

Celebrating 2018



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Wareham's Church of England Family Annual Report 2018

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Welcome.....

Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that I have now been here four and half years – how the time has flown. At the Annual Parochial Church Meetings it is a good time to reflect back and see what has happened over the past year and then to look forward to prepare for the forthcoming year. All the reports contained in this annual report look back over the year 2018 (although some do include the first part of this year as well!) The looking forward will come as part of the Rector's report at the Annual Meeting (Parish Hall, 10th April, the Vestry meeting starts at 7.00pm). To be prepared for this please do look at the minutes of last year's meeting so that we can pass them as read, unless there are any amendments.

Looking back over the past four and half years, to some it does not seem that an awful lot has happened in terms of radical changes within the mission and ministry of the church. This is not necessarily a bad thing, change for change's sake is more often than not a mistake. Personally I would much rather wait until I am sure I know what the Lord wants of me and then set about carrying it out. This applies to my personal walk with God and my Church ministry.

Of one thing I am sure, that is, that God has called me here for a purpose; the frustrating part for me (and I know for some of you) is that I have not known what that purpose is, until now! In preparing for my sabbatical I have started reading some commentaries and other books on Moses and the book of Exodus and one thing that struck me was how much waiting he, and the People Israel, had to do. Moses had to wait forty years from running away to receiving his call at the burning bush. So maybe four and half years isn't so bad after all!

At last, I believe it is becoming clearer what I have been put here to do. I will share more of this at the APCM; in the meantime, please have a good read of this report. As you do so, celebrate, and thank God for all that is good, and pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit where things are more challenging.

In particular I would like us to celebrate two things. For a second year our finances end in a good state; although we did not quite break even, we would have done but for a couple of unexpected items at the last minute. Thank you to all who have given generously over the past couple of years and who have supported the various fundraising events, and thank the Lord for his abundant provision. Another area of Church life that has grown over the past year is Breakfast@9; it is wonderful to see so many young families and existing parishioners enjoying worship and fellowship in this way. Praise the Lord!

I commend this report to you for reflection and prayer.

Yours in Christ,

Simon

Mission and Worship - Worship

Our worshipping communities

St Nicholas, Arne

Pippa Cracknell

Throughout the year we have continued to have regular services twice a month of Holy Communion following the Book of Common Prayer. Our regular congregation has fallen in number as our members find getting up to the church more difficult, but we have welcomed new younger worshippers and have several regular visitors who come when in the area. We held our usual service on Ascension Day, to which all the parish are invited, and during the year three couples have celebrated their weddings at St Nicholas and we had one baptism service.

The church was beautifully decorated for our Flower Festival, at which we had many visitors, and raised funds for Wareham Hospital and our Fabric Fund. The Sunday Songs of Praise was well attended and followed by a bring and share tea. The wild flowers in the churchyard continue to give great pleasure and we have installed hedgehog boxes to encourage wildlife.

Following Harvest Festival we gave the dry goods to the food bank and sold the produce during our bring and share lunch. Our carol service was once again very popular and we enjoyed the participation of a group of pupils from Stoborough School, who sang to us beautifully. After this we shared tea at Toad Hall.

The Bible Study Home Group, although small in number, has met regularly in members' homes. We pray for current and former members of our congregation and have enjoyed studying Exodus.

We continue to look after the fabric of the church, and the new heaters and automatic lighting are working well. We welcome many visitors who enjoy the quiet ambience, frequently making good use of the opportunity to write in our Prayer Book or take a Pastoral Booklet from the rack at the back of the church. This year we have introduced a Children's Quiz for younger visitors.

Sandford St Martin's Church

Maureen Lever and Stuart Cocksedge

The pattern of Sunday services continues with Breakfast@9 each week (which includes breakfast, sung worship, Bible story, short talk, craft and prayers, all in an all-age format), followed by the 10.30am service (which is Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays and Morning Worship on the 2nd and 4th Sundays). During 2018 it has been good to welcome new people into both Sunday services, with several new families trying out Breakfast@9, some of whom are becoming fairly regular, and also new faces at 10.30am, which continues to be a friendly and welcoming community.

In addition, Going Deeper takes place on the 2nd Sunday evening of the month, with an informal time of worship, discussion, Bible study and prayer. Recently, we have been working through the Prayer Course which has been very beneficial to those who have taken part.

Special services and activities during 2018 have included combined services for Mothering Sunday, Easter, and Harvest, also the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Sandford Vicarage, the Remembrance parade and service marking 100 years since the end of the First World War, and Christmas activities including Carols and Christingles around the Tree and Christmas crafts for Sandford school children. 2018 also saw several Baptisms and a Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child service at Sandford.

In the Spring of 2018, two new noticeboards were installed to raise the profile of the church on the Sandford St Martin's school site, and to give us space to promote church services, events and activities. The larger noticeboard is sited at the pedestrian entrance to the school site and a slightly smaller one is located by the corner of the building, near to the illuminated cross. Positive feedback has been received from church members, visitors, and the school.

Mission and Worship - Worship

In October 2018, a new monthly service was started at Pine Martin Grange, the care home located near the school and church in Sandford. This service, which is intended to be 'dementia friendly', has been well received by staff and residents at Pine Martin Grange, and is also supported by church members who come to help with music and leading prayers. The service is attracting between 15 and 20 people per month.

A number of regular groups and activities continue at Sandford St Martin's Church, often with strong involvement and support from Sandford church members. These activities include the Ladies' and Men's Breakfasts, Open House, Sandford Seedlings Toddler Group, and the Alpha Course. Separate reports on each of these can be found elsewhere in this annual report.

It is good to be part of what God is doing, and we are grateful to all those who give their time to help in the life of the church in various ways, including music and worship, prayers and readings, crafts and creative activities, and serving coffee, refreshments, and of course breakfasts!

St John the Evangelist, East Holme

Jonathan Moulton

Our normal services that are held on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month have been varied in congregation numbers however our Easter, Carol Service and Christmas day were all well attended. This year's harvest festival was rather unique as we had no electricity and so the service which was also well attended was held by candle light and Hilary Bond accompanied us on the piano accordion. In July we had Lady St Marys Choir attend our Songs of praise and it was a lovely service with refreshments served afterwards in the church yard.

The Flower Festival which was held on the 2nd May Bank Holiday was a great success and we are looking forward to planning this year with the help of Wareham Camera Club.

The Flower Show held at Holme for Gardens was a success, however this will be the last one to be held as it is becoming harder and harder to organise the event and so feel it is better to go out on a high.

Our afternoon of Christmas was a moderate success, but we hope to build on it with the help of Wareham Camera Club but some ideas of our own.

Over the year we have not had to carry out any major repairs, but we will need to carry out some in the coming year. The extension to the church yard is still an on-going matter, but again we hope to have news soon.

The Archdeacon's visitation was a sharp learning curve for myself and my daughters but with some hard work we were able to put together a good account of the church and through this process we have gained some valuable knowledge of how the church has evolved over the years, and have found documents one of which is now on display in the church which was prominent in our recognition of the end of the First World War. As a churchwarden I continuously worry about numbers but through the visitation we found a service register that was quite interesting and at a service in 1948 there was only 3 in attendance of the service.

A former resident compiled a record of all the men who lost their lives during the First World War which will be on permanent display in the window next to our war memorial plaque.

This year we have had a christening which was special in that the parents were married in the church.

Finally, we have had a concert in aid of the church given by Time and Tide recognising the plight of the Tolpuddle Martyrs wives it was a very interesting and enjoyable performance and we hope to hold such events in the future.

Mission and Worship - Worship

Lady St Mary, Wareham

Merville Gover

We have enjoyed another full year of weekly and monthly services with 8am BCP said communion and 10 am parish communion. On the first Sunday in the month we enjoy family communion with Angel Voices, with broken bread and wine with the children receiving grapes. This service is now well established and growing; this is something we must all be thankful for (Let the little children come unto me).

The morning service on Ash Wednesday was celebrated in the Edward Chapel with the imposition of ashes. Mothering Sunday service was a very poignant service with every lady receiving a bunch of daffodils. On Palm Sunday the church was decorated with palms from Jerusalem, the choir leading us in a short walk of witness around church green displaying our palm crosses that had been blessed earlier in the service.

