

Parish of Farnham

RECTOR OF FARNHAM

Vacancy715412

CHURCHWARDENS

Andrew Partridge,711992

Steven Knowles,725369

ACTING HONORARY PRIESTS

Revd David Adams.....726888

Revd James Anderson710728

Revd Patrick O'Ferrall.....724498

Canon Nigel Nicholson 01428 724979

LICENCED LAY MINISTERS

Rob Thain07966595156

Andrew Partridge.....711992

PASTORAL ASSISTANTS

Mary Haines716608

Angela Wingfield711795

CHILDREN'S CHURCH CO-ORDINATOR Helena Adams.....719320

HON SECRETARY OF PCC Barbara Haworth,.....713099

HON TREASURER Matthew Elliott,715061

COVENANTS SECRETARY Richard Haines.....716608

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC & ORGANIST Stephen Lacey 01420 563202

ASSISTANT ORGANIST Richard Marshall714987

ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER Pat Goffin733396

CAPTAIN OF BELLRINGERS Jon Hetherington715412

ST. FRANCIS' HALL BOOKING Parish Office715412

FLOWER GUILD Sue Aston.....716888

CATHEDRAL LINK Anne Butterworth712719

PARISH ARCHIVIST Yvonne Ruddick.....782983

FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S Mike Barter.....722145

ST ANDREW'S CE INFANT SCHOOL Monique Clark716305

POTTERS GATE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL Jayne Venables715619

St Andrew's Parish Office

Administrator Alison JonesTel: 715412

Upper Church Lane Farnham GU9 7PW

Opening Hours: Monday-Thursday 9.30am -12.30pm



St Andrew's St Francis' PARISH OF FARNHAM

Annual Report 2015/16



Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Sunday 24th April 2016 at 11.15am
St Andrew's Church

these; the series of children's parties organised by Mary Haines, whom we also thank profusely; and the new children's choir, 'Voices', set up by Liz Lee. All these activities feature a large number of helpers providing refreshments of all kinds, especially at the children's parties – another huge vote of thanks to you all: you know who you are!

Yet another route by which we touch and minister to our local community is that of the 'occasional offices' – weddings, baptisms and funerals. We had a heart-warmingly large number of baptisms last year (35) – and here we are immensely grateful to Angela Wingfield, who carried out the preparation and preliminary visiting for them all. We have also had some delightful weddings for couples who joined our congregation in preparation for their wedding. Finally, we were honoured to welcome relatives and friends to the funerals of members of our congregation who died last year: Dick Crowther, Thora Carroll and Molly Dinwiddie. We have come to rely very considerably on, and greatly benefit from, the services of Revd Mark Nicholls on these occasions, and we offer him our very grateful thanks.

Now turning to the day-to-day maintenance of our pattern of weekday and Sunday worship, we again thank profusely our 'Group of Four': Revds James Anderson and Patrick O'Ferrall resident in our parish, and Revd David Adams and Canon Nigel Nicholson from beyond, who between them have covered the great bulk of our services. Many of them have, in addition, had to contend with very significant health issues in either themselves or in close family members over the past year, so we are doubly grateful for their determination to continue to support us so stalwartly in our time of need. We remain grateful, too, for the continuing and stalwart support from others beyond the bounds of our parish: Bishop Chris Herbert and Canon Hazel Whitehead come particularly to mind. And finally, we remain profoundly grateful to all those others who have maintained the physical and spiritual fabric of St Andrew's over the past year: to those who represent us at the Deanery and Diocesan Synods who have been valiantly considering new initiatives from Bishop Andrew; to those running study groups and children's church; to those maintaining rotas for unlocking the church and serving at the altar; to our choir and organist for lifting our hearts at our Eucharists; to those taking communion out to the housebound across the parish; to those tidying the churchyard, fixing broken locks, tirelessly cleaning the church, washing the linen, polishing the brass – the list goes on. Once again, I feel we can all of us look back with no little pleasure at the continuing life of our church community over the past year, and now turn with anticipation, and with trust in our loving Father, to what the future holds for us.

Andrew Partridge & Richard Haines

Three months after our last meeting, at the end of July, came the turbulent time of Simon's trial, and the shock of his subsequent conviction and sentencing. From the perspective of the parish this did not prove as much of a conclusion as might have been expected. Concerns about a possible appeal delayed the church's disciplinary procedure and the post of Rector was only formally declared vacant at the end of December. Thereafter, though, things moved comparatively quickly, with the 'Parish Profile' being submitted for review by the Archdeacon in January 2016, and advertisements being placed in February.

On a more mundane note, a few months before our last meeting the attempted sale of St Mary's, Compton, fell through due to the buyer pulling out – at the cost of a lost deposit. Further interest quickly arose, however, and the chapel was finally sold successfully in July. In November the purchaser obtained planning permission to convert the chapel into a small house, but at time of writing work is yet to start in earnest.

On a much brighter note, the latter part of 2015 saw two major events in which the church flourished in its place at the heart of the community of Farnham – the Parish Fayre and the Christmas Tree festival. The Parish Fayre, masterminded by Meg Daniels with able assistance from Geoff and Mary Riggs and a host of others, was a vintage event – praised by a visiting entertainer, 'Mr Giant', as the best of its type that he had attended. Its takings were substantial, at just over £6000, but the wonderful sense of cooperation within the church, and the general atmosphere of goodwill that it generated, would make it worthwhile if the takings were only £600.

Even more successful by way of involving and engaging the local community was the magnificent Christmas Tree festival, pioneered by Sue Aston and supported by a team of which included, amongst others, Meg and the Riggs again! A truly enormous vote of thanks is due to all concerned with both events. Preparations for the festival were underway about a year in advance and the whole thing was a triumph of organisation and planning before which one stands open-mouthed. A huge number of local bodies – schools, businesses, clubs, care organisations – and individuals and families contributed enthusiastically, and the overall number of visitors topped 3000, many of whom had not entered the church before. In fact, what with the Christmas Tree festival, two performances of Christmas plays by both our church schools, and the Christmas services, the total footfall in St Andrew's over December was of the order of 6,000. One is left feeling that St Andrew's is definitely 'on the radar' of a sizeable proportion of the local community.

Further activities that have contributed significantly to this reaching out beyond the borders of our normal congregation include the monthly organ recitals which have continued throughout the year, and which regularly achieve an attendance of more than fifty – grateful thanks to Stephen Lacey for organising

PARISH OF FARNHAM **St. Andrew's, St. Francis'**

The Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on
Sunday, 24th April 2016 at 11.15am in St Andrew's Church

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Secretary reads the notice convening the meeting
3. Election of Churchwardens

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting will follow The Annual Vestry Meeting.
Both meetings will be chaired by Canon Nigel Nicholson.

AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| 1. | Secretary reads the notice convening the meeting | |
| 2. | Minutes of last Annual Meeting
& Matters arising from the Minutes | 2 |
| 3. | Report on Electoral Roll | |
| 4. | Election of members to serve on Deanery Synod and PCC | |
| 5. | Election of Sidesmen and Sideswomen | |
| 6. | Treasurer's Report | 5 |
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| 10. | Reports of the Sub-committees: | |
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Please note that Financial Statements and Accounts are now available on separate sheets from the Church or Parish Office

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting and Annual Parochial Church Meeting

held on Sunday, 19th April 2015, 11.15 am
at St Andrew's Church, Farnham

Present: Canon Nigel Nicholson (Chair)
Andrew Partridge (Churchwarden)
Steven Knowles (Retiring Churchwarden)
Matthew Elliott (Hon. Treasurer)
Barbara Haworth (Hon. Secretary)
and at least 59 lay members of the congregation

Apologies for absence were received from Mike and Stella Barter, Anne Butterworth, Barbara Milam, and Yvonne Ruddick.

In the absence of an incumbent, the congregation was happy to accept Canon Nigel Nicholson as Chair of the two meetings.

1 Churchwardens

Steven Knowles stood down as churchwarden after six years in post and Richard Haines was elected unanimously to take over from him. Andrew Partridge, having completed his first year, was re-elected. Nigel Nicholson proposed a huge vote of thanks to them all for past, present and future work in this extremely demanding and time-consuming role.

2 Minutes of Vestry Meeting and APCM held on 6th April 2014

The Minutes of these meetings were accepted and signed as an accurate record and there were no matters arising.

3 Report on Electoral Roll

Pat Goffin reported that there had been 230 people on the electoral roll at the beginning of the year and that, due to deaths, people moving away and new applications, the total now stood at 227.

4 Election of new Deanery Synod and PCC Members

There were two vacancies on Deanery Synod due to Richard Haines and David Henly standing down after one year of their three-year term, and Canon Geoffrey Riggs and Robert Thorburn were elected for the remaining two years, joining Elise Marlow.

Three PCC members stood down after their three-year term, namely Joanna Elliott, Mary Haines and David Henly. Five nominations had been received: Alan Butler, Meg Daniels, Ceri Myles, Jonathan Seale and Jack Wingfield (previously an ex-officio member) and all were duly elected, thus increasing our total of elected members to 12.

FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S

The Friends of St Andrew's was formed in 1997 as a natural progression following on from the successful Conservation and Development Appeal. It was necessary to encourage the wider community to become involved in ensuring the building is preserved and enhanced for future generations and encourage greater use of the building by the community.

To a large extent these objectives are being achieved although we continue to encourage new membership and for members to become involved in our yearly activities. We do have a set pattern of yearly events and 2015 saw a consolidation of those events.

The year started with the Quiz Evening which attracted a good attendance with supper prepared by Jenny de Quervain. The Annual General Meeting followed when we were pleased to receive the Dean of Guildford Cathedral, The Very Rev'd Dianna Gwilliams who spoke on her journey from California to Guildford. The Summer Lunch always attracts around sixty members and gives members to meet one another in a very convivial atmosphere, we were able to welcome Sir Ray and Lady Tindle who are members.

The Summer Outing saw a visit to Winchester on a glorious summer day, firstly to the Hospital of St Cross where a light lunch was served, then on to Winchester College in the afternoon. The intrepid few walking the river Itchen path from St Cross to the College.

The Autumn Concert was shared equally by the Farnham Brass Band and the Community Choir, Voices Together, the band opened the evening with 'Cobbett Prelude and March' which had been commissioned by the Graham family in memory of Les and Gwen Graham who were founders of the band and Les was for several years our verger. The evening was drawn to a close with a rousing rendition of Finlandia by Jean Sibelius.

Following tradition Tina Austin took on the task of selling our specially prepared Christmas Puddings.

Our finances are sound and we look to discussions with our new Rector on how we might help with any essential church needs.

The FoStA committee consists of - Tina Austin, Diana Martin, Patricia Powell, Mike Barter, Michael Blower, Brian Martin and Dennis Stone.

Mike Barter Chairman

CHURCHWARDENS' REVIEW

It is rather tantalising to be writing this in the knowledge that, by the time of the Annual Parochial Meeting, we will have interviewed our candidates and, God willing, selected someone to take up the post of Rector of Farnham. But at time of writing that is in the future, as we turn our gaze backwards to survey what has been an eventful year.

The school has also undergone many changes to its building. Our roof began to be replaced but with the discovery of bats in our old roof, this was put on hold until the bats finished their nesting season. We hope to catch up on their developments in the spring.

Our reception area has been completely transformed with a purpose built outdoor learning environment. The children are enjoying their new space and learning actively daily now.

Finally we are encouraging our children to be more active in their learning and are working hard to have more outdoor learning. It will help to support the health and well-being of our young children to have an engaging approach to how they learn which is stimulating.

I have had such a wonderful start to my time at Potters Gate School. It has been made very special by the ability of the children to be respectful, determined, responsible and most of all happy.

Jayne Venables, Headteacher

ST ANDREW'S C of E INFANT SCHOOL

2015 saw some changes for St Andrews. Sadly, the School said a fond farewell to Jayne Venables and welcomed myself as Head Teacher. I have been overwhelmed with the warmth and support staff, children and parents have shown me. This truly is a community school.

We continue to work closely with the Church, sharing our Harvest and St Andrew's celebrations with our parents in Church services. During our Harvest Festival celebrations we collected 86.6kg of food for the Farnham Foodbank.

Our Reception children in Robins Class enjoyed a visit to St Andrew's Church during their first term in school. This was an opportunity for them to explore inside the church, looking at different aspects. The visit proved to be a popular first trip out for our new children.

The children at St Andrew's thoroughly enjoyed The Christmas Tree Exhibition. We all visited it and were amazed by the different trees.

Our Christmas performance, 'Hey Ewe', was attended by many parents, grandparents and members of our community. The children celebrated the birth of Jesus through the eyes of a curious sheep on the hill. The performances were outstanding, and I certainly was an extremely proud Head Teacher!

