talented musicians and choir who greatly complement our worship week in, week out and also on other special occasions for deanery, diocesan and civic services. It has been particularly helpful during the vacancy that Mike has helped in the selection of hymns.

The churchwardens accept that we may not have mentioned everyone by name who helps, organises and inspires our worship at St. Mary's so, to everyone who assists in no matter how small a capacity, THANK YOU.

Stephen Benson, Nigel Stalley, Elizabeth Lickiss and Morag Davies
Churchwarden team

Thanks a Million (TAM) Project - update

The church has concentrated over the past few years on a programme of conservation and renewal for our church buildings. We are planning an exciting future which will develop our buildings into vibrant centres of worship and outreach.

A project is proposed to renew and refurbish the south aisle in the church with the aim of providing a larger coffee area with flexible seating, complete with underfloor heating. This project will also provide improved wheelchair/mobility scooter access to the chancel while also removing two pews and a stepped area in the north-west corner of the building.

Another project is also proposed to develop the Church Centre which resides just a few yards up the Causeway from the church. The new centre will offer a vibrant and welcoming facility, serving not only the church but the wider and expanding town of Horsham as an attractive community and events centre. It is planned to include a welcome foyer, a coffee lounge and a Christian bookstall while retaining the Church Office and enhancing kitchen, hall and meeting room facilities. In addition, St. Mary's Pre-School will be incorporated into the building.

Worship and Praying MAP Team Report

Team members: Karen Inglis-Taylor, Jeremy Weaver, Veronica Kidd, Valerie Lintott, Sarah White, Karen Ind (Acting Team Leader)

2018/19 Objectives to Date	Achieved
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	The diocesan Lent Course 'Inspiring Vision' was available to Home Groups. This took place in the new prayer-room between Ascension Day and Pentecost 'The Prayer Course' from 24/7 prayer and 'Finding God in all Things' (Ignatian prayer) were available Week of guided prayer was postponed until a later date. A 24/7 prayer vigil was held during the first week of Advent New recruits for intercessions, laying on of hands, administering the Communion and serving were trained and commissioned in January 2019
Objectives for the Year 2019-2020 Make some changes to All Age Worship service to make it more family-friendly. Re-constitute the worship band Revive the Informal service. Revive Evensong. Advertise our music across the town in this Year of Culture? Have another prayer vigil between Ascension and Pentecost. Worship Booklet – consider ways of cutting down on use of paper. Offer prayer ministry at the Flower Service? Consider a quiet day at St Mary's with an outside speaker Advent 2019 – create another 'Art Book'?	

Reports from other areas that the team oversees

2018 Annual report from Kairos

Kairos is still the noisiest part of the church family with typically 30 or so families (with both parents and their children aged 0-7 years old) gathering on 2nd & 4th Sundays to worship, learn, experience church and fellowship together. It is the service that we invite new 'baptism' families to and Little Footprints' families, as it is informal. A planning team (of curate, music group, FCW, creative team & parents) meets 3 times a year to discuss themes, logistics of the service and social events. This year we have looked at the 'year of prayer' themes of Who is Jesus?, Easter & Christmas, Ways of Praying(eg like David, like Daniel) including a special trail of prayer stations. Our social events included a nature walk & tea at Chesworth Farm, the well-attended summer Kairos picnic in the vicarage garden and the 'birthday party'. This year again we hope to hold these events but using Chesworth farm for our outdoor service & picnic!

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

Thanks to Laura and the office support especially in coordinating all the volunteers who enable the service, viz. those who greet folk as they arrive, who serve coffee, the passport controllers, those who set up and clear away the audio-visual equipment and the readers. We are also very grateful to Emma McLaughlin who produces the attractive and essential PowerPoints for each service.

Our services are also made more engaging and 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 & stickers which the children enjoy collecting.

This year we were joined by the musical and dance talents of Rebecca and the kind and wonderfully efficient Laura. We miss Guy and his leading, as well as his obvious enjoyment of being with the families. We look forward to seeing more of Laura, Karen IT and Natalie Loveless in our interregnum with the 2019 themes of 'pictures of faith' and (Year of Vocation) Bringing God into your daily life!

Fiona Prentice

Families & Children's worker

Choir Report

St. Mary's Choir is an integral part of the church and provides a valuable leadership with regards to all aspects of music within the service. As Director of Music it is my job to provide the music to the best of mine and the choirs ability. I think generally we manage to fulfil that requirement. As a Parish church we are very lucky to produce music of the calibre we do, and I thank all members of the choir for that. The choir has really grown over the year and at the moment membership is at 50 (over 18 choristers) an amazing achievement for any parish choir! I remember when we went to Hereford Cathedral in 2014 the Dean said we were one of the biggest (if not) Parish choirs they had had singing the services there. We are very lucky to have the enthusiasm and musical ability of all members of the choir.

2018/19 has been a busy year and productive year for the choir. At Christmas time we provided the music for three carol services, the Advent, Nine Lessons and Carols and the Epiphany Carol Service. Plus, our usual choral evensongs and special services such as Weddings and Funerals.

Other Choir achievements have been: -

- Runners-up in RSCM nationwide competition to sing new anthem by Piers Maxim
- Sang at Tewkesbury Abbey at the end of August
- 19 choir members joined the combined choirs of Bath Abbey to sing at Guy Bridgewater's licensing service (making 90 singers altogether)
- The choir was invited to sing at a wedding at St John's Catholic church in Horsham
- The choir was invited to sing at Horsham Music Circle's Year of Culture concert on 19th January
- The choir has entered another competition run by the RSCM, this time to have their performance of an Advent carol to be put on the RSCM's website in Advent 2019

The next Cathedral visit be in 2020 to Exeter or Rochester

The choir would not run effectively without other key members and I would like to take this opportunity in thanking the following people: -

Mike Overend, our Assistant Organist continues to provide excellent support in all areas.