The Good Friday walk of witness saw us walking with the cross of Christ being carried from St Martin on the Walls to the Quay. This was followed by the 3 hour devotion service which was divided into sections, allowing worshippers to come and go at different intervals. The sunrise service was held on the river bank at the Quay at 6:30am. Easter Day saw a large number of families attending the service along with Angel Voices.

With thanks to Pat and Clive, we enjoyed the final preview evening of our flower festival on Wednesday 8th August with guest bagpiper Alison leading the opening of the flower festival, which continued on to a fantastic five days of flowers and crafts.

In August we enjoyed an open air communion service at 11am at the beginning of our Grand Day Out at Creech Grange. The most successful year to date. This is not just a fundraising venture but a fantastic outreach opportunity for the parish.

In October we enjoyed our parish harvest festival service on Sunday 1st October with angel voices and food donations given to the Wareham food bank.

The Royal British Legion service of remembrance saw us dropping poppies from the ceiling of the church, with guest preacher the Right Reverend Bishop Karen Gorham, this seeing the church full and overflowing, with 804 people attending the service.

Advent Sunday saw a full church enjoying the morning service with Christingle and then the Advent service of light; it was very well attended and the comments were extremely good.

The church welcomed various primary schools for their annual Christmas carol services. We saw different themes throughout these services and it was very enlightening for both adult and child; on all occasions the church was overflowing.

The 23rd December saw our nine lessons and carols again with a full church, with readers representing various organisations throughout the town and also with a strong representation of mayors and councillors from both Wareham and various towns throughout Dorset.

On Christmas Eve we witnessed our crib service, which was well attended, and then our mid- night communion service which was very well attended, and moving into Christmas Day we saw a united parish communion.

New Year's Eve saw the well-established watchnight service at St Martin-on-the-Walls where many people shared and welcomed in 2019!

The first Angel Voices service of 2019 was Epiphany Sunday where we welcomed the Three Kings, which included the play of the "three camels" performed by Angel Voices and three distinguished wise men/woman!

Mission and Worship - Worship

On Sunday 20th January we had an ecumenical united service. The church was well attended, with a very welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

Our annual Candlemas service was very well attended, led by our choir who had obviously put in a lot of hard work in producing such a high quality choral contribution.

In February we welcomed guest preacher the Revd. Canon Tom Clammer, the former precentor of Salisbury Cathedral. Tom preached on the creation and how we should do our bit to help preserve the magnificent gifts we have been given.

Our grateful thanks to all of our clergy, to our choir, bell ringers, organists, music group and all who give of their time both in worship and administration.

We have a strong church following but we must all look to the future to help and encourage those who are young in faith. Amen

St Martin-on-the-Walls, Wareham

Di Beaumont

Our regular Wednesday services have been lead by members of the team with a monthly lay lead service. On the first Wednesday of the month we have refreshments after the service and celebrate birthdays with cake. In addition to our regular services we started and ended the year with a watch night service, one lead by Jane and one by Brigid. We also celebrated with communion on Easter Day

We continue to work towards improving our heating system, both to maintain the church fabric and for the comfort of the congregation and visitors. The DAC approve our thoughts on the matter and some fundraising has commenced. It will be a long process in planning, fundraising and building works. The status of the wall outside adjoining the road has resolved so is not a financial burden on the church.

We have suffered from some problems with two broken window and a break in. The police were informed and did some investigation but unfortunately our silverware and money were not recovered. Our finances have shown a slight drop but this can be explained by the break in and the contents of the black box being taken on some other occasions. We have taken steps to improve security and have solved this problem.

We still have lots of visitors, particularly in the summer when the guardians and guides welcome them. We need more volunteers to be guardians and guides. Many visitors help with our finances. Just before Christmas we had a delightful concert by Canzonetta The retiring collection raised £200 for St Martin on the Walls fabric fund.

Bell Ringers

Phil Stephens

Throughout the year we have rung regularly for Sunday services. Sometimes we manage to ring all ten bells on a Sunday but mostly the ringing is on eight. This is an improvement on last year, thanks to very successful recruiting campaign in the autumn of 2017. Four of our new recruits are now ringing with us regularly and there are two more whom we hope will soon be capable of joining in.

One of the highlights of the year was our ringing for the Armistice Centenary. Our new ringers, Teri, Caroline, Agnes, Jackie and Mike, were registered with *Ringling Remembers* and they rang in the 12:30pm country-wide celebration. It was a great moment and we were very proud of ourselves.

Two peals were rung this year. One of the peals, Yorkshire Surprise Royal, was rung open to celebrate the life of Graham W Elmes (7/11/1943 - 24/12/2017) immediately after a service of thanksgiving. Many of the ringers were great friends who had rung many peals with Graham. We all miss Graham

Mission and Worship - Worship

a great deal. We miss his ringing expertise, his help and patience with learners and his sense of humour. A gentleman and a much-loved character.

Six quarter peals were rung for various events. One joyful one was a quarter of Grandsire Triples to celebrate the birth of Owen Theo Bradley on the 16th November, son of our bellringers Alex and Amy.

We have rung for just five weddings this year; down again on last year. Either there is a general decline in the number of church weddings, or the word has got around about the quality of our ringing!

Our practice nights have been very well attended and very busy. This is great; we are very grateful for the visitors who come along; both those who are trying to improve their ringing and those who help us to improve ours.

Our outing this year was organised by Mariko. It took place on Sat. 30th June. We rang at Romsey, Sherfield English, Awbridge, Mottisfont and East Tytherley. Many of us enjoyed a picnic lunch in the grounds of Mottisfont and in the evening we reminisced over a splendid meal and a few pints in the Kings Arms, Wareham.

On Sunday 2nd September the sun shone as we all enjoyed a lunchtime barbeque at 12 St Martin's Lane.

On Thursday 20th December we celebrated Christmas with a splendid meal at the Italian Restaurant on the Quay and this year the Limerick competition was won by Teri.

Choir (Lady St Mary)

William Day

The choir has met its regular commitment to lead the music at the 10.00 am Sung Eucharist during 2018 and the 10:00 am Family Communion on the first Sunday of each month, where we have been able to support the singing of the Angel Voices children.

A small band continues loyally to play with the organ on the second Sunday of each month.

For evening services during the year we sang CW Evening Prayer for Candlemas Sunday, BCP Choral Evensongs at East Holme in February and Creech Grange Chapel for the Parish Family Day in August. We also contributed to the music at the East Holme songs of praise service in July. The choir worked hard to prepare music for the Advent Service of Light appropriate for the chosen theme 'The Forerunner', and the Christmas Carol Service in the latter part of the year.

Mission and Worship - Prayer

Parish Prayer

Canon Simon Everett

Prayer is the lifeblood of our faith and Church. It is not always easy but is both essential and rewarding. On the first Saturday of each month a prayer meeting has been held in the Edward Chapel of Lady St Mary church. The attendance has varied and numbers are usually around eighteen persons. Thank you to those who do make this a priority and attend whenever they can, it would be good if we could increase this number.

However, as well as our monthly prayer meeting, Morning Prayer is held at 9.00am every Monday morning, again in the Edward Chapel. And I am delighted a new prayer meeting has started at David and DI Kimble's house (Sandford Road). It is held every Tuesday evening at 7.00pm. Both of these are open to all comers.

Prayer accompanies most church services and meetings and a great deal of praying goes on in the homes of parishioners, but there is always room for more. Can we ever pray too much? St Paul urged the Christians at Colossae to devote themselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful (Colossians 4:2) and he urged the Thessalonians to 'pray continually' (1 Thessalonians 5:17). As Francis Fenelon said, 'Time spent in prayer is never wasted.'

Mission and Worship – Growing Disciples

Mothers' Union

Jeannette Guinness

We are part of the Worldwide Mothers' Union fellowship seeking to support Christ's teaching on marriage and family life through prayer, action and giving, both here in the UK and overseas. Membership is open to all, male or female, married or single, who support these objects

We have had an encouraging year hearing about and supporting the work of MU. As in recent years, we have been able to raise well over £1,500 for MU projects in the Diocese and Overseas, including in Kigeme Diocese Rwanda.