Year 1 children continue to have Godly Play sessions, led by Helena Adams. The children engage in stories from the Bible, exploring their meanings using objects, symbols and words.

Projects such as these continue to show the strong links between St Andrew's Infant School and St. Andrew's Church. I would like to thank Mr Partridge for his continued support and especially opening the church for us!

Monique Clark - Headteacher

Nigel thanked those who had served on these bodies – a very important part of parish life – and for their contributions.

5 Election of Sidesmen and Sideswomen

Agreed that election was not necessary as the churchwardens keep an ongoing list of sidespeople, as displayed in the church porch. More volunteers are always welcome, however.

6 Treasurer's Report

Honorary Treasurer, Matthew Elliott reported that the full Financial Statements document had been available at the rear of the church, together with his summary in the Annual Report 2014/15, for the last two weeks and he hoped that everyone had had a chance to look at them. He would therefore not go through the accounts in detail but merely summarise the "big picture".

Unrestricted income for the year was approximately £145,141 and expenditure £142,451, resulting in a surplus of just under £2,690, a better position than anticipated. Running costs were now £390 per day, down on last year. He summarised the major contributions to funds and major expenses, detailed in his reports.

The sale of St Mary's chapel had unfortunately not been completed, although we retain the 10% deposit of £19,500. We are in the process of remarketing the chapel and have already received a verbal offer, so are hopeful of a satisfactory outcome. It should be noted that the eventual proceeds will be for 'unrestricted' use and so far nothing has been included in the accounts.

Some questions were raised resulting in Matthew promising that the PCC would look at increasing the organist's stipend and the range of our annual charitable giving.

Matthew thanked Anne Mellow for preparing the accounts.

The accounts as submitted had already been accepted and adopted by the PCC and the congregation were unanimous in their support.

7 Appointment of Auditors

Matthew thanked Suzanne Carver for auditing the accounts for 2014 and it was unanimously agreed to appoint her for 2015.

8-10 Reports on the proceedings of the Parochial Church Council, Deanery Synod and Diocesan Synod (pp 8-10)

Canon Nicholson thanked Barbara Haworth, Elise Marlow and Jenny Grant for their reports all of which were received and accepted. There were no questions.

11 Reports of the Sub-Committees (pp 10-19)

Canon Nicholson thanked everyone for their reports, all of which were received and accepted, and emphasised the importance of these groups and sub-committees to church life: he thanked everyone who

was involved. He also drew attention to the Parish Magazine, which was such a vital organ of communication and outreach to St Andrew's, and thanked Richard Poppe and the editorial team for their continuing hard work publishing it every month. Thanks also to Rob Thorburn for 'gingering up' the website.

12-13 Music & Tower and Bells

Canon Nicholson thanked Jane Lacey and Carl da Costa for their reports, which were received and accepted, and thanked everyone involved for their wonderful music and the joy it brought to us all.

14 Church Schools

Canon Nicholson thanked Vanessa Bingham, Acting Headteacher of Potters Gate, and Jayne Venables, Headteacher of St Andrew's, for their reports, which were received and accepted.

15 Friends of St Andrew's (FoStA)

Canon Nicholson thanked Chairman Mike Barter for his report, which was received and accepted, and for the great work FoStA was doing.

16 Churchwardens' Review

Outgoing Warden Steven Knowles thanked Andrew Partridge for writing the review which, together with the preceding reports, he felt aptly covered the preceding year.

17 Conclusion

Summing up, Nigel Nicholson stated he was delighted to be back at St Andrew's, for which he has always had great fondness, as we trained him! Standing on the touchline, he has been amazed at how we are coping, with so many people involved in doing things so successfully and keeping St Andrew's alive and well in the prolonged absence of an incumbent. He thanked everyone for their input, many of whom had been mentioned already, and especially those 'behind the scenes' whose hard work was not so visible. He then handed over to Andrew Partridge to make our formal presentation of a sundial, inscribed with the words '*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all*', to Steven Knowles, retiring after six years' service as Churchwarden, with our most grateful thanks. The meeting ended with prayers at 12.35 pm.

Barbara Haworth, PCC Secretary

TREASURERS REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2015

BACKGROUND

This report covers the Financial Year ending 31 December 2015. The accounts

The church clock has been behaving erratically over the last year. Occasionally it stops and depending on the weather it runs fast or slow. It is thought there may be a problem with the regulator so it will be sent away for an overhaul.

Paul Whewell, Tower Secretary

MUSIC

This year the choir have remained a steadfast support to the Parish in the weekly worship. We have extended our repertoire to ensure that every week, where possible, we provide a relevant and seasonal anthem. On Passion Sunday we sang "Jesu, Grant Me This I Pray" by Percy Whitlock.

The choir work very hard and are very dedicated, and for this I am extremely grateful. My thanks go to; Linda who is fulfilling her role as librarian and doing an excellent job, also Lesley, who looks after all of the finances.

The Christmas tree festival was a great success and everyone in the choir was involved in making the decorations for the choir tree. It brought out our latent creative talents and we were delighted and surprised to be voted 3rd prize by the public.

The Music while you Munch concerts continue to be well supported with an average attendance of 60+. We have booked various organists until the end of the year with some asking to come back! It is proving to be very popular. Many thanks to Meg, Maureen and others for providing the refreshments.

I would also like to say thank you my lovely wife Jane, who keeps the choir up to date by taking care of many of the admin. duties.

Like everyone else in the church, we look forward to working with the new Rector, which we hope will bring much longed for stability at St Andrews.

Stephen Lacey

POTTERS GATE C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

Another busy year has passed by at Potters Gate Primary School, with many changes having taken place. As the new head teacher I started after Easter along with a new full time deputy head teacher, Carol Trottier. For us it has been an exciting year making changes to improve and develop the school to the standard the children deserve.

We have developed further links with St. Andrew's Church and held our infant Nativity there at Christmas time. It was wonderful to see so many people from the community gathered in the church watching and supporting their children. Our evening performance was quite magical and set us all up in the Christmas spirit. The school also performed in the church at the St. Andrew's Fair and during some of the Christmas services.

Godly Play has also been introduced to Potters Gate, with a further link from the Children's Church supporting us in providing this. Helena Adams works with Potters Gate weekly carrying out Godly Play sessions for our infant children.

All this would never have happened without the permission and support of the churchwardens through, what turned out to be a very difficult year. The congregation's support was amazing and was enjoyed by all who helped, and because of the wonderful response and the number of people who have asked to take part in the next festival, holding another festival in 2017 must be something worth thinking about.