The conducting skills of David Tilsley and Liam Stone help out as and when needed and I thank them all for their continued support and contribution.

I would also like to continue to pay tribute to Valarie Lintott who has helped in training some of the choristers for their RSCM Voice for Life Achievements – it has been greatly appreciated by me and the choristers themselves.

The following Medals / Ribbons have been obtained: -

GOLD: David Tilsley

YELLOW: Jenny Watts

BRONZE: Joshua Crabb and Louise Bidlake

DARK BLUE: James Gardner and Lauren Bidlake

A big thank you to all the ladies who kindly feed us before choral evensongs and important occasions. Jenny Watts, our choir librarian, for keeping our robes up to date and of the right length and for providing us with new choir folders. To our Chairman, Steve Benson and Valerie Lintott our choir secretary, who keep the emails flowing nicely!

The choir do a fantastic job and the standard of singing remains very high.
I am looking forward to continuing this for the remainder of 2019.

Jeremy Weaver
Director of Music

Sidespeople 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.

Sidespeople / Welcomers:

Myra Ansell, Christine Bright, Marta Carrera-Bray, Jenny Church, Paul Clarke, Peter Fruin, Ron Glaysher, Sheila Glaysher, Marie-Emmanuelle Gros -Lemesre, Liz Hawkins, Denise Herrington, Richard Herrington, Delysia Hill, Jenny Holden, Richard Holloway, Margaret Hope, Richard Hope, Veronica Kidd, Mandy Masters, Jean Mitchell, Vince Mitchell, Christine Moore, Maureen Muggleton, Nicola Palmer, Natasha Paul, Jane Pigott, Owen Pigott, Sheila Pilkington, Hennie Sleeman, Alex Spence-Holey, Carol Stalley, Simon Tuck, Sue Watts, Pauline Welch, Sue West, Joan Wileman, Rebecca White, Lawrence Windwood

Server's Report

The serving team provides servers for all the main Sunday services and additional services as required. The team currently has 15 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.

Caring as a Fellowship MAP team report

Team members: Morag Davies (Leader) Christine Bright, Valerie Burgess, Sahar Davies, Pam Dexter, Laura Fletcher, Elizabeth Hawkins

The new structure has been limited in its implementation. Two complementary roles of Church Warden and St Mary's Care Co-ordinator have been successfully introduced but the development of Pastoral Link persons has not been progressed.

The new venture of St Mary's Seaside Spectacular (Holiday at Home) was well attended and greatly enjoyed by all those who attended. Our warm thanks are extended to everyone who helped to make this a fun filled few days.

I would like to thank all members of the healing support team, our pastoral visitors, volunteer drivers, and our emergency meal chefs who all give so generously of their time and talents.

The next service of Christian Healing will take place on 20th. October 2019. The Rev. Alan Mayer will be the guest speaker. Pastoral Visiting going well. The ministry of laying on hands takes place at the 9.30 Sunday service. The prayer cross and votive candles are a huge comfort to many folk. The prayers left on the cross are blessed each Sunday and then prayed through each Tuesday by a small representative group from the healing support team.

Objectives for 2019

Provide pastoral support during the Flower Festival.

To identify a younger team to organise and run the Holiday at Home event for 2020

A name badge Sunday to be held at the 9.30 service 15th.September 2019. This helps to put names to faces.

Follow up information on the "Anna Chaplaincy" ministry.

Objectives for 2020

Arrange an Acorn Christian Healing "Listening" course to be held at St. Mary's

Reports from other areas that the team oversees

St. Mary's Almshouses report

St. Mary's Almshouse provides ten, one-bedroom flats at an economical rate. The accommodation is split between east and west houses situated on Normandy. The flats cater for the older person of limited means, still wishing to lead an independent lifestyle. St Mary's Almshouse is a registered charity, run by the Trustees who are in post by virtue of their office, being the vicar and the four churchwardens.

This report is an opportunity on behalf of the church family to thank all those who help in the running of St.

Mary's Almshouse. Thanks, must go to our warden at the Almshouse, Sirpa Camp, who is on call for our residents, seven days a week. Particular thanks to Morag Davies who as Deputy Churchwarden also performs the role of Pastoral Visitor. Thank you to Vince Mitchell, the honorary treasurer, who maintains the accounts and for being on hand to assist residents with their benefits claims. He is ably assisted at year end by our independent examiner of the accounts, John McCutcheon. Finally, a vote of thanks to our recently appointed Clerk to the Trustees, Michael Miles.

This year saw the final empty flat from last year filled by a new resident. However, a short time later one of our long-term residents decided that it was time to move on and we therefore, currently, have an empty flat again. We have recently conducted Fire Risk Assessment and Asbestos Management Surveys, both of these being legal requirements.

The guest shower wet-room has been refurbished, replacing the flimsy shower screen with a 10mm thick glass screen and shower curtain, at the same time cleaning and decorating the room. This has considerably improved accessibility.

Steve Benson
Joint Trustee

Sunday Lunch Report

A committed team of volunteer helpers continue to provide a “Traditional Sunday Lunch” on the first Sunday in the month in the Manor Room. This lunch service is for those who live alone, and is an opportunity to provide a good meal, and more importantly friendship and Christian fellowship.

30 or so people attend; the tickets are always in demand. A modest charge of £6 covers the cost of the food and makes a contribution towards kitchen expenses and equipment.

Many thanks are due to the team of helpers who give up their time on Sundays to help in this way. Their cooking, (and washing up), skills are much appreciated, and the feedback from the diners is always positive.

I am pleased to report that we have recruited some new helpers to our team this year and we look forward to continuing this valued service to our community.