In addition we have had some lively and informative talks about the impact of Christian lives and witness from Mary Millard, Tony Tew, Hugh Maddox and Anne King.

During the year after many months of thoughtful discussion we took the decision to continue supporting the work of MU but as individual members meeting from time to time as a Group, rather than as a Branch with a Leader and Committee. We expressed our huge gratitude to all the Committee members, Treasurer and Leader who had led us in recent years.

Alison Oakes a Trustee of MU who lives in Corfe Castle, has agreed to help co-ordinate these occasional meetings. We entered the New Year in good heart, with twenty-three people signed up and paid Diocesan members.

Sandford Men's Breakfast

Stuart Cocksedge on behalf of John Bowen

The men's breakfast meets on the second Saturday morning of the monthly, normally at Sandford St Martin's Church, to share breakfast and fellowship together. Sometimes a guest speaker or a regular breakfast attender gives a talk, and at other times there is discussion based around a theme designed to help men think about the Christian faith and how it impacts on our lives and our world. These men's breakfasts have drawn folks from several local churches and also those who don't go to church, as we are encouraged to invite friends along to join us.

We are grateful to John Bowen for his faithful leadership of the men's breakfasts for many years, and also to others who help in practical ways. Please pray for the men's breakfast as we seek to build up the team and consider other possible venues.

Ladies' Breakfast

Jane Williams

Welcoming women from across the whole community and developing Christian friendships has continued to be our focus for 2018. We have hosted a range of speakers including Judith Holmes, Ruth Guinness, Carol Gallop and Lorrain Puckett with topics from very close to home at Pine Martin Grange to projects much further afield.

One spin off is the opportunity for women to get together once a month to make and sew dresses for girls around the world.

In May we held our first 'Because You're Worth It' afternoon when we all got together to explore a little of what it means to be a Christian woman in the 21st Century. We also had a go at jewellery making, flower arranging, drawing, buttoning, hand massage therapy and enjoying a photo session, it was a very enjoyable afternoon.

Home Groups and Alpha Course

Stuart Cocksedge

Home groups exist to enable members from all our congregations to meet together regularly for support, encouragement and growth as disciples of Jesus Christ, and to help us reach out in word and action to our communities and beyond. Around 50 members meet fortnightly in 6 groups around the parish, with several groups in Wareham, one consisting of members of the Arne congregation, and one based in Northmoor and Sandford.

Mission and Worship – Growing Disciples

There are several important elements to these groups, including friendship, hospitality, eating together, Bible study, discussion and prayer. Across the groups a range of books, videos and other Bible study resources are used to help deepen our knowledge of God and the Bible.

Additionally, up to 15 people from across the parish took part in an Alpha Course in the Autumn Term of 2018, some established church members and some fairly new to church and exploring faith. The group enjoyed meeting together week by week and found it very helpful. Towards the end, an Alpha away day was held, hosted by Rob and Anna Richards, where the group were able to spend time in worship and prayer, open to the Holy Spirit.

Following the Alpha Course, several members of the group, keen to deepen their faith, have joined a home group. New home group members are always welcome so if you would like to join a group please contact the Parish Office or Stuart Cocksedge for more details.

Thank you to all those who lead and host our home groups on a regular basis. We pray that our home groups will continue to be places where we grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Mission and Worship – Outreach

Christian Aid

Angela Salter

Amounts raised during the year were fairly similar to last year: Lent lunches £367.43 + gift aid, £38 Christian Aid week £3740.61 + gift aid £459.25, Advent lunches £391 + gift aid £75. There was also £409.75 from the unused Anne Law funds. Total sent to Christian Aid £4,100 earlier in the year and currently £812.46 to be sent shortly.

Many thanks to Debs Barclay for all her hard work as treasurer and to Michael Wardle and Graham Baynes for organising counting the CA week money. There were a similar number of collectors as previous years though we could do with more, especially in some parts of the town such as the Stowell Crescent area and Northmoor. The amounts raised show that it is worth continuing to do this. The Lent and Advent lunches were supported by 25- 30 people as usual despite poor weather but it would be great if there was able to be more minister support for these. It was good to welcome Fiona Daborn, Christian Aid Area Co-ordinator for Dorset, to our recent AGM. The Lent lunches will be at LSM Sat 23rd March and URC Wed 10th April

The United Christian Aid service will be on Sunday May 12th at URC at 10.30am with Mary Chipping preaching to mark the start of Christian Aid Week 2019.

Flower Festival

Pat and Clive Cherrett

The last one, with pipes, forty-seven piece band, Last Post and tears. Thirty-two years have passed, and each year the comment has always been “the best ever yet” for each one. Hundreds of Flower Arrangers, Organists, Helpers and Performers at Concerts have helped us achieve this acclaim, and thousands of people have entered through the doors of LSM over these years. Have we helped them to find the Faith? We believe we created an outreach for our church without realising the importance of these festivals. Yes, it was a lot of money to spend on flowers instead of picking from gardens, but this was necessary to interpret the subject. However, we always managed to raise a considerable sum for the fabric of LSM, Charities and Mission.

It has been a privilege to be allowed to achieve this outreach with the help of everyone involved. Thank you, we will miss it, and Wareham for the ten days of August will not be the same.

Parish “Day Out” at Creech Grange

Pat and Clive Cherrett

Once again we are most grateful to Norman Hayward for allowing us the use of Creech Grange and for the enormous amount of work he puts in beforehand to ensure that the grounds are perfect. A huge thank you to everyone across the Parish, who help to make the day so successful. It is good to hear the comments from visitors on how much they enjoy an old fashioned country day fete. We are now working on our next fete on 18th August and we ask for your continued support to make it another big fund raising event.

Mission

Stuart Cocksedge

As a parish, we continued to support our four mission partners in prayer and financial giving during 2018. Malcolm and Yanet Taylor and family visited the UK during June and shared with us in Wareham and Sandford about their growing work with YWAM in the Dominican Republic. Ruth Guinness also visited the UK and was able to speak at services in Wareham and Sandford, and an afternoon tea at the Parish Hall, about her role with SIM in Malawi, teaching at the Evangelical Bible College of Malawi. People in the parish responded to the opportunities to pray for, and give towards, the work of the Taylors and Ruth. We also supported the Mission to Seafarers on Sea Sunday, and retiring collections during Advent raised support for St Stephen’s School in our Link Diocese of Terekeka.

Mission and Worship – Outreach

Finally, folks from across the parish joined together for a united Mission Sunday service held on 30 September 2018 at Sandford, with guest preacher Chris Miles from the mission agency SAT-7 which shares the good news of Jesus in the Middle East via the medium of satellite TV. Chris spoke on the importance of mission and crossing cultural boundaries, from the account of Philip and the Ethiopian in Acts chapter 8. Please continue to pray for each of our mission partners.

Saturday Morning Coffee in the Parish Hall

Jennifer Haworth

This activity is continuing to provide a good service to many Wareham locals and visitors alike, providing a good atmosphere for R&R. In addition, the year ending February 2018 has shown an income of more than £5565, which compares quite well with previous years.

Regarding changes made to the room over the last few years, there is no evidence that this has proved beneficial to Saturday morning coffee receipts and a number of reports of increased noise have been received. However, we do receive comments regularly indicating customers' thanks for its continuation.

I would like to thank all who volunteer by the regular provision of delicious cake, to the kitchen staff who make the morning function smoothly and those who help with moving of chairs and tables. Increasingly, we are dependent on fewer volunteers in the kitchen and are keen to take on new help. Also help in moving tables was carried out by a young person for a few months but who has now moved on. So if you feel you can support in some way you would be most welcome; please contact the Parish Office or preferably contact me, 01202621294 / jackjenhwrth@gmail.com

Sudan Link

David Harris

As a parish we have been supporting Christians in Sudan for more than three decades. Thank you all for your continued support.