Sue Aston

St Andrew's Cleaning Team

This year a few of us have tried very hard to keep St Andrews looking clean and bright. A small team have a regular job each which is so good and we must say a heart felt thank to them. Having said that there are also dear souls who do cleaning every so often, so I hesitate to name names.

However I must tell you that Rodney comes very regularly to vacuum the floors, window ledges and anything else that will receive the machine!!! (he has a full time job looking after some men with severe learning difficulties)

The same problem rears its head every time I mention Cleaning and yes you have guessed ----The Glass!!! There is a lot of it, so if any one can come up with an idea for coping with the task please let me know!!! My idea is for people to adopt a window and I'm working on it. Come and clean when you can!!!

Lesley Whympier

TOWER, BELLS AND CLOCK

2015 was a very successful year for the tower, but this success was marked by sadness at the loss of Dick Crowther, one of our elderly ringers who could always be depended on for Sunday morning and wedding ringing. His memorial service was well attended and the ringing by the local band members and others from the district and further afield was of a very good standard. The local band rang for Remembrance day when the bells were also half muffled and some of the ringing used the Dorian mode, bells 2-9, that introduces an appropriate minor scale. There are moves afoot to further augment the bells to give other interesting tonal sequences, but this must be left for some other time.

We were able to sound the bells for every Christmas service and are usually able to ring all ten bells for the Sunday morning service.

The band supported the Church Fête by providing tours to the top of the tower including an explanation and demonstration of bell ringing and the opportunity for visitors to have a go. The day realised a family of new recruits who have so far continued to return each week for further practice. We are fortunate to have the services of Mark Place, Head of Music at More House School, who coordinates and leads the regular teaching.

Under the expert guidance of Mark Place and our Tower Captain Jonathan Hetherington we all feel we are making good progress with our ringing.

are presented in a slightly different format from previously as they are now prepared under different regulations. However, we have again added detailed notes to aid understanding.

Our income and expenditure is divided into Restricted and Unrestricted Funds. 'Restricted' money can only be used for certain activities, such as for the Conservation and Development (C&D) work. 'Unrestricted' relates to our day to day working expenses (our general or operational account) which pays for the day to day running of the ministry of St Andrew's church.

Statement of Financial Activities

Income

During 2015 our unrestricted income was £158,259 against £145,141 in 2014. The key changes in the regular giving by the congregation are as follows:

	2015	2014	Difference
Giving by Bankers Order & envelope scheme	£64,177	£59,914	+ £4,263
Cash collections (in the plate)	£13,838	£13,208	+ £630
Gift Day	£4,906	£7,592	- £2,686
Gift Aid recovery	£17,756	£17,427	+ £329

The Parish Fair continues to be an important source of funds for the parish. In 2015 the Fayre raised a superb £6,041, down only very slightly on the previous year. New in 2015 was the Christmas Tree Festival which raised £4,517. Both events are a huge credit to the teams involved and a wonderful aid to our income.

Total income from investments was £5,225 (£4,750 in 2014). The Church of England's Central Board of Finance (CBF) are the Trustees of most of our financial investments.

In 2015 we received £20,786 in letting income, much of which was from 6 High Park Road. We need to remember that when we have a curate we will lose this income.

Expenditure

In 2015 our total unrestricted expenditure was £151,154 (£142,451 in 2014) partly due to the increased Parish Share and running costs.

In 2015 we spent £23,652 on repairs and office running costs against £19,774 in

2014. Further works are ongoing now and are planned and budgeted for in 2016.

Our largest expenditure is our Parish Share which was £76,650 against £73,702 in 2014. The Diocese had planned an increase for 2016 but has agreed to forego this, given our situation.

The net result was that in our unrestricted funds, our income exceeded our expenditure by £7,105 in 2015. A good position and much better than we had anticipated.

Balance Sheet

Fixed Assets

These comprise 6 High Park Road and our investments held with and managed by the CBF. Our total fixed assets are noted as being £134,952. However within this figure is 6 High Park Road. Its 'book' value is £19,344 but in December 2011 it was valued at £450,000 and may be worth more today. This remains the Parish's principal realisable asset.

Current Assets

At year end our total net current assets (largely held in various interest earning accounts) amounted to £299,693 up on the £91,302 in 2014. The increase is almost entirely due to the sale proceeds from St Mary's (see below).

Restricted Funds

The PCC has responsibility for some 'Restricted' funds of which the key ones are:

Grahame Nash Will Trust: The parish is the beneficiary of one third of the income from this trust for which the Diocese is the custodial trustee. One third of the capital of the trust rests with the PCC. At year end this amounted to £118,800 (£118,262 in 2014). These funds are managed by CBF.

Charity for an Assistant Curate and other Ecclesiastical Purposes: In 1967 the Charity Commissioners agreed that capital from the charity could be used to defray costs for clergy house improvements but with a recoupment of that capital over a period of 30 years through investment with CBF (Church Board of Finance), administered by the CCLA. We had £2,599 in this account as at the end of 2015.

Conservation & Development fund: As at the end of 2015 this fund amounted to £24,744.

All monies in our 'Restricted' funds and the bulk of our general 'Unrestricted' fund is held and managed by the CCLA, as required by the Diocese.

WORSHIP SUPPORT

St Andrew's Serving Team

The serving team is a vibrant group tasked with organising the communion table and choreography of the services at St Andrews. We ensure there is communion wine and wafers available, preparing and maintaining the many vessels we use in our sacred worship and ensuring all is where it should be throughout our services. Periodically we rehearse the services to ensure we all know where to be at the right time and all this ensures our services follow our guidelines seamlessly, making, we hope, the best environment in which to worship. This year we have been able to welcome two new members to the team, Hugh Alford and James Gunner. We always welcome other new members to the team, particularly younger folk. It is an essential part of the service helping the server to more fully understand and become immersed in the act of worship. It's not all work as we do meet for social events, so if want to explore your vocation and service to God please do come and chat with a member of the team.

Steven Knowles

Eucharistic Assistants

We often talk about the priest 'celebrating' Communion. More precisely the priest presides' while all should celebrate together. Other people will take various parts in the Service, both liturgical and practical. In essence the role of the Eucharistic or Communion Assistant is to assist the priest in the distribution of the bread and wine at the service, but equally to assist the congregation to receive from God in the sacrament.

We normally need four chalice assistants for each service and our current team of ten qualified people is just adequate to sustain this, but we would be delighted to hear from anyone else who feels called to this form of ministry.