Veronica James
Organiser

Growing As Disciples MAP team report

Team members: Joyce Brown, Katherine Potter, Mark Tomlinson, Lynne Keeble, Alistair Inglis-Taylor, Matt Lee (until June), Guy Bridgewater (until October) Graham White (from Jan 2019) and Rebecca Tuck (from July) and Fiona Prentice (lead from Jan 2019)

The GAD MAP objectives were/are to provide discipleship opportunities for the whole church family following the diocesan initiatives of the Year of Prayer (2018) and the Year of vocation (2019).

GAD objectives for 2019 (Year of vocation)

Evangelism: Men's ministry leaflets to encourage discussion about life issues and the Christian perspective & Diocesan resources will be made available at 'Who Let The Dads Out?' and 'What's the Pint?'

Teaching programmes:

Rule of life will be offered to all and supported by quarterly meetings

Living Faith (the new, less academic, more life-applied Bishop's certificate) Nick Davies and Marie Gros-Lemesre are attending in this deanery

Lent course **Living Christ** will be offered to all and promoted in the homegroups including the formation of 2 new groups just for Lent

Fruitfulness on the Frontline is also recommended to the Homegroups

Personal reading: **Life is for living (discerning your vocation)** and the **A Way of Living (rule of life)** resources will be offered and explored at the informal service and café church on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays in the evening.

Course for First Communicants before Confirmation This has been offered to all children connected with the church that are Year 4 and above by Joyce Brown & Rebecca Tuck. The children will receive their first Communion from Archdeacon Fiona on Mothering Sunday, 31st March at the 9.30 all age service.

Adult Confirmation The deanery confirmation was in September. Guy, Graham & Sarah White led the 6 preparation sessions for 4 St Mary's candidates. They followed was a Pilgrim Course "Turning to Christ" and have continued each Wednesday since with a homegroup. Rebecca will plan for this year's candidates.

Sermon series & Lectures During the interregnum GAD and leadership have decided not to run a Church away weekend or any 'Going deeper' sessions for those who would like a deeper exploration /more academic Bible study. There will be lots of different preachers (due to the vacancy) so a sermon series would be difficult. We will follow the lectionary with a 'Year of Vocation' slant.

Diocesan events: Setting God's People Free (living with & for God everyday Sunday -> Saturday) we have no specific Horsham events but a general focus during the Year of vocation to living our faith 24/7, in contexts other than church eg work, home, social.

Nominations for the Order of St Richard – Our PCC has made nominations and the award ceremony is on Oct 5th in Chichester cathedral.

Reports from other areas that the team oversees

Home and Small Group Report

Numbers have stayed similar to last year at 10 groups with around 80 members altogether.

Most groups followed the Year of Prayer materials in 2018, and are now moving onto Year of Vocation, some in advance of Lent, some for Lent. In addition, other groups such as "What's the Pint" continue to meet to serve a related purpose. One new group is now in the process of being formed.

We have continued to communicate occasionally with the leaders with ideas of books/guides to study and Rebecca visited every group personally last year. We have not however held a leaders' meeting this year. We produced a new home group leaflet, which was publicised in notices one Sunday.

We will also encourage other members of the congregation to join a small group for the six week Lent course. This could be an existing group, or one of the two new courses being provided on a week day evening and a

Saturday morning. It is possible that, if these run, members could be encouraged to remain as a home group or join an existing group if numbers are not high enough.

Katherine Potter
Home Group coordinator

Families & Children's workers' Report

Particular things to highlight from 2018:

- Laura Fletcher was appointed as Families & Children's worker on November 1st. Laura and I have already divided some responsibilities and others are in transition. Laura will be responsible for supporting Little Footprints, Kairos, the termly parties (Crib party, Egg party & Kairos picnic) and liaison with the preschool & school. I will continue with the general overview & coordination, administration and also oversee Lighthouse, 'Who Let The Dads Out?' and other ministries. At present both of us are working well in excess of our paid hours due to an induction period and the interregnum but should soon settle down to 8 hours per week each.
- We have spent a lot of time on supporting Little Footprints & Kairos and exploring the use of Church Suite to help with the rotas of teams.
- Both Laura and I have updated our safeguarding & first aid training, as well as undertaking other CPD. With the increased awareness of children with additional needs, we have explored how to support church families and have changed some of our practices and procedures.

Events supported in 2018:

- Birthday party, Light party, Crib party, Egg party
- Good Friday holiday club and summer holiday club
- Year of prayer "Prayer spaces" and a trail of stations of interactive prayers.
- St Mary's CoE Primary School (including the school worship committee which prepared for SIAMS and OFSTED inspections), HSA events and the Open the Book Team. This team of 6 volunteers visits school to present Bible stories at 6 assemblies each term. The stories are told in ways that imaginatively engage children with the text, using a number of children as story characters and a variety of narration, acting, costumes and props. This is great fun and a learning process for all concerned.
- Little Footprints termly Friday morning sessions for parents, carers, babies & toddlers (see their individual report).
- First Steps baptism preparation mornings
- 'Who Let The Dads Out?' 3 termly sessions that had the themes fire fighters, Lego & woodland crafts with over 25 dads and their children at each session.
- Childcare sessions during the 9.30 services in the school holidays
- Additional needs drop-in coffee mornings; creation of additional needs policy and resources for parents & volunteers.
- M&Ms (the termly communion service for Yr R, the preschool and all parents of little ones) with Guy and Rebecca leading.
- Church events eg Lent lunches, Thanks a Million & other fundraising eg the Fun Run & Fun Day and flower festival as well as Guy's last service (with special Lighthouse arrangements and gift giving).