St Stephen's School has continued to grow, adding one secondary class, which they hope to expand to four classes. They are planning to build an orphanage for 200 of the street children in Terekeka. This project will involve dormitories, classrooms, a dining hall, admin block, health unit, kitchen, vocational skills unit, a borehole and a building for a power plant. In addition they have to feed and clothe the orphans, Just taking one year's operating costs into account raises the original estimated cost of the project to 1.356 million US dollars. After trimming their objectives they have reduced the estimated cost to 433 thousand US dollars. At present we have little idea of how they will manage to raise that sum but the number they are planning to house and teach indicates the magnitude of the problems faced by one district of South Sudan. We will investigate how we may be able to assist beyond continuing to hold their needs in our prayers, it may be that the diocesan South Sudan education fund will be able to assist this project but we need to pray that other partners will come forward to meet this need.

Despite many problems the parish did manage to transfer funds amounting to ??? to St Stephen's. We owe our thanks to Michael Wardle and Debs for overcoming the many obstacles. We have received Bishop Paul's thanks.

Thank you for your continued interest and financial support of the people of South Sudan, the Clergy of Terekeka and in particular staff and pupils of St Stephen's School. We are committed to sending £4000 this year but would like to increase that if possible to cover the falling exchange rate and inflation in South Sudan and possibly a contribution towards the orphanage. Please pray for them on a regular basis. They are grateful for our continued interest and support.

Sunday morning refreshments at LSM

Margaret Day

About twenty volunteers serve refreshments after the 10 o'clock Sunday morning service, working in teams of four. Many of the congregation appreciate the chance to meet together in the Parish Hall to

Mission and Worship – Outreach

socialise and catch up with news of friends. All monies donated are collected for the school in Terekeka as part of the Wareham Parish contribution to the Salisbury Diocesan mission in South Sudan. The money is sent to the Bishop in South Sudan as required, he then travels many miles to collect the payment from a bank. In recent years the money has been used to pay the teachers' salaries. Thank you to all who support this worthwhile project.

Wareham's Church Family and ecumenical activities

Stuart Cocksedge

During 2018, we continued to work together with our Christian brothers and sisters in the other churches of Wareham in a variety of ways. The Wareham's Church Family leaders meet together each term to pray, support one another, and plan joint activities. These meetings are co-ordinated by Stuart Cocksedge. During 2018, Wareham's Church Family gathered for a united service at Lady St Mary Church on Sunday 28 January. We also joined together for the annual walk of witness on Good Friday, with prayers led at each point along the walk by leaders and representatives of different churches. We also continued to play a key role in other Wareham's Church Family activities such as the monthly Ladies' Breakfasts and the Blessing Fund.

The Wareham clergy have also been actively involved in planning and leading the monthly Purbeck Evening Praise gatherings during the first half of 2018 (although these are currently on hold). A particular highlight was the second annual 'If My People' prayer event at Holton Lee on Sunday 16 September 2018, which gathered large numbers of people from churches across Purbeck and further afield in Dorset to unite in worship and prayer for our region and our nation.

Outreach to Children and their families (Easter Egg Hunts)

Stuart Cocksedge

Three community outreach events were held for Easter 2018, with Easter Egg Hunts at Sandford Vicarage, on the Westgate estate, and on Northmoor. Over 120 children attended across the three events, taking part in egg hunts and craft activities with an Easter theme. Children and their parents enjoyed refreshments including drinks and cakes, and at Sandford the teas and coffees were kindly provided and served by the Co-op. These events were well attended and gave opportunities to build links and relationships with families in each of these areas, and for the church to be a visible presence out in the community, providing good quality activities to engage children and parents, and seeking to be a blessing to the local community.

Children and Young People

Angel Voices

Mary Appleton

Church singing group for children aged 4-9yrs. Number on Register=14

Angel Voices meet in the Parish Hall on the first Sunday of the month at 9.15am. During our sessions in the hall the children are introduced to new songs, playing percussion, bible stories and dance – all to the praise of God.

Following this, we walk across to Lady St Mary to join the 10am Family Communion Service where Angel Voices (and their parents) join the hand-bell ringers and the choir to play an active part in the service.

Special Events since the last APCM include:

One of our Angel Voices (Amelie) was baptised

Bag-packing & singing at Sainsburys in July & December raised £174. Sent £134 to TRUST Charity which supports an orphanage in S. India.

A Workshop to arrange our display for the 2018 Flower Festival 'Where have all the Flowers Gone?'

Display taken to SMOW

AV team running Children's Sports at Creech Day Out

Singing at Ladies' Breakfast

Entertaining at Westgate Community Christmas gathering

Taking a part in the Crib Service

To the many people who help and support Angel Voices we wish to say a big **THANK YOU**.

A special thank you to Bob Day for all his support with the audio/visuals.

From the Angel Voices Team

Eve Baker, Anne Smith, Debbie Davis, Val Yates and Mary Appleton

Handbell Ringers

Angela Salter

We would like to thank Jenny Elmes for all her support and encouragement during the year and for continuing to support the Youth team at the family communion services where we have taken part most months.

The Senior Moments team has made excellent progress during the year. We welcomed several new members last Autumn and are now more confident at performing. We played for Roper's Lane lunch, Purbeck Connect, Pine Martin Grange care home and Bere Regis carers before Christmas and took part in the Christmas carol service and crib service, performing 'Christmas bells that bring glad tidings' arranged by Jenny Elmes. Both teams have played together at Westgate Carols, Swanage Christmas Tree festival and the Purbeck Village Quire concert and on the stage for the Father Christmas parade and at the Ladies' Breakfast at Sandford with Angel Voices and we look forward to attending the Southwest Handbell (HRGB) AGM at the end of March where Chloe will receive the highest Crescendo certificate, which she has been working very hard towards. Lily, Lauren and Chloe have worked very hard during the year.

We will have a break from practising from Easter to September but look forward to performing later in the year again. We are happy to come and show the bells to any group and also would welcome anyone who would like to join us in September in either group. We meet on Wednesday afternoons at Ropers Lane church.

Sandford Seedlings Toddler Group

Rachel Cocksedge

The Sandford Seedlings Toddler Group, which started in September 2017, has run throughout 2018 (term time only). We have had a very consistent committed group of families attending, all of whom either live in Sandford or are connected with the School, Nursery or Church in Sandford (due to

Children and Young People

limited space we are unfortunately unable to accommodate people not connected to Sandford in one of these ways).

Each session has a Bible or faith related theme which influences the craft, story and singing time. We have developed a relationship with the Reception class teachers at Sandford School and occasionally borrow resources such as a water table from them to enrich our sessions.

We have worked hard to make it a friendly group where friendships are formed and developed. We try to link up families with children in the same school year to help them get to know each other before their children start at the school. A couple of our Sandford Seedlings families have become regular attenders at Breakfast@9 with a number more attending the Easter Egg Hunts and/or the Carols and Christingles service at Sandford. At Christmas each family received a board book version of the Christmas Story and all our school leavers were presented with a children's Bible.

Thank you to all of our team, Charlotte Barber, Becky Green, Melanie Bolt, Mary Appleton, Maureen Lever, Di Kimble, Mary Simmonds and Betty Bingham.

“The Christmas Thing” and Other Things

Hilary Bond

The Christmas thing did not happen this year as term finished too close to Christmas for it to be possible - but it will be back!

During Advent posadas went out from all three schools again taking the nativity sets knitted by the Mothers' Union into homes across Wareham, Sandford and Stoborough. Once again pictures and stories came back to us both in person and via Facebook.

There were also trips to Hilfield Friary, the beavers' faith badge in LSM, 'grill a vicar' sessions, interfaith dialogue with a Muslim friend in a year 6 class, as well as all those little opportunities for conversation and an increasing number of requests for prayer.

Many thanks to all of you who help and support in all this through your practical skill, time and prayer. You are all a valued part of the team and it wouldn't happen without you. We give thanks to God for what he has done in our schools, and pray for more in 2019.

Our work with the local schools (assemblies and class work)

Hilary Bond

Some of this report may look very similar to last year. This is not because we are stuck in a rut - but because many things are working well!

The parish continues to have great relations with our three primary schools. We still have 4 weekly collective worship (assembly) slots across the three schools and continue to support the learning of the schools and the requirements of being a church school through this.