Flower Guild

Once again, the congregation's generous donations over the past year have enabled the church to be decorated for Christmas, Easter, as well as all year, without calling on the much stretched church funds. Donating money for church flowers in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion also helps the flower fund.

We are, as ever, short of weekly help with the flower arranging and extra help at festival-time is always a bonus. If anyone would like to help, please contact me. The highlight of the year was of course the wonderful Christmas Tree Festival. For all who were involved and those who came to the Festival, it was magical. From the start of planning, the festival committee aimed to make this a "community event" and hoped to involve not only those who are regulars, but people, businesses and organisations who are not connected with the church in any way, and in some cases, had never been inside the church. This was very successful and the feed-back was quite remarkable, many wanting to have another Festival as soon as possible.

The properties the group are responsible for include:-
St Andrews Church, St Francis Church, parish rooms, churchyards, St Francis hall and associated properties at 6 High Park Road, 1 and 2 Church Cottages.
Areas of responsibility are listed as:-
maintenance, cleaning, security, health and safety.

Maintenance

St Andrews: The Quinquennial report will always drive our planned works and in the last report urgent work had been identified as necessary to the stonework around various windows. The urgent aspects of this work have been completed and other recommended work is being slowly progressed.

This year is a scheduled Quinquennial inspection year. The date is yet to be fixed.

Comments were made about the stonework which is clad to the tower and the cracks in the tower fabric. We completed a survey of the tower with the church architect and a structural engineer. No immediate repairs are necessary, but monitoring is necessary as an ongoing measure.

During the course of the autumn and winter all the drains and gutters were cleared as is normal for good maintenance of the fabric.

We also managed with the kind help of a work group, to achieve another thorough internal clean of all ledges and where accessible higher roof levels during the clean in readiness for Christmas.

Planned work within the church is for the repair of and some replacement to the internal finish to the north wall. It is not possible to protect this wall from external damp and over a number of years it does deteriorate.

External metalwork will also have security marking fluid applied again during the dry season.

Parish Rooms

To remedy the damp in the lower parish room, the walls have now been re-plastered, the external drains inspected, repaired where necessary and a new drain laid at the foot of the wall to ensure all rainwater is correctly drained away. The end wall has also been re-pointed.

We will replace the heating boiler and repair the heating system this spring, fit new carpet to the main room we hope re-decorate.

Church Cottages.

The extensive work necessary to the interior and exterior of the cottages are now drawing to a close. No 2 cottage now is completely redecorated throughout and fitted with a new bathroom, kitchen, blinds and carpets.

St Francis.

We completed an external re-paint of St Francis church during this last year.

We are a small team and new members are welcome to join us in this role. Please speak with me or any other team member if you wish to discuss helping in any way.

Steven Knowles

St Mary's

The major financial event during 2015 was the sale of St Mary's chapel. You may recall that the previous purchaser offered £195,000, paying a 10% deposit, but then failed to complete. However we were entitled to retain the deposit.

Last Spring we remarketed the property and in the summer completed the sale to another purchaser for £190,000. The total proceeds (including the retained deposit, but after legal costs) was £198,831, against the original guide valuation of £125-150,000. The process saw some challenges and the PCC had to navigate through some local opposition and press commentary. However we complied in full with the Charity Commission rules and had the Diocese's support throughout.

Summary

As always I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued financial support of St Andrew's. In 2015, despite the challenges around our lack of incumbent, we had a good year financially and we are well placed for our new incumbent's arrival.

Having sold St Mary's we have a significant capital sum which can be used by the Parish. During discussions within the Finance Committee and the PCC we agreed that the money should not just be used to maintain our buildings and support our annual expenses but, rather, should be used to further the growth and development of the Parish and our church in Farnham. Various ideas were considered but it was agreed that decisions around this would be deferred until our new incumbent has arrived. So this sum has been 'ring fenced' from our normal day to day operating income and expenditure at present.

Given this, in 2016, we have set a budget that forecasts a deficit because of planned repair works to various of our buildings. This year we are also preparing for the Quinquennial which is likely to lead to further expenditure.

During 2016 we will be launching the new Planned Giving Scheme, which many in the PCC are currently trialling. Our expectation is that this will greatly simplify the Gift Aid collection and so free some resources.

Finally, can I thank the whole finance team: Anne Mellow for her work to maintain and prepare the accounts, Lynn Hutchings for faithfully counting and banking all the cash every week, and Richard Haines for his work as Covenants Secretary, dealing with donations and Gift Aid recovery.

*Matthew Elliott
Honorary Treasurer*

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

Since the APCM last April we have had ten PCC meetings plus a meeting with the Archdeacon in July to review Simon Reynolds' trial, a Vacancy meeting in January and 'Section 11' meeting in February, both directly concerned with the process of appointing a new rector. This has, of course, been our primary concern since it became clear that Simon would not be returning to us, although we did not receive official confirmation that we were in vacancy until 22nd December. However, as we had prepared as much documentation as possible in advance, we were able to move fast once this happened and hopefully, if everything goes according to plan, a new rector will have been appointed by the time our APCM takes place on 24th April!

Meanwhile our five sub-groups have been going from strength to strength managing their specific areas, as can be seen from their individual reports, keeping the PCC informed and obtaining approval for activities where appropriate. The system is working very well.

Other issues we have dealt with over the year include the completion of the sale of St Mary's Chapel at Compton, the blitzing and subsequent upkeep of the Rectory garden which had fallen into neglect during the absence of an incumbent, the running of the Gift Day and Parish Fayre and facilitating additional administrative help in the Parish Office. Following requests at last year's APCM we have made an interim increase in the organist's stipend, are working on improving our Fair Trade credentials and are continually reviewing our annual giving.

The PCC has worked hard to serve the parish by helping to keep the church alive and well during this difficult time - many thanks to all its members and especially to the churchwardens and part-time clergy. We look forward eagerly to new leadership and inspiration!

Barbara Haworth, PCC Secretary

DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Three meetings were held on 17th June at All Saint's Tilford, 22nd October at St. Luke's Grayshott 2015 and 3rd February at St. Mark's Bordon 2016.

At June's meeting the Rev. Karen Hutchinson reported on the General Synod: "Reform and Renewal" programme. "Evidence to Action" is an on going theme of the Deanery Synod. This meeting looked at: being willing to self reflect, change and adapt. This was discussed in groups.

The Rev. Moray Thomas of Grayshott gave an overview of the parish and on

SOCIAL

The St Andrew's Pub Night

The Pub Night Group is continuing the quarterly visits to local hostelrys within the town centre the timing and venue of the next meeting will be published in the Parish News Letter a couple of weeks prior to the meeting.