Our specific tasks for 2019 are:

- to recruit more volunteers and look at succession planning for various key roles.
- to create stronger links between the newly baptised children's families, the preschool families, the Little Footprints families and the Bumps & Babies members to encourage them to come to Kairos, the DODI (drop off drop in) café, Pilgrim and other church groups to nurture discipleship.
- to initiate more intergenerational links (encouraging relationships/mutual appreciation, the expectation that all ages will be included) especially with our attitude towards all age worship, the mix of volunteer teams, the events organised.
- to support the running of Little Footprints, Kairos, Lighthouse, the crèche, M&M's and First Steps.
- to liaise with & to facilitate groups and events such as the school prayer group, the school's worshipping committee, school events, Open the Book, Messy church, Horsham Churches Together,

the pre-school, 'Who Let The Dads Out?', the Fun day, Thanks a Million fundraising, the Flower Festival and other church projects.

The overall purpose of this role is to shape St Mary's to be a welcoming and inviting place for families and children, helping them to feel they belong and enabling them to grow in faith. We want to facilitate the linking up across the different groups.

We try to ensure a balance of worship, fellowship, discipleship, evangelism and service opportunities across all the families & children's ministries.

Laura Fletcher and Fiona Prentice
Families & Children's team

Youth work report

Matt Lee completed his placement and graduated in the summer. At present there is no student youth worker or parish youth worker in place. Nigel (Churchwarden) has applied to St Mellitus College in London and is hoping they will place one of their students with us in 2019-2020. The PCC have decided to continue to look to appoint a parish youth worker despite the uncertainty of the parish review, as it is such a key role in the parish.

TGIFs, the Friday evening youth club for all young people ran up until December but have decided not to run until a youth worker is appointed. Their programme had plenty of variety, including physical games such as football, dodge ball, basketball etc as well as several cooking sessions, craft sessions, quiz night, autumn games etc. with lots of opportunities for the youth and adults to socialise and make relationships. There was no specific Christian input but there was relationship building.

Several of the TGIF youngsters are also in the choir and/or CIA so they will hopefully continue to have input from Neil and Becky and the TGIF adult helpers will still chat & engage with the youngsters if they see them around or in church on a Sunday.

The CIA joined the younger Lighthouse children for the Nativity party in December and young people will be part of the team serving your Lent lunch on March 16th.

There will be a Good Friday Club for older children (aged 8 years+) on 19th April, using drama, YouTube clips, crafts & crazy games to look at the events of Holy Week and consider why? and then rejoice in Easter, Jesus and our life-giving faith.

Parish youth work

The CIA and choir youngsters are encouraged to attend the parish wide Cafe Connect that is held monthly in the Leslie room and led by all 4 churches. Natalie Loveless and David Bouskill have input in the Café Connect. Billy Crook leads the worship.

There are also two cell groups that meet once a month for older & younger young people and are led by Chris Robertson & Damian MacDonald (younger youth) and Richard Herrington & Sarah Lilley (older youth).

Fiona Prentice
GAD team leader from Jan 2019

Little Footprints - Parent, Baby & Toddler Group

Team members: Laura Fletcher; Rebecca Melliard; Caroline Comper; Crystal Keet; Krystle Gass; Lucy Bathgate; Stacey White; Helen Crooks, with hugely valued additional support from volunteer students from the QEII School and also the Mothers' Union.

Objectives for 2018/19

Little Footprints continues to be a very popular parent, baby and toddler group, with new families coming along almost every week. We typically have around 30 families join us at the Barn for a morning of play, toddler crafting, socialising and singing. Little Footprints is a fantastic stepping-stone into life at St. Mary's and is a much-valued outreach service for the local community.

At the session we offer age-appropriate toys for free play, including a separate baby area. There is a different craft and/or sensory activity every week, reflecting seasonal or Christian festivals. The session ends with song

time with musical instruments and we celebrate any children's birthdays. We charge a small entrance fee of £1.50 per family to allow us to cover the running costs of the group.

Toddler Praise is held at the last session of each term, offering a gentle introduction to Christian life, followed by a party activity. At the end of the summer term we hire either a bouncy castle or similar soft play equipment that is always incredibly popular and a great start to the summer holidays. At Christmas and Easter we celebrate in the Church with an age appropriate worship session before returning to the barn for refreshments and craft suitable for each occasion, as well as a small gift for each child, last year we did eggs at Easter and a book at Christmas.

Objectives for the Year 2019/20

For the coming year we aim to continue to provide a valuable outreach facility and offer an informal and relaxed atmosphere to bring local families together at St. Mary's. We are currently focusing on strengthening the links between all the families' offerings at St. Mary's, including Kairos, Lighthouse, the Pre-School, DODI coffee mornings and the M&M's services, and Little Footprints is an integral part of this, as for many it will be their first point of contact with the St. Mary's church family.

It has been wonderful to have Rebecca Tuck visit our sessions on a number of occasions to meet with families and give those who wouldn't normally have direct access to the clergy team, the opportunity to chat with her in an informal, relaxed and friendly setting.

Keeping Little Footprints running takes a significant amount of commitment, time and effort from our wonderful group of volunteers and we are very grateful for all that they do. As the vast majority of those running the group also have little ones of their own to supervise while managing the session, we have been hugely grateful to the volunteers from QEII school and also the Mothers' Union who help us with the tasks that are very difficult to do while also looking after young children, including managing the registering process at the beginning of the session and preparing and serving the refreshments. We are hoping to recruit some more volunteers for the Little Footprints rota over the coming months as we anticipate that a number of our regular, long-standing helpers will be moving on from the group once their own children begin school later this year.

Laura Fletcher
Little Footprints' coordinator

Lighthouse Sunday Club reports

There are 4 groups within Lighthouse

Beamers /crèche: 0 - 3year olds, in the Trinity chapel

Sparklers: 2 + 5 year olds (or not yet ready for the Lasers), in the Leslie room

Lasers: 5 - 11 year olds, in the Barn

CIA 11+, in the clergy vestry

Report from Beamers /crèche

Team members: Sue West, Christine Bright, Hennie Sleeman, Rosemary Redmond, Lucy Bathgate, Hannah Tapp, Becky Struthers, Alex Humphreys, Jay Pearson, Barnie Stewart, Rebecca Lawrence, Zoe Malyon, Marie Gros Lemesre, Crystal Keet, Jane Kirby, Krystle Gass, Rebecca White

Objective: to provide a safe, welcoming, well-equipped space, manned by volunteers, for babies (0-3 year olds) when they get restless during the 9.30 service or at other events.