Sometimes the schools tell us what they want in a particular assembly, sometimes they give us a theme and leave us to interpret that as we feel is right.

Class sessions about Easter and Christmas were run in all three schools and included storytelling, singing and discussions about Jesus and his family as refugees in Egypt and what that might mean to a refugee today, and what happened in the tomb on Easter Saturday. (Some of the suggestions were truly out of this world!)

Once again the older children of all three primary schools put on carol services in LSM and it was great to have just a few minutes to talk about the Christmas Story with a church full of families and to talk with some of the adults afterwards.

This year, at the request of the schools, we have run class sessions on Pentecost, Angels, Advent/getting ready and a whole school journey day about moving on involving a labyrinth on the

Children and Young People

school field and some large scale art work where we talked about the diocesan strap line of “Pray, Serve, Grow” and what that looks like in the context of a church primary school.

LSM saw its own version of the Royal Wedding enthusiastically acted out by the Reception Class from Stoborough school (and attended by some of the parents wearing impressive hats!) We all returned to school afterwards for wedding cake :-)

Once again in Sandford it was great to be able to speak at the new parents evenings about what it does and doesn't mean to be a church school. Some parents are wary that their children are going to be “brainwashed,” and we are very grateful for the opportunity to dispel that fear. Parents were also invited to a reception class assembly in the first week of the September term so they could see the sort of thing their children will experience. When the new reception children came to visit the school for an hour without parents in the classroom, we opened the worship centre for the parents for tea, biscuits and conversation with us as church and some current parents (so they could ask those questions that you don't want to ask the teacher!).

The Real Treat at Halloween

Jane Williams

Our alternative event for Halloween was offered to visitors at Northmoor again and this year attracted more than 150 children. A ‘light station’ was set up outside the curate's home so that families out ‘trick or treating’ had a safe space to stop for a chat and a drink or even the use of a loo if needed. Each child was given a glow stick and a ‘Real Treat’ a carton of goodies which included some chocolate and an activity sheet which encouraged them to treat their friends and others who are not so well off as well as some puzzles and an example prayer. As you can imagine it was a real hive of activity, an oasis of light on a dark night offering an alternative view.

Xplode!

Hilary Bond

As I said last year (and probably the year before), our in-school Christian club is still going strong. We still run weekly in all three schools and are often full to our limit. The group will often make things to help them remember the story which they take back to their classes and their families - we hear lots of people saying that they have heard bible stories or worship songs from their children. We are making a habit of inviting the parents to join us from time to time, which the children love - and the parents seem to enjoy it too.

Wareham Toddler and Parent Group

Jane Williams

The group continues to attract between 20-30 toddlers per week and offers a great opportunity for friendships to develop and parents to support each other minimising the risks of isolation associated with parenting, especially in those early years.

Run completely by volunteers, including members of the Mothers Union who prepare the refreshments the group is strong and a great resource to the community. It provides a good link with baptism families and there are opportunities to go into church for festivals such as Harvest, Christmas and Easter.

Please continue praying for the group and in particular for new and committed leaders as some of our longstanding volunteers have come to the end of their time with us.

Foundation Governors

Stuart Cocksedge

In Wareham, we are privileged to have church involvement in our local schools, through Christians serving as Foundation Governors in our church schools, or using their faith to help them in their work in non-church schools. Our three local church schools are looking for Foundation Governors, offering excellent opportunities to build important links between church and school. If you feel you, or someone you know, would be interested in this role, please contact the Parish Office on 01929 550905.

Baptisms and Thanksgivings

Debs Barclay

In 2018 we had 18 Baptisms and 1 Thanksgiving of a Child in the Parish. All parents are invited to an informal meeting to meet members of our clergy and LPA team and other families. Each family is supported by one of our LPAs from the first meeting to the Service and are then welcomed back at a later date by the church family.

Funerals

Debs Barclay

During 2018, our clergy team (including the support of our retired clergy team) were present at 54 funerals, 39 within our parish churches and 15 at the local crematorium.

Lay Pastoral Assistant Team

Jean Dixon

Lay Pastors assist with the pastoral mission of the church. We are engaged in visiting those who are housebound or sick. Three LPAs visit all the families who bring their children with baptism; we visit them and help prepare them for the baptism service and then attend the service as well. Once a year we invite the families to come to a Family Communion service to receive a baptism mug.

LPAs also serve in various ministries; in the Parish Office, school governorships, taking services at Anglebury court. The initial training is very thorough and provides an excellent basis for pastoral ministry.

Marriage

Debs Barclay

During 2018, our clergy team ran a marriage preparation day, married 14 couples and blessed one couple in our parish. This year we have a further 10 weddings and one marriage blessing being planned.

OASIS

Jane Williams

We had a great start to the year running a very successful 'Living and Dying' course exploring death, dying and bereavement with a solicitor, a nurse and a funeral director. Held over three consecutive evenings, we attracted over thirty people and were joined by members of the clergy team for the discussions.

Unfortunately due to the new data regulations it is no longer possible to share personal information as before. This means the OASIS team are now unable to provide the bereavement support that has been received by lots of people in our parish over many years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jane Yard and the Oasis team for all their hard work and dedication.

Open House at Sandford

Lesley Milsom

With numbers of up to 20, 'Open House' remains very active. I am grateful for the varied speakers - after which there is time for a cup of tea, chat and a raffle. During 2018, the Group raised £110 for 'Shelter' in Bournemouth. Excluding August, we usually meet at 2 pm on the last Thursday of each month at Sandford St Martin's Church - come and join us!

Wareham Hospital

Brigid Barrett

You may have heard that Wareham Hospital is closed. This is not true! The hospital continues to provide a wide range of out-patient clinics and facilities, bringing consultant care closer to peoples' homes.

Sadly the publicity about NHS re-organisation in Dorset, which included closing Saxon Ward in Wareham Hospital, made recruiting staff there very difficult. The ward closed last year at very short notice due to lack of staff. The only NHS intermediate care beds (for those well enough to leave acute hospitals but not fit enough to go home) that remain in Purbeck, are at Swanage Hospital.

The shadow of losing the beds on Saxon Ward (with an uncertain time frame) was heavy for all the staff, and serving them as Chaplain has been a great privilege. All ward staff have now found other jobs, praise God. Nevertheless many staff past and present came to the Carol Service in December, which was also attended by matrons past and present. The work of the ward was remembered with gratitude and the Mayor, Cllr Carol Turner, spoke warmly about the many years of service to the whole community.

There is now an integrated team of Health and Social Care professionals comprising doctors, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and Health and Social Care co-ordinators working in a “virtual ward” to provide seamless care across the whole of Purbeck. They meet regularly in Anglebury Court.

We look forward, in hope, to the building of a Community Hub on the old Wareham Middle School site where these integrated services will be based. The proposed Hub will also accommodate all the outpatient facilities currently available in Wareham Hospital.

The Friends of Wareham Hospital continue and would very much appreciate your membership to help them promote the provision of Health and Social services in Wareham and Purbeck.

Wednesday Group

Nancy Baynes

The Wednesday Group is for anyone who wants to join in – men and women, and not just members of LSM congregation. The programme varies each month. This past year, as ever, we have had a variety of talks. There’s always time to chat and enjoy a cuppa. So, come to our meetings (advertised in the weekly news sheet) on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Parish Hall. Contribution £1.

Friday Lunch Club and the Christmas Day Party

Carol Turner

Another successful year of Lunch Club. We have however sadly had to say good-bye to some members who have died this past year or have been admitted to nursing homes, but we have also welcomed new members to our group. Because of this our numbers have decreased and we now have only 28 members officially registered. On average around 25 persons attend per session. As from February of this year we are proposing to trial a new venture. Through raising funds for my Mayor’s Charity this past year and with the generous help of Wareham Rotary I have been able to purchase a projector and screen for the Parish hall and we are trialling cinema screenings on the first session of each month at 10.45am followed by a soup and dessert/tea and coffee lunch. This exercise will run until April 2019 when we will re-visit its success/failure then. We were asked by the Rex Cinema to trial this as a dementia friendly screening opportunity so watch this space!! Our usual meals include a main meal, dessert and tea/coffee and I cater for vegetarian and gluten free diets also. All meals are cooked on the premises. New members are always welcome. Our Christmas and Easter specials remain very popular.