The Group is currently small but perfectly formed and welcomes any newcomers who feel sociable enough to enjoy a drink from eight o'clock of a week day evening at a nominated pub.

All Ages (+18yrs) and genders are welcome as are friends of attenders, church attendance is not a prerequisite to joining the group so come and join us along with a friend at our next meeting.

Richard Haines

St Andrew's Book Club

St Andrew's Book Club meets monthly on a Monday evening, throughout the year except in August and December. We start at 7.45pm with light refreshments aiming to finish by 9.15pm. The Book Club has been running for six years and in that time many different genre of books have been read and discussed. We are a small group of up to ten; new members welcome. Thank you to those who have supported the Book Club, discussing books and subjects raised in them is a great way to be more informed and to get to know people. For further information please contact the Parish Office.

Barbara Milam

Social Catering

As in the past Social Catering Team has supported the Parish Fayre and has provided the Harvest Lunch and refreshments after the Christmas Services. It also provided a much appreciated hot supper for The Fosta Quiz and at the time of writing is gearing up to provide a three course evening meal for the PCC and candidates prior to the Selection Interviews in April. Our grateful thanks to Jenny de Quervain and her team for achieving all of this.

FABRIC

Fabric Committee

The committee presently consists of Steven Knowles, chair, Elise Marlow, Lesley Whympier, Garry Lawrence, Richard Haines and Chris Winfield. Maureen Grew also manages our property at High Park Road. Lesley Whympier continues to organise valuable work parties for more intense cleaning and also to monitor with her small team of helpers, the day to day cleanliness of the church. Chris Winfield continues to manage and oversee maintenance to the pathway and the church yard. You will have noticed the cleanliness of glass and brass throughout and the new sections of paving stone skill fully fitted to damaged parts of the footpath.

Women's Breakfast

We've had a very jolly year, I think, with a good variety of speakers, and have gained some new members which is always gratifying. In April we felt privileged to welcome Sally McClaren, Fund Organiser, and Consultant Surgeon Raouf Daoud, who talked to us with great honesty about breast cancer, its diagnosis and treatment and the Breast Care Appeal at Frimley Park Hospital. In July we were inspired by Pat Thorns and Rosemary Wisbey who related the history of that stimulating organisation, the University of the Third Age (U3A), and its 25 year anniversary last year at the Farnham Maltings. Clinical Psychologist Dr Hannah Winfield gave us a fascinating talk in October about Mindfulness, with exercises concentrating on our breathing (which have proved helpful since!) and in December, surrounded by beautiful Christmas Trees, we had a cosy "in house" breakfast celebrating the start of the festive season with readings and Christmas Tree-related anecdotes. Donations were made during the year to Farnham Assist, the FPH Breast Care Appeal, the British Red Cross Syria Appeal and St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival. This year started brilliantly with Matthew Elliott's illustrated reflections on his pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella, and we look forward to Maureen Grew relating her recent Shoebox experiences in Belarus at our April meeting. Many thanks to everyone who attended, especially those who prepared our delicious breakfasts, and to Elise for so kindly getting up early to open the church for us. Our remaining dates this year are 2nd July, 1st October and 3rd December – do join us at 9.00am in the pavilions.

Barbara Haworth

St Andrew's Parish Magazine

This is produced as the joint effort of a few church members with no particular editorial skills. In the past year we have successfully produced an edition each month despite often wondering whether there would be enough material to fill it.

Our intention is to produce something of interest to anyone who may chance to pick it up. This is a tall order. The lead article is usually written by a member of the clergy to ensure we are offering something that nourishes the soul. We also try to include something that refers to the cathedral and our local schools as well as whatever is happening in the church or surrounding community. We also include such things as recipes, poems and the occasional opinion piece.

Once or twice we have received comments from the readers. This was very pleasing. It was a clear indication that something we had published had been read with interest even if it produced strong disagreement. We are not frightened of that. We are happy to establish a dialogue.

We are constantly looking for new writers or new points of view so, if you have something to say, please send it to us for consideration.

Janet Martin

things they do well and not so well. 'Evidence to Action' discussed in groups on: Welcoming and building relationships in your church. Each parish was to have an 'mystery worshipper' to test the Welcome Audit Sheet. Results will be available in June. Rev. Karen Hutchinson was re-elected to General Synod.

The Rev. Scott-Bromley of Bordon welcomed everybody and said that the Ecumenical parish is a shared church, and that the army leaving had caused social and unemployment problems. 'Evidence to Action' engaging with those who might not currently attend church. Rev. Alan Crawley spoke about Spotlight, a resource on the diocesan website which gives information about each parish.

A lot of this will be familiar from our Vision Day.

Elise Marlow

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

As ever this annual report is in line with the church year for St Andrew's but out of sync with the Diocesan Synod year which runs from 1 August to 31 July. My report covers the meetings held in June and November 2015 and March 2016. I have to say I am quite surprised to be writing this report as it is my third term of office representing the Farnham Deanery, as in fact it is also for Jack Wingfield. The Deanery Lay allocation for this triennium was reduced from 6 to 5 but in spite of that, here we are again such is the glut of church members willing to be considered. Perhaps in 2018 we may have another Deanery representative from St Andrew's who is willing to have their name put forward for the Diocesan Synod? If not, I fear our church, the Parish Church of Farnham, may not be represented. Diocesan representatives are almost always nominated from within the Deanery, but can be nominated by people who are already Diocesan members as originally happened in my case. There may be people out there who wish to think about a future diocesan role?

I will now move on to the Diocesan Synod business over the past twelve months. At the June 2015 meeting we were given a presentation by the vicar of St Mary's, Thorpe entitled "Be inspired". It was described as an Anglo-Catholic church and for the first time they were holding a non-Eucharistic service on a Sunday which had brought in new church members; interestingly this had then fed into the Eucharistic service. We then moved on to discussing the draft budget for 2016, the Annual Report and Accounts and related financial matters. The last hour was given to strategic questions facing the National Church under the heading of its "Reform and Renewal" Agenda.

Peter Coles was announced as the new Diocesan Secretary (*he took up his post on 20 July 2015*). We also said Goodbye to Bishop Ian as this was his last meeting. It was agreed by Synod that his post as Bishop of Dorking and Suffragan Bishop should be replaced. (*At the time of writing I understand an appointment has been made, but details have yet to be made public*).