We also regularly sort, clean and repair all the toys in the crèche, the Leslie room and the Happy Bags with the help of Maureen Muggleton. We would like to thank all the volunteers for their commitment & dedication to this important 'First Step' ministry.

Sue West/Fiona Prentice
Crèche coordinator

Report from Lasers and Sparklers

Team members: Liz Lobb, Ruth Turner, Sarah Kirby, Stef Heathcote, Anne Pilbeam, Ryan Vermaak, Tracy Winter, Beth Heeley, Fiona Prentice, Krystle Gass, Liz Wingett, Celia Hurren, Elly Wickens, Kulod Gazala, Leanne Rogers and Caroline Cottier.

2018 has been another busy year for Lighthouse. Following the theme of the Year of Prayer, we explored talking and listening to God and the way in which prayer equips us in our daily lives. Once again, we were also fortunate to have the Open the Book team come to see us at the Barn.

Our Spring World Vision fundraiser was another Godparents and Grandparent's tea. The children invited their friends and family and enjoyed serving (as well as sampling) the delicious sandwiches and cakes. Looking ahead to 2019, we are planning on learning more about our chosen charity.

2018's Flower Festival prompt was Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro. The Lasers explored the inspiration behind this statue and brainstormed how such a monument could help Christians to pray. We then constructed our own version, complete with moss, gravel path and paper houses made by the Sparklers.

The sun shone for our final end of summer term games in the vicarage garden at the end of July. As their farewell gift to Guy and Jebb, the children decorated a Lighthouse themed canvas and presented it to them in church. The Autumn term was brought to a close by an inspirational visit from Helen Crooks who gave a presentation about her work with Muthengera School in Kenya.

A huge "thank you" to all the dedicated volunteers who have worked so hard this year.

Liz Lobb
Lighthouse Coordinator

Report from CIA (Christians in Action)

Team members: Becky Hawkins, Neil McClaren

Objectives for 2018/19

Last year, in the summer, we said goodbye to our Student youth worker, Matt Lee who we all still miss. Matt provided leadership for the youth activities, arranged extra social activities for the group and coordinated events. Matt, Neil and Becky took it in turns to lead the CIA group on a Sunday where we covered topics of interest and recent news items relevant to the age group. We also looked at what prayer means for us (in the Year of Prayer) and how we pray. There were social occasions and a chance to take part in Parish wide meetings and events, such as the Café Connect and May Camp.

Objectives for the Year 2019/20

This year Neil and Becky have welcomed new young people to CIA (year 7 and 8) and the group has grown. We are excited by the interaction and participation by young people in our discussions. We have moved to meeting twice a month (2nd and 4th Sundays in the Vestry) that is working well, and we are getting a good attendance each time.

At CIA, we explore what our faith means to us in everyday situations, including at school and college, and how we can live life fully as God intended. This year we have looked together at what our goals for the year are and how God can guide and support us. We explored how we use our time, and the role of social media. We are thinking about our identity and being true to ourselves and our Faith. These are themes explored in the 'Year of Vocation' that provides a reference point in this first part of the year.

We have plans to hold a social event later in the year, and support friendships to develop further.

Young people have a chance to join in the Parish wide youth meetings on Sunday evenings and meet with young people from our choir and Horsham churches. We plan to take a group of young people to the Diocesan youth May Camp again where they can get a wider experience of being with other Christians and of worship and fun together.

We have two older young people who are supporting us and taking up roles as volunteer helpers, Billy Crook and Becca Inglis Taylor. A big thanks goes to them for all that they contribute and bring to the group to encourage the others.

Becky Hawkins
CIA coordinator

Serving and Transforming the Community MAP team report

Team members: Kim Edey, Veronica James, Brenda Large, Sheila Pilkington, Hennie Sleeman, Nigel Stalley, Pauline Welch, Guy Bridgewater (team leader until October 2018)

Objectives for 2018/19

Maintain Night-shelter staffing & Horsham Churches Together support

St Mary's has not hosted a night this year, although many people from the congregation have helped as volunteers. It was agreed to offer volunteers for the scheme but to wait until the Church Centre alterations are completed before considering offering accommodation. Regular support for the Food Bank via donations of food continues.

Lent Angels scheme

Lent Angels went well. 15 people from all age groups volunteered and there were 11 requests for jobs. The scheme contributed £525 to Thanks a Million.

Supported Agencies

£1000 was given to each of Anchor Ministries, TeachBeyond and World Vision. Harvest gifts went to Salvation Army's Hope In project, and World Vision benefited from additional collections via the Christmas service pew envelopes and an emergency appeal in the wake of the Indonesian tsunami.

Explore wider engagement possibilities

Jeremy Quin, MP was invited to attend the DCC meeting in September to help church committee identify local needs where St Mary's could be active. He encouraged St Mary's to continue supporting Horsham Churches Together projects, and to partner with other local organisations – of which there are many - rather than attempt to start any new initiatives from scratch.

Support Pre-school with possible expansion: new breakfast and after school clubs, and move to the new Church Centre

Not achieved. The Pre-school now unlikely to move before 2020 at the very earliest. The staff are working on plans for an afterschool Forest School Club next academic year (See full report below).