Christmas meal sponsored by various groups and organisations in Wareham was again very popular and was attended by 58 people this past year. 65 invitations were sent out and accepted but on the day, as usual, through ill health etc. only 58 attended and a “take out meal” was provided for one person also. This is a very valuable gift provided for those who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day. I would like to extend a big thank you to all those in the Quay Inn who raised funds and worked hard to supply and wrap Christmas presents for all who attended and to all those who gave up their time to help on the day.

I would like to extend my grateful thanks to all my helpers over the past year: Gloria Fripp, Maurice Lumber, Marje Heath, Lucia Kirk, Mike Brown and Rob and his various helpers from the Sandford Lane Day Centre and of course my husband Maurice Turner for his help with the cinema screenings. For further information on these activities please contact **Carol Turner on 556761**.

Resources and Support

Guardians and Guides

Margaret Day

Because of their architectural and historical significance, the churches of Lady St Mary and St Martin-on-the-Walls attract more than 11,000 visitors each year, from all over the world. Our teams of volunteers welcome them and provide information about the buildings and their contents and indicate places of quiet for meditation and prayer.

Our volunteer Guardians and Guides include people from various churches in the parish and some non-church members who are interested in the history of Wareham. They give generously of their time and knowledge by committing to a rota or being on a list of reserves, enabling us to keep Lady St Mary Church open for several hours daily throughout the year and to keep St Martin-on-the-Walls Church open during the summer visitor season. Our visitors' books and comments received verbally indicate how much our visitors appreciate this service, especially as so many churches need to be kept locked. We hope to be able to keep these beautiful, spiritual buildings open in the future, but to maintain a full rota more volunteers are needed.

Our Parish Bookstall

Jeannette Guinness

Our parish bookstall, based in Lady St Mary, continues to be a valuable resource for books, cards and little gifts for both worshippers and visitors. Great potential but sadly underused! Books sold included Eddie Askew's Prayers, Reimagining Britain by Justin Welby, Faithfulness on the Frontline, and Facing Death by Rachael Boulding. We also sold The Good Book Company series Talking Points on Assisted Suicide, The Porn Problem, Transgender, and Questions Christians ask including Why did Jesus have to die? Is forgiveness really free? There is a great selection of children's books especially over Christmas and Easter.

Profits enabled us to buy Life Word booklets and a contribution for NIV Bibles in our churches.

I am very happy to take orders from across the Parish for Christian books, Bibles and Bible Reading notes. 25 people order a variety of Bible Reading notes. Christian books are so helpful for ourselves and as gifts for family and friends, enabling us to grow in knowledge and loving service of our risen Lord.

Flower Arrangers

Pat Cherrett

A big thank you to our loyal band of Flower Arrangers, who continue to provide flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday Services. Unfortunately we are now very short of volunteers and would welcome anybody who feels they can join us no matter their ability. The rota usually only involves being available twice a year and to help at festivals such as Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Parish Hall Management

Carol Turner

Another busy year for the Committee of the Hall
Year period: April 2018/2019

As reported in last year's report, my next project was to raise the funds for a projector and screen and associated sound equipment for the hall to enable cinema screenings and other screenings which groups have requested to take place (the Camera Club and U3A in particular). This was achieved by my raising funds with my Mayor's Charity plus also a generous donation from the Wareham Rotary Club President's Charity, enabling the completion of the installation in late December. My brother Maurice also donated a DVD player, enabling the cinema screenings to take place. The trial of this was in early January but proved unsuccessful and so a new trial is being commenced in conjunction with Friday Lunch Club on the second Friday of each month and will run until April and be assessed thereafter for its success.

Resources and Support

We now have new halogen lights in the ladies' and disabled toilets and in the foyer, making for a brighter environment.

Bookings appear to be keeping steady and have been increased since last year with the addition of the dance / keep fit evenings and it is hoped that more users will take advantage of this lovely facility.

As reported last year, the hall was a victim of vandalism. Last January youngsters climbed over the wall from the car park in Church Green on several occasions, causing damage to the coping stones on the top of the listed wall. They also vandalised the plastic garden shed, breaking the door off, and vandalised the notice board on the side gate. I reported the same to the Police and have a Crime Reference number and offence rating of burglary. My fear was that they were seen running up and over the roof of the hall and I was worried that they would cause damage to the roof surface. This proved to be true when during a particularly wet time of the year a leak was discovered and I had to call Spillers out to repair the same. It was also established after a survey that the surrounding listed wall has been substantially damaged and it is awaiting further investigation at this time. If anyone witnesses youths in this unauthorised area causing damage or causing a disturbance do not hesitate to contact the Police straight away.

Future projects. The kitchen floor is the next to be refurbished but due to the fact that the hall is used constantly this will have to wait until a "shut down period", so watch this space (I have been in touch with the Wareham Wednesday's Committee in connection with raising funds for this).

Nine months ago I was approached by Sainsbury's in connection with their "waste" recycling. I undertook to collect three days a week and leave all donated goods on a table in the foyer of the hall asking for donations if possible. To date we have collected the grand sum of £1200. I take the donations to Curtis Butchers and purchase £10 meat vouchers and give these to the Food Bank for distribution to those in need. A marvellous outreach for the Church and Sainsbury's collaboration.

Finally I should like to thank all Committee members plus my husband Maurice and Jack Haworth, my brother Maurice who has without charge varnished and refurbished the entrance doors to the foyer and mended the blinds in the hall, Charles for re-fitting the Notice Board damaged last year and our caretakers Merville and Zoe for their support over the past year, and I look forward to working with them throughout 2019/20.

Parish Hall Bookings

Debs Barclay

Bookings for 2018 again have remained constant and ensured that the Hall was reasonably busy. Regular clubs and organisations from the local community, as in past years, include the Art Club, Angel Voices, Camera Club, Diabetes Education Group, Mothers' Union, Wareham Parent and Toddler Group, Lunch Club, the Wednesday Group, Dance fitness class and the Saturday Coffee Morning and MARS Training sessions.

There were also other occasional bookings for Baptismal and Wedding parties, Thanksgiving Funeral Teas; Christian Aid held a Lent and Advent Lunch; Guardians and Guides and Ridge Residents Association held their AGMs; Wareham and Purbeck Multiple Sclerosis Society held their annual Family Fun Day in July and other various church activities.

Parish Office

Debs Barclay

We have had yet another very busy and varied year in the Parish Office. Our team of volunteers have worked hard as always this year and I am truly grateful for all their support, especially during my absence through illness, and to Anne Mills who kept the Parish Office running during that time. A sincere "Thank You" to all our volunteers, Maxine, Bidy, Anne who remain a great help with their continuing support and we welcomed two new volunteers to the Parish Office Alison Litherland-Payne and Gay Young; all their support is always greatly appreciated, although when we are caught

Resources and Support

up with the business of the office it may get forgotten. We said goodbye to Jane Yard who stepped down due to illness so a sincere “Thank you” for all Jane’s hard work, it has been greatly appreciated over the years. The office is open for external enquiries on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9.30am until 12.30pm.

Role: Name	Working hours Time in Post	Main responsibilities of the post
Parish Administrator and Finance Officer: Debs Barclay	Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays Since May 2007	To answer enquiries via telephone, directing callers to the most appropriate member of staff. To provide administrative support for all staff, clergy and volunteers. To train, equip and support the volunteer team in the parish office. To provide support for other events and activities for church groups e.g. Holiday Club, Marriage Preparation, Small Group study guides, Order of Services etc. To co-ordinate volunteers for worship rotas and school assembly rotas. To oversee the co-ordination and administration of weddings. To support the church electoral roll officer. To manage aspects of the parish churches’ finances alongside the treasurer. To oversee the budget for admin and Petty Cash. To oversee the co-ordination and administration of baptisms and funerals. To order stationery, equipment etc. To be the DSB verifier and Parish Safeguarding Officer PCC Secretary To keep church information boards up to date with leaflets and posters. To oversee the Parish Hall and Church diary on a day-to-day basis.
Volunteer: Anne Mills	From 2018 Thursday mornings Since 2008	To edit the Parish Pew Sheet and Monthly Events Diary Helping Debs with administrative duties. To answer enquiries in the Parish Office.
Volunteer: Alison Litherland-Payne	Wednesday mornings Since 2018	To answer enquiries in the Parish Office. Helping Debs with administrative duties. To answer enquiries via telephone, directing callers to the most appropriate member of staff.
Volunteer: Bridget Villiers-Stuart	Friday mornings Since 2013	To answer enquiries in the Parish Office. To answer enquiries via telephone, directing callers to the most appropriate member of staff.
Volunteer Maxine Humphries	Tuesday mornings Since 1998	To compile the Sunday Pew Sheet. To compile the Monthly Events Diaries. To answer enquiries in the Parish Office.