Those of you who read the January edition of the parish magazine will already

be aware that at the November 2015 meeting, which was the first of the new triennium, we elected new Chairs for the House of Clergy and for the House of Laity. This was followed by a Eucharist which was led by Bishop Andrew. We had another session entitled "Be inspired" which was led by the new vicar of All Saints, New Haw. Bishop Andrew then led a large part of the agenda giving numerous updates and then his President's Address as it is known. He also advised Synod that the Reverend Simon Reynolds was in prison and that he had delivered the Church Disciplinary Measure. The rest of the meeting covered financial matters which I explained in some detail in the January magazine article.

At the March 2016 meeting, we began with a short service of worship. It seems to be Bishop Andrew's wish to do this at every meeting prior to the business although on this occasion it was not a Eucharistic service. In the past we have had a Eucharist at the beginning and end of a triennium but nothing in between. Interestingly Bishop Andrew played the piano for our hymns – a nice touch. We were given an update regarding different forthcoming appointment changes. We had another presentation under the "Be inspired" banner. This time it was about the recent 200 mile Pilgrimage to Paris which started the day before the Paris bombings at the end of last year. The Bishop led a session on his "Common Purpose" document – this is a lengthy document setting out his vision for the diocese. We had some interesting discussions around it which affected some of the content – it is still in its early stages though. The Reverend Canon Dr Hazel Whitehead, who is known to many of us, gave an interesting session about ways which are being considered to recruit new clergy and lay ministers; Bishop Andrew chairs the national committee looking into this and it is hoped to increase numbers by 50% by 2020. We also had very brief updates on General Synod, the Parish Share Review and the budget timetable. Between Bishop Andrew and Peter Coles, the new Diocesan Secretary, I think we have quite a dynamic duo and I foresee numerous changes in the future. Add to this the arrival of a new Suffragan Bishop expected in the autumn, and the fact that the Archdeacon has announced his retirement for this year and I think we are in for interesting times ahead.

Jenny Grant - Diocesan Synod Representative

PASTORAL CARE REPORT

This has been a busy year for the Pastoral Team and we are very grateful for the help and support we have received at our monthly meetings from Patrick O'Ferrall and David Adams.

Andrew Partridge, in his role as Lay Minister, Mary Haines, Mary Riggs and I continue to visit people in their homes, in hospital and in retirement and residential homes in the town. This work is helped enormously by Jenny Grant in her role as voluntary Chaplain at Frimley Park Hospital and by the involvement

Sunday Coffee

Thanks to a great team of volunteers Sunday Coffee runs smoothly. Everyone takes a turn about every 13 weeks. The donations we receive fund the coffee, tea, sugar and juice. Volunteers provide the rest. We do make a profit over the year and this helps to support the Outreach programme by providing refreshments for Monday's Mother & Toddlers group, Children's Party, the new Children Choir and Women's Breakfast and the monthly Organ Recitals. There are also several 'one off's' throughout the year that we support. The Outreach programme is an important part of encouragement to visitors and to our parishioners.

Maureen Grew

Farnham Assist Knit and Natter Group

Knit & Natter is part of the programme of Farnham Assist, which aims to reach out to the elderly and lonely living in Farnham.

About 10 of us meet in the Parish Room on most Mondays from 1.30 - 3pm. We enjoy a good natter, whilst knitting, discussing items in the news and what happened in our favourite television programmes that week. As well as stories about our past and present day families. Hats, mittens, scarves, hand puppets, small bags and pencil cases are the items we regularly produce. We knit mostly for Operation Christmas Child and the Cleaford Christian Trust for Romania.

You can, though, knit for yourself or any other charity.

The highlight of our year was knitting and dressing our tree for the Tree Festival and we received many delightful comments about our efforts. We even pictured on the BBC web page.

When I went to Belarus in January I took along a hat or a hand puppet from every lady and managed to catch a photograph of each child with their gift. I then printed them on return and gave a copy to each lady as a thank you for all their hard work.

There is always room for another knitter and we would love donations of brightly coloured double knitting wool please.

Maureen Grew

Operation Christmas Child

St Andrew's has been supporting this charity almost since its inception. The number of boxes we donate is always around the 60s. The Guildford team is part of Region 7 which comprises Surrey, Sussex & Kent. Last year our boxes were up by 4% to a total of 152,794. 25,425 were from Guildford. These boxes went to 7 different countries including Central Asia & Iraq. If you paid online for your box and received the message that your box has gone to a sensitive country it would have gone to either of these. Volunteers no longer go to Central Asia as persecution of Christians is on the rise. Four Guildford volunteers witnessed a distribution in Belarus and 1 went to Serbia. Please keep supporting this simple but effective charity.

Maureen Grew

The Meditation Group meets monthly during the summer, led by Mandy Marshall.

Angela Wingfield

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

The sub-group met several times throughout the year and attempted to fulfil their brief in some small way. Alice Beattie had been a valued part of the team until she and Allan moved to Chichester in August and we're pleased to welcome Liz Lee, who's just joined us.

An evening garden visit in May to the Grange in Old Park Lane was a most enjoyable experience. Pimms was served and the rain held off; donations in appreciation of the opportunity to see the prize-winning garden went into Parish funds. Grateful thanks to Max and Kate Lyons for their generous hospitality. The committee has assisted with the successful children's parties held after school time in the Church.

All the C and O team helped in some way with the Parish Fayre. How lucky to have such fine weather.

The committee prepared the invitations, made up information/welcome packs, blew up balloons and arranged the annual November party for children recently baptised and their families. Grateful thanks to the pastoral assistants and clergy who prepared the families and hosted the afternoon.

The fashion show in November at the Edinburgh Woollen Mill was a fun event again especially for those who modelled some of the outfits. Those who purchased had a good discount and the ticket money went into the Parish coffers.

Throughout the year the C and O group has supported the monthly lunch-time organ recitals with advertising and providing refreshments. The chief reporter at the Farnham Herald has been most accommodating in featuring the visiting organist each month.

The Christmas Tree Festival was under the umbrella of the C and O but with its own small committee. As part of the outreach brief I think all will agree it did reach out into the community and was an amazing success – many congratulations and thanks to Sue Aston, who was the festival designer. Support from the Town Council was greatly appreciated.

The Christmas Carols at lunchtime again proved a popular event with a wide age range of visitors, most of whom enjoyed refreshments. Grateful thanks to Canon Nigel Nicholson, with Barty, for hosting it and to Will Nisbet at the organ.