Objectives for the Year 2019/20

Maintain Night-shelter staffing & Horsham Churches Together support

Support Mission Agencies

The DCC has approved for 2019:

Horsham Matters Youth Project, Family Support Work, TeachBeyond all to receive £1000,

Lent proceeds (Lent Angels, Lent Lunches, collecting boxes) to go to Turning Tides Horsham Project,

Harvest gifts to Salvation Army's Hope In project,

Christmas pew collections for Christian Aid

Possible participation in Horsham District Year of Culture through lunchtime concert series

Support Pre-school with expansion and development as practicable

Explore possibility of developing new small-scale café area in church, pending Church Centre development

Reports from other areas that the team oversees

St. Mary's Pre-School, February 2019

Ofsted Inspection

We had our Ofsted Inspection in September and were rated as 'Good' overall and 'Outstanding' for Personal development, behaviour and welfare.

A few quotes from the report were

'Children's behaviour is exemplary. Staff are consistent at managing behaviour and clearly communicate boundaries and expectations. Children develop exceptional social skills. They share and take turns without prompting and are incredibly kind to one another.'

'Staff support children's emotional needs extremely well.'

'All children make good progress from their starting points, including those who have special educational needs and/or additional needs. Children are well prepared for their transitions to school.'

Intergenerational Activities

Following a very positive visit to the 'Holiday at Home' which the Church ran in July, we have begun to visit the Age Concern Centre at Lavinia House more often just to play and we have arranged to go in for an afternoon every three weeks. This will enable the children to build up relationships with the older people and all benefit.

Link with Nursery School Children in Kenya

Initially following Liz's visit to Kenya in February last year, our linked school did not contact us very much. Since Christmas, however, they have sent us quite a few photos and videos. It has been great to share ideas and for our children and theirs to see each other, noticing things which are very similar and other things which are quite different. A teacher from Kenya is hoping to make a return visit in the near future.

Forest School

We continue to enjoy the fun of Forest School and have plans to expand in some way in the coming year. A further member of staff is going to start the Forest School leader training in the Summer.

Staff

It has been great to have three new members of staff join us in the last year bringing us new skills and creative ideas.

Thanks a Million

Our social team have been steadily raising funds for the Thanks a Million project with discos etc. and we are looking forward to another Fun Run and Fun Day in May – Put it in your diaries now!

Karen Inglis-Taylor and Lai Brooking
Managers

Proclaiming the Gospel MAP team report

Team members:

Pam Dexter, Tim Fifield, Richard Herrington, Marie-Emmanuelle Gros-Lemesre, Zoe Malyon, Alan Mayer (Lead)

This group have recently been reformed and Alan has agreed to take the lead. As a result, there is no report for 2018.

Objectives for 2019

To encourage engagement in the Diocesan Year of Vocation.

Building and Fabric MAP team report

Team members: Paul Kirkbride, Nigel Stalley, Marcus Newton, Michael Lickiss, Steve Benson, Jane Gorrie, Francois van Schalkwyk

The team wish to thank the many members of the Church family who have carried out various tasks and have given generously of their time and talents during the last year, for which we are all very grateful.

The team would like to express special thanks to Jane Gorrie, our Verger, who looks after our Church building on a day to day basis. We wish to express our thanks also to Paul Kirkbride, our Church Centre manager, and the many volunteers, who week in week out assist with the smooth running of our Church and Church Centre.

The team would also like thank all the cleaners who work hard every week to keep our Church and Church Centre clean and tidy. Thanks also go to the flower arrangers who, week in week out, produce beautiful floral displays to enhance our lovely building.

The team would also like to thank the many members of our Church family who helped to put up / take down the Christmas trees and crib and for the refreshments provided by Pam & Martin Dexter. It is great that so many of our Church family work together at events such as these during the year.

During 2018 Warren Jeapes took on the Churchyard grass cutting. We are grateful for his care and attention to detail to keep our Churchyard looking so beautiful last year.

The 'Thanks A Million' (TAM) project teams have continued to meet and look at plans and designs for the re-ordering of the Church South Aisle and the redevelopment of the Church Centre. J. D. Clarke Architects (Eastbourne) are now overseeing both projects. We are hoping that during 2019 we will be able to move both of these projects onto a wider consultation stage. We are very grateful to all the fundraising that took place during 2018 including the very successful 'Fun Run' and the Jazz evenings. We are thankful to Janet Palmart and Glynn Wright who lead the TAM project teams.

In December our Church Architect Simon Dyson (HMDW Architects) completed the quinquennial inspection of our Church. There are no immediate urgent issues that need to be addressed. The key areas that we will need to address over the coming years include repairs to external masonry and repairs to more stained-glass windows. A condition report on the Hoo Memorial is also required.

Projects completed during 2018-2019

Health and Safety - Continues to be regularly reviewed at the Building and Fabric Team meetings.

The annual **testing**, including electrical and PAT has been carried out during the last year.

The annual gutter, gully and valley clean out, together with a clear out of south side drain-pipes which were found to be blocked, took place during the year. This work was carried out by Jeff Blanks.

We continue to monitor the Church **Maintenance plan** and carry out tasks as they arise.

The **Church yard gardening team** (led by Manny Holden) has continued to carry out work keeping our Church Yard tidy. Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped during the year. We are also grateful to HDC for the ground clearance work they have continued to carry out during this year.

A new **sound mixing system** was installed in the sound cabinet during the year which enables the sound system to be controlled remotely around the Church. Thanks to Bram van Huet Linderman who undertook this work for us.

Repair work was carried out to a **stained glass cinqfoil window** in the South Aisle. A Faculty was obtained for the work which was then carried out by Clifford Durant under the direction of our Church Architect.

Repair work was undertaken on the **Bell Tower** stairs where several stair treads were replaced. Work was also carried out in the ringing chamber to repair crumbling mortar. This work was carried out by Jon Tilley under the direction of our Church Architect.

Another Faculty was granted for the installation of a **Hot Air Curtain** over the North entrance door to the Church. This work was carried out by Paine Manwaring and many will agree that the church has been slightly warmer this winter. This work was also overseen by our Church Architect.

An interim Faculty was granted for repair work to **decayed roof rafters** in St. John's Chapel (South Aisle) that had been damaged through insect attack. It is planned to carry out a full repair to the rafters in 2019.

A few Church **floor tiles** were repaired during the year, the work being carried out by Jeff Blanks.

Projects for 2019 and beyond

As our two 'Thanks A Million' project teams move forward into the more detailed planning stages this year, we will need to work hard to raise significant funds to fulfil our vision for St. Mary's Church in its future role in the life of Horsham in the 21st century.

To finish the redecoration of the **Bethany toilets and kitchen**.

Plan to address the points raised in the 2018 Quinquennial Inspection.

To repair the damaged roof rafters in St. John's Chapel in the South Aisle.

Steve Benson / Nigel Stalley
Churchwardens

Reports from other areas that the team oversees

Bellringers Report

In 2018 we rang Sunday mornings and some Sunday evenings when required. We also rang for 16 weddings I am grateful for ringers from other towers who help us out for weddings.

The bells continue to be well maintained by members of the band.

Several of us still help out at Lower Beeding and Rusper who without our help would not be able to ring.

In July we asked the congregation if anyone would like to learn to ring as part of the Ringing Remembers Campaign and invited them to a practice night. Two new recruits started in August and rang for service ringing for the first time in November along with another recruit. I am grateful for the help of other members who help with the teaching. I have recently started another recruit who I was introduced to at the welcome tea.

We again had a Christmas collection instead of sending Christmas Cards and sent £90 to the Chestnut Tree Childrens Hospice

On the social side we have enjoyed a Tower Dinner, BBQ several Breakfasts and have enjoyed several outings and events joining in with other local Towers.

Val Burgess
Tower Captain

Flower arrangers report

We continue to arrange flowers weekly during the year apart from during Advent and Lent. This means that people on the rota are responsible for arranging the flowers three or four times a year and for replacing them as necessary during the days following.

On major festivals we all join together and make up a team to beautify the Church.

We also have three of our arrangers who continue to arrange wedding flowers as and when needed under the direction of Carol Stalley.

At present we have 13 people on the rota – one less than last year following the departure of Jebbs. We do need some more people to join us as some of us are becoming rather aged. If interested in doing some flower arranging even if you have no experience, please do contact me.

I end by thanking everyone on the rota for their help and support during the past year – always making our lovely Church more beautiful.

Sheila Glaysher

Admin and Finance MAP team report

This report is my annual opportunity to thank all the members of this hard-working team. Particular thanks go to Keith Burgess for single handedly managing the budgets and books so expertly, for providing prompt reports to the DCC and for agreeing our St Mary's budgets with the Parish Treasurer. Keith will present the St Mary's Financial accounts separately. We are also grateful to Paul Kirkbride for overseeing the Church Centre during 2018.

Alison Carré, who leads our extensive team of office assistants, is owed a huge vote of thanks for ensuring that all the administration of St Mary's runs smoothly, particularly so during the vacancy without a vicar at the helm. The introduction of the church management system, ChurchSuite, has been successfully implemented due, in no small part, to Alison's many hours of entering all the necessary data and aligning it with all the church teams and groups.

St Mary's continues to take an active interest in the Horsham Churches Together Night Shelter in association with the Worthing charity, Turning Tides, providing a large team of helpers to assist with the project at Brighton Road Baptist church and other churches in Horsham.

There are so many administrative tasks being completed each and every day within St Mary's. It is impossible to list them all, but my thanks go out to anyone who helps keep our church running smoothly.

Steve Benson
Churchwarden

Treasurers' report

The 2018 accounts for the Church, Church Centre and Conservation project are shown separately. The figures are extracts from the pre-audit accounts and shown in more details on the next page.

Church Income

Overall income was £210,875; this was £24,407 better than 2017 and £11,527 better than budget.

Stewardship was up by £10,995 from 2017 thanks to our Stewardship appeal and tax refund up by £7915; out

Sundry Donations and other income increased by £12,894 on 2017

I am grateful to everyone that our Stewardship campaign has delivered an excellent result

Church expenditure

Our expenditure for the Church was £202,523 against budget forecast of £200,447 resulting in a small overspend on budget of £2076; but was less than 2017 by £1075.

The layout of the figures has been changed this year for reasons of confidentiality, so we have a new line for Staff costs which shows the combined costs of staff employed by St Marys.

This is the main reason for variations against amounts shown in 2017; however, we have remained static on our expenditure which is a very good result

Church Outcome

The net outcome was a surplus of £8352 for the Church operation. The budget forecast was a deficit of £1098 and we have done very well to achieve this, in 2017 deficit was £17,130

Church hall and car park

The income overall at £51,342 shows a very good performance although £6584 under budget. The main cause of this is a reduction in income from hall lettings. Car park rentals are on budget.

The expenses at £13,566 have come in at £1241 under budget.

The net outcome is a surplus of £37,726 some £5K under budget & £8441 under 2017.

Consolidated account

This is the combination of the Church and Church Centre accounts, together with the Central costs element.

The Central costs are calculated using a formula which allocated St Mary's 51% of the total central costs and is £20,184.

The overall outcome is a surplus of £25,944. The budget forecast was for a deficit of £2331.

In 2017 the surplus was £6140.

Other funds

St Mary's Fabric fund total at end 2018 is £60,120.

The TAM Church Centre fund is £31,762. The TAM Appeal fund (St. Mary's) is £1542 - this is available where required for Church or Church Centre.

We have £25,911 (from legacies) available for use on Church Fabric.

Conservation Project

The 1st phase of work on the Church building is almost complete with work being finalised on the Tower safety repairs. Planning is underway for the South Aisle refurbishment.

K. Burgess

Honorary Treasurer

**ST. MARY'S INCOME AND EXPENDITURE extract from full accounts
FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2018**

	2018	BUDGET 2018	Variance	Budget 2019	2017	2016
INCOME						
Christian Stewardship	£139,195	£145,784	-£6,589	£155,000	£128,200	£131,789
Open collection	£15,500	£15,772	-£272	£12,614	£15,915	£14,400
Tax refund	£33,910	£29,405	£4,505	£28,000	£25,995	£28,757
Sundry donations	£7,770	£0	£7,770	£0	£6,504	£20,156
Legacies vat etc	£0			£0	£2,691	£10,000
Other income, weddings	£14,500	£8,388	£6,112	£11,000	£2,872	£6,443
Total	£210,875	£199,349	£11,526	£206,614	£186,468	£211,545

EXPENDITURE						
Parish share	£66,697	£66,697	£0	£68,108	£75,085	£71,936
Clergy housing / expenses	£5,514	£4,333	-£1,181	£4,600	£5,310	£9,203
Utilities & maintenance	£36,208	£36,624	£416	£35,536	£26,941	£33,395
Verger /housing & costs	£495	£1,600	£1,105	£2,000	£16,410	£11,902
Organist/organ & choir	£2,968	£4,400	£1,432	£4,000	£17,265	£15,891
MAP teams /sanctuary	£3,944	£6,450	£2,506	£5,100	£3,422	£13,555
Sundry expenses	£4,884	£1,600	-£3,284	£2,700	£4,094	£9,911
church office	£12,914	£10,213	-£2,701	£12,200	£33,372	£28,000
External mission support	£3,682	£4,000	£318	£4,000	£3,479	£5,705
Childrens & Youth work	£1,403	£2,232	£829	£1,532	£17,903	£13,865
Staff costs	£63,814	£62,298	-£1,516	£66,606		
TOTAL	£202,523	£200,447		£206,382	£203,598	£213,363

Net surplus/deficit in year	£8,352	-£1,098		£232	£17,130	£1,817
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THE CHURCH CENTRE / CAR PARK

<i>Income</i>	2018	Budget 2018	Variance	Budget 2019	2017	2016
Rent Car Park	£35,502	£35,232	£270	£35,502	£35,232	£36,278
Rent Hall	£15,840	£22,424	-£6,584	£22,986	£21,927	£22,482
Total income	£51,342	£57,656	-£6,314	£58,488	£57,159	£58,760
<i>Expenditure</i>						
Rates/repairs/utilities	£13,566	£14,807	-£1,241	£14,644	£10,942	£15,809
Surplus/deficit	£37,776	£42,849	-£5,073	£43,844	£46,217	£42,951

Consolidated account

Net surplus / deficit	£46,128	£23,220		£44,076	£29,087	£20,774
Central costs	£20,184	£25,551			-£22,947	£20,360
Balance	£25,944	-£2,331			£6,140	£414

Safeguarding report

Any safeguarding issues/incidents

There have been no allegations or reports of abuse made and no cause for concern raised that I am aware of. I have processed enhanced DBS certificates for all volunteers on the transport team as transporting to hospital/GP appointments etc is classed as regulated activity even if only one occasion. The majority of these certificates are completed now. The Diocese also requires these volunteers to complete Safeguarding Training, so they have been added to the flow on Churchsuite and informed of relevant courses.

Numbers of DBS checks completed

March – Sept 2018 Caroline processed 23 DBS checks

Sept 2018 – Feb 2019 I have processed 17 DBS checks.

There are 2 urgent outstanding DBS checks. They have been contacted and sent regular reminders. I am waiting for them to complete the online form.

Number of attendees at C1 and C2 training courses

C1 – 78 volunteers with up to date safeguarding training

42 volunteers needing to update or do their safeguarding training. Some are booked onto a Diocese course in March. I regularly remind people this needs to be completed. They have a choice of a Diocese run course or online training and they have all been given information about both.

C2 - 4 staff/volunteers with up to date C2 safeguarding training

There are several of us due to have C2 Diocese Training in April. I will be contacting all the other leaders required to complete C2 training and informing them of available courses if they unable to attend in April.

Confirmation that we are compliant with Diocese Safeguarding guidelines

I use the Diocese guidelines for safer recruiting and have attended Diocese training for lead recruiters in the Autumn.

I have used Simple Quality Projects level 1 for support. I have sent packs to the leaders of all the children's activities/groups including servers, choir and Bell ringers and Pastoral visitors with all the up to date guidance and information. The information provided to the leaders in the packs makes it very clear what they are required to do to keep the children/vulnerable adults in their care safe.

I have used Thirtyone:eight's online support and the interactive eligibility guidance to make sure all the volunteers who need to have a DBS have one in place with the right level of cover and also keep a record of safeguarding training. I send out regular reminders to all volunteers/staff who need to complete or update their training or renew their DBS. I have up to date lists of volunteers. The leaders of all groups know what the recruitment process is and that no one is added to rotas without contacting me first. DBS certificates are renewed every 5 years and safeguarding training is required to be updated every 3 years.

The main church groups and volunteers requiring DBS checks are Nursery, Creche, Lighthouse, open the book team, CIA, TGI (when back up and running), Holiday Club, Little footprint leaders, Choir Leaders, Tower Captains, Licensed Lay Ministers, Churchwardens, Lead servers, anyone involved in teaching or training under 18s, some parish wide youth work, some Pastoral Care volunteers depending on role and the Transport team. Each role will have a job description which is currently being worked on and all decisions will be based on individual roles and frequency.

Nigel and I have liaised with the St. Mary's Pre-school to ensure their safeguarding policy is up to date and all their volunteers and staff have up to date DBS certificates and up to date safeguarding training. The St. Mary's Pre-school will monitor this. I will send out reminders when necessary and process any DBS certificates for them. We use the Parish of Horsham Team Ministry Safeguarding Protection Policy dated April 2015.

Rachel Tomlinson

St. Mary's Safeguarding officer