Resources and Support

Volunteer: Gay Young	Monday mornings Since 2018	To answer enquiries in the Parish Office. To answer enquiries via telephone, directing callers to the most appropriate member of staff.
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Review of the Year

Reserves Policy

We try to hold a balance in Unrestricted Funds equal to at least 4 months of annual expenditure to smooth and cover future fluctuations. At the end of the year the cover was 4.1 months.

Financial

The PCC makes policy decisions, deals with legal issues and controls the finances of the Parish.

It is our policy to invest funds in the CBF Investment Income Shares.

In 2018, we were blessed with a good response to the Gift Weekend and another very successful fund-raising event at Creech Grange. These, coupled with a significant fees income from weddings and funerals, would have resulted in a small surplus but for two maintenance bills and higher than anticipated gas bills for December, which were not presented until January.

Summary

	Unrestricted (General Funds)	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds
Income	£182,811	£42,207		£225,018
Expenditure	£183,768	£48,257		£232,025
Surplus	-£957	-£6,050		-£7,007
To be carried forward	£115,360	£119,696	£33,588	£268,845

In 2018 the value of our CBF Investments fell by £2,100 which, coupled with the above, meant that our total assets had been reduced by £9,107 from their value at the end of 2017.

The table below shows a breakdown of the Unrestricted Income and Expenditure by percentage.

Income			Expenditure		
Planned Giving	£87,893	48%	Parish Share	£99,636	54%
Collections	£15,293	9%	Clergy Expenses	£6,101	3%
Offertory Boxes	£7,513	4%	Church Utilities	£15,483	8%
Donations	£8,067	4%	Ch. Running Costs	£18,169	10%
Legacies	£3,000	2%	Parish Hall	£11,480	6%
Gift Day	£5,304	3%	Administration	£26,321	14%
Fund Raising	£13,164	7%	Other	£6,578	4%
Refreshments	£4,811	3%			
Dividends and Int	£3,194	2%			
Parish Hall Rental	£6,904	4%			
PCC Fees	£19,257	11%			
Other	£7,411	4%			
Total	£182,811	100%	Total	£183,768	100%

Note 1: The PCC has £138,573 invested with the CBF's (Church Board of Finance) Income Investment Fund.

The **reduction** in value of these investments in 2018, within the above totals, were notionally:

Unrestricted **£911** Restricted **£644** Endowments **£545** Total **£2,100**

Finance

and it must be stressed that their value can go up or down according to the current state of the stock market!

Note 2: *It is worth pointing out that during 2018, in addition to the £11,258 we have donated to our regular Mission Partners, including the Sudan Teachers, Malcolm Taylor, Ruth Guinness and Not Just Sundays, together with a variety of small donations made by the different churches in the Parish to local charities, we have also distributed another £12,575 to various charities from our funerals collections. These charities include:*

Age UK	Water Aid
UK Diabetes	Cancer Research
British Heart Foundation	Marie Curie
Forest Holme	Royal British Legion
Diverse Abilities	SSAFA
Holton Lee	Macmillan Nurses
Air Ambulance	Douch
Wareham Hospital	Poole Hospital
Wareham District Nurses	Margaret Green Animals
Julia's House	Wareham Surgery

March 2019

Information about the PCC

Objective and Activities

The Parish of Wareham's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Canon Simon Everett, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the maintenance responsibilities for the Parish Hall, Wareham.

Our core values:

Local Church that is welcoming, relational and accessible for all generations and builds family and community life.

Worship that is inspiring, passionate, intimate, culturally appropriate and facilitates encounter with God.

Every-member Ministry that is evangelistic, holistic, and concerned with justice and care for the poor, and encourages new church initiatives.

Orthodox Theology with doctrine and ethics founded on the person, teaching and work of Jesus as revealed in the Bible.

Bible-based Preaching and Teaching and training that is thoughtful, relevant and equips for everyday life and ministry.

Personal Discipleship that is based on living like Jesus, exemplifying love, prayerfulness, holiness, integrity, accountability, humility and generosity.

Anointed Leadership that is visionary, courageous, humble, consistent, full of faith and releases church members into their God-given ministries.

Our key objectives:

1. To be a listening, learning, laughing, loving and praying community.
2. To establish worship for families and people of all ages across our parish on different days building on the worship at all our Churches.
3. To build on our strong links with all schools in the parish by establishing a co-ordinated schools programme from governorships through to Collective Worship (assemblies).
4. To continue to grow together in love and grace through the power of the Spirit.
5. To support, train and grow our lay leaders.

6. To be engaging and supporting of young people (especially from 13-21) expanding our current provision and beginning new groups and initiatives where we can. Exploring the possibility of employing a skilled person to lead on this.
7. To ensure we establish a relevant and distinctive church presence north of the railway and in other parts of the parish.
8. To adapt our buildings where appropriate to accommodate these priorities.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register in the Electoral Roll and are welcome to stand for election to the PCC.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

Incumbent: Reverend Canon Simon Everett

Team Vicar: Reverend Stuart Cocksedge

Associate Priest: Reverend Michael Young

Wardens: Pat Cherrett
Merville Gover
Jon Moulton

Members: Sue Bartholomew *Until 2021*
Robert McLeish *Until 2020*
Marjorie Heath *Until 2021*
Clive Cherrett *Until 2020*
Pippa Cracknell *Until 2021*
David Parry Jones *Until 2019*
Maureen Lever *Until 2020*
Diane Kimble *Until 2020*
Jonathan Stretch *Until 2019*

Treasurer: Michael Wardle *Until 2019*

Deanery Synod Representatives: *Until 2020*

Anne King
Elizabeth Day
Jon Moulton
Simon Lathwell
Rebecca Green

Electoral Roll Secretary: Di Beaumont

PCC Secretary: Deborah Barclay

Information about the PCC

Committees and sub groups

As with previous years, the PCC elected a number of sub committees to act on their behalf. These groups are as follows:

Standing Committee:

2 Clergy (Canon Simon Everett and the Reverend Stuart Cocksedge)

2 Churchwardens (Pat Cherrett)
(Merville Gover)

PCC Treasurer (Michael Wardle)

PCC Secretary (Debs Barclay)

Fabric Committee:

Fabric Officer (Clive Cherrett)

1 Churchwarden (Pat Cherrett)

Health & Safety Officer (Jack Haworth)

Team Rector Canon Simon Everett

Member of PCC (Sue Bartholomew)

Finance Committee:

Team Rector (Canon Simon Everett)

PCC Treasurer (Michael Wardle)

Arne Representative (Nick Greenwood)

East Holme Representative (Jon Moulton)

Sandford Representative (Maureen Lever)

Lady St Mary Representative (Pat Cherrett)

St Martin-on-the-Wall Representative
(Jonathan Stretch)

Parish Hall Sub Committee:

Parish Hall Manager (Carol Turner)

Booking Secretary (Debs Barclay)

Caretaker (Zoe Gover)

Health & Safety Officer (Jack Haworth)

Merville Gover (Churchwarden)

Mission Parish Outreach:

Team Rector (Canon Simon Everett)

Team Vicar (Stuart Cocksedge)

1 Associate Priest (Michael Young)

Children's and Young People's Worker
(Hilary Bond)

Representative from Sandford

Team Rector (Canon Simon Everett)

Debs Barclay (Parish Safeguarding
Representative)

Mission Support Team:

Robert McLeish

David Harris

John Bowen

Susan Stuart

Eddie Taylor

Congregational Committees:

Arne Pippa Cracknell (Local Warden)

Ann Gear

Nick Greenwood (Local
Treasurer)

Virginia Collings (Chair)

Helen Scotney (Secretary)

Alan Southam

East Holme William Bond

Gillian Christopher

Venn Goldsack

Jon Moulton

Ruby Selby

Stuart Cocksedge

Lady St Mary Merville Gover (Chair)

Clive Cherrett

Pat Cherrett

Jack Haworth

Robert McLeish (Secretary)

Ian Church

Phil Stephens

Liz Day

Jean Dixon

Carol Turner

Paul Harrison

Sue Bartholomew

Sandford Carol Gallop

Team Vicar (Stuart Cocksedge)

Maureen Lever

Lesley Milsom (Secretary)

Erica Payne

Malcolm Selwood

Diane Kimble

SMoW Di Beaumont

Jonathan Stretch

Lindsey Dowdall

Anne King

Hazel Walters (Secretary)

Information about the PCC

From November 2011 a newly agreed leadership structure, involving sub groups of teams, was implemented. The four key sub groups under which all our activity should take place are:

Mission and Worship

Children and Young People

Pastoral

Resources and Support

This leadership structure is now the basis for all PCC meetings and as such this annual report has been divided into these main groups.

Review of the Year

During 2018 the full PCC met for five business meetings and 1 Extra Ordinary meeting.

After the Team ministry Thinking Day it was suggested that the PCC Mission statement be rewritten for greater understanding the purpose of this would be so that we could incorporate this on our website and correspondence and advertising. The PCC agreed to this and has sought to make decisions in line with our stated **Vision statement: We are here to show God's love and to make Jesus known.**

Mission statement; We seek to fulfil our vision by:

- **Reaching out to our local community in the power of the Spirit.**
- **Prayerfully serving those in need.**
- **Enjoying fellowship together.**
- **Growing as disciples of Christ as we feed on God's word.**

The Bishop has asked all PCCs and our congregational committees to consider the personality and character of our parish and what are the priorities of our local church. How we can work together more and measure the impact and quality of what we do are also questions requiring further thought.

Education and the **support of all four schools in our parish** has been another main focus for the PCC throughout 2018. The PCC have continued to appoint Foundation Governors in our four church schools, supported the expansion of Xplode and the work and support that is offered to all schools in our parish. The PCC has spent much time considering and

praying for the issues surrounding the needs of our congregation and communities in Sandford and continues to do so.

Another recurring theme that the PCC have spent much time considering, and will continue to do so throughout 2019, is the **Finance** of the parish and how to balance the books.

The PCC continue to encourage those in our church family who may be willing to consider a role in helping with the running of the church in the future. All are encouraged to consider what gifts they may have and if they would be able to help through volunteering, taking a role on the PCC, as a Churchwarden or on their congregational committee, either now or at some stage in the future.

The Parish of Wareham Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018

Tuesday 24th April 2018
in the Parish Hall at 7.15pm for 7.30pm.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

1. **Opening Prayers:** Canon Simon Everett
2. **Apologies:** Sue Bartholomew, Beatrice Smith, Merville Gover
Apologies from the floor: Marten Richter, Mervyn Lloyd, Robert Day, Colin Appleton, David Cracknell, Pat Collings, Ruby Selby, Ann Harrison, Gay Young, Maurice Turner, Linda Everett, Rachel Cocksedge, Erica Payne

There were 52 attendees present as attached list.

3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 26th April 2017:**
All agreed who were present at the last APCM that these minutes were a true account of this meeting.

4. **Election of Churchwarden Results:**

Nominations received from:

Ruby Selby and Jonathon Moulton for the Parish of St John the Evangelist, East Holme, Wareham.

All agreed that there would be of a suspension of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 and the above named were duly elected as Churchwardens. All Agreed - unanimous decision

Nominations received from:

Patricia Cherrett and Merville Gover for the Parish of Wareham.

Both were duly elected as Churchwardens, unopposed and a unanimous decision.

Canon Simon Everett thanked all the Churchwardens for all they do for the Parish.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. **Minutes of last year's APCM – Wednesday 26th April 2017**
All agreed who were present at the last APCM that these minutes were a true account of this meeting and were duly signed by the Chair, the Reverend Canon Simon Everett.
2. **Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Accounts for 2017**
Before I give my report, I believe that this is the first opportunity on which my predecessor, Malcolm Selwood, could be thanked for his hard work as PCC Treasurer. I hope the meeting can endorse this. Malcolm had taken over part way through 2016 and had the task of merging the 2016 finance package MYOB, with its 2017 replacement, Finance Coordinator. Unfortunately, he had to stand down in September 2017 for personal reasons, including stress, which I sincerely hope wasn't caused by this role.
To fill the gap, having been the PCC Treasurer on a previous occasion, I offered in October to stand in for the next 18 months to complete the transition, to prepare the 2017 and 2018

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2018

accounts and hopefully to have time to support a successor. I would strongly advise that such an individual be identified as soon as possible, so that they would be able to take over from the beginning of 2019, rather than the more difficult task of taking over part way through the financial year next April.

I am delighted to say that for the first time since I have been involved in the Parish Finances during the last 20 years, the Parish showed a substantial surplus at the end of 2017.

The full report runs to some 90 pages, but as the main tables should have been on display in each church for the last four weeks, I hope you will accept a short summary of the key points instead.

Slide 2: The unrestricted surplus of £32278.00 is largely due to the anonymous legacy we received, without this legacy, we would have just broken even.

Slide 3: The Parish total assets of £280000.00 at the end of 2017. Half the figures are held in CBF investments. These of course can go up or down according to the performance of the stock market!

Slide 4: This shows the breakdown of the Unrestricted Income and Expenditure and it is worth pointing out that the 2017 legacy represented 17% of our income! In 2017, the planned giving and weekly collections roughly balanced the Parish Share, but in 2018 the share has increased by another 5%. Will our giving match this 5%?

Slide 5: It is often suggested that 10% (or a tithe) of our income should be donated to charity, so it is worth noting that the £17241 raised for Charity last year was almost exactly 10% of our income when one excluded the large legacy. The PCC has already agreed to tithe this legacy.

If there are any questions I will do my best to answer them.

Last year the Treasurer stressed the importance of increasing our overall giving, and also of utilising the Gift Aid Relief, wherever possible. The Diocese has adopted a national scheme for planned-giving and is encouraging Parishes to take part. In this scheme, monthly giving is collected centrally by direct-debit, gift-aid is then collected automatically, and it also includes the possibility of increasing one's giving annually by inflation. The Parish then gets a regular monthly income without all the associated recording of individual donations.

The slides which follow and the leaflets available as you leave describe this scheme in full.

Members of the PCC urge you to back this scheme as they have already done themselves!

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking David Cracknell, in his role as our Independent Examiner, for meticulous work and support in helping to prepare and approve the accounts. I would also like to thank Debs for her day to day work entering all the financial data and especially for putting up with my constant queries with such good grace.

Liz Day expressed thanks to Michael for taking on the post of treasurer.

3. Appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditors for this year's accounts

David Cracknell was appointed as Independent Examiner

Proposed by Michael Johnson and seconded by Maureen Lever – All in favour

Newton Magnus Accountants were appointed as External Auditor

Proposed by Mary Appleton and seconded by Carol Turner – All in favour

4. Team Vicar's Report

Stuart informed the congregation that he had been in post for over a year now and had finally unpacked his study! Stuart had recently prayed at a wedding Ephesians 4: Verse 4 *There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called;*

Rejoice in the Lord always! Even though we have recently had the tragedy in Wareham town, we are reminded to rejoice in the good times as well as the bad. In September the Head teacher position was filled by Paul Beveridge, who is settling in well and is playing a big part in moving Sandford St Martin's Primary school forward. Seedlings Toddler Group in Sandford is proving a great success and has led more families joining to a modest growth of Breakfast@9.

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2018

The name of the church changed in Autumn, instead of being Sandford St Martin's Community Worship