We are already planning events for the coming year – hopefully to include a Pets' Service and Queen's birthday tea party in the summer. Many thanks to you all for your support!

Meg Daniels - Chair

of many members of our church family who visit frequently and keep in touch with those who are unable to join us in church. Please keep it up and continue to draw our attention to situations that should be followed up.

A new venture has been to set up a support group for those going through the pain of bereavement. 'Friends Together' meet on a weekly basis at '40 Degrees'. A work shared with other churches in Farnham and led by Mary Haines and Yvonne Bryant [P.A. at St. Thomas on the Bourne]. Please share this information with anyone who needs to talk with others in the same situation. The annual memorial service, followed by tea, is much appreciated.

The number of baptisms more than doubled during the last year, which kept Patrick, Nigel and David from an early lunch! Thank you also to Mark Nicholls for helping us. It is a great privilege to share this occasion with members of our church family and an opportunity to make contact with those we haven't met before. The Outreach Team, once again provided an opportunity for follow up at the Baptism Tea in November. Please pray that their journey will go further than the Font.

We have continued to enjoy getting to know many young families in the parish by inviting them along to a church family party every 2 to 3 months. The children enjoy activities and games, drama and art and each session ends, after tea, with a short act of worship. Although organised by Mary Haines, they would not be possible without the invaluable help of many members of the congregation who are extra pairs of hands at the parties and contributors to the most delicious teas! St Andrew's is blessed to have so many good cooks in its congregation. A massive thank you to all those who have supported this venture over the past year.

We are delighted that Mary Riggs has been accepted for training as a Pastoral Assistant from September this year and look forward to her joining us in that role.

Angela Wingfield

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Children's Church

We are really fortunate at St Andrew's to have such a brilliant Children's Church team, who support each other and are committed to seeing children grow in faith. The last few months have seen some changes in the team but we are all pulling together to carry on with a varied programme of activities. We said goodbye to Ceri Myles and Sarah Kay, who were both key figures in leading our team and who will certainly be missed. A big thank you to Ceri and Sarah for all they did - and a big thank you also to Barbara, Debbie, Emma, Joanna, Marjorie, Mary and Rebecca for their continuing work.

We continue to offer Godly Play sessions, either once or twice a month, and

we continue to see the children benefit from this approach, giving very positive feedback about the sessions. Godly Play is particularly helpful in providing stimulus for a wide age group, something which is often a challenge with more 'traditional' teaching materials. For our other sessions we use the material from rootsontheweb as well as some of our own 'home-grown' ideas, such as prayer trees and Easter gardens.

In May 2015 Debbie and Helena went on the Diocesan training day, 'Creating Sparks', which was very inspirational and helpful.

In November 2015 art work the children had made under the guidance of Lynne Seale was part of the exhibition 'Unseen Artists' at Farnham Maltings, along with work from a number of community groups.

In February 2016 an exciting new venture began, called Children's Voices at St Andrew's. This is a choir for primary-age children which meets fortnightly for an hour on a Saturday morning. It is led by Liz Lee, Mary Haines and Helena Adams. We have been getting around 12-15 children at each session and many of them bring their parents and their younger siblings, who stay for drinks and play in the Blue Room. So far the choir have sung at the Mothering Sunday Service and the Good Friday Family Service, which has been wonderful. We look forward to the choir becoming an ongoing part of future services.

Children's Church continues to play a big part in the all-age services through the year, something which is surely mutually beneficial for both the younger and the older members of the congregation, as it helps us all to learn from one another as we journey together 'onwards and upwards'!

Helena Adams

Children's Church Parties

This year we have continued with the family church parties every two to three months on a Friday afternoon and they have proved to be very popular and good fun. We have been so fortunate to have the many different skills of our congregation helping with this, whether it be with food preparation, spare pairs of hands helping out, or artistic ability in providing creative challenges for the children. Games around the church have continued to prove popular especially hide and seek in the dark! The parties conclude with a short act of worship and the children seem engaged and happy to participate. Huge thanks go to all those who have supported this venture over the past year and I really pray that we will be able to continue with these parties involving families from our two church schools over the coming year.

Mary Haines

Baby & Toddler Group

St Andrew's toddler group is held on Monday mornings during term times from 9.45am -11.30. The group is run by volunteer mums Marie, Jessica & Marjorie along with a team of wonderful tea ladies who also volunteer their time on a rota basis & help with the running of the toddler group, as well as bringing in some home-made treats on occasion to keep the Mothers, Carers, Grandparents &

toddlers very happy indeed. We are a friendly group with a warm welcome. There are lots of toys, puzzles, arts & crafts, music and songs for parents/carers to enjoy with their little ones. At 11.00 we clear away the toys so the children can sit down for a drink & biscuit, which is then followed by music & singing some favourite nursery rhymes.

At the end of this year's summer term there will be positions for two Mums or volunteers, to take Marie & Jessica's place. Their children will be starting school and will no longer be available to run the group. An announcement will be made after Easter to the Mums/Carers who attend to see if someone would like to come forward to help keep this fabulous toddler group running.

A Facebook page is being created for our toddler group with updates on opening times, events, photos and announcements.

If you & your child have not yet experienced our toddler group then please do pop by for a morning of fun.

Marie Wilkins

Child Protection

Janet Martin continues to be the Child Protection Officer and reviews and updates policy and advises the PCC. We are grateful to Janet for giving her time to this important task.

NURTURE AND LEARNING

The Bible Study Groups have continued throughout the year.

On Tuesday lunchtime the group meets fortnightly, led by Morna Partridge and myself. Thursday evening the group is led by Andrew Partridge and meets on a monthly basis and there is another group led by Mary and Geoff Riggs which meets irregularly to fit with the requirements of those who take part. The sessions are well attended, but there is always a welcome for anyone who would be interested in joining.

Six children took part in sessions preparing them for their first communion and it is a delight to see them sharing at the Lord's Table with us. This has been followed by a Christian Basics Course, which is in progress.

Three of the Lent Groups this year are following the 'Pilgrim' course, one of which is 'online'. The theme is 'Church and Kingdom'. They have been led by Morna Partridge, Mary and Richard Haines and myself. As I write, we are in the middle of the studies and finding them stimulating. Several people are also using the book at home in personal reflection. The fourth group, led by Anne Butterworth have chosen a book by Rowan Williams called 'Meeting God in Paul'.

In addition we have had a series of excellent Lent Lectures given by Bishop Christopher Herbert, Dr. Julie Gittoes and Mark Heather. All used art to illustrate their theme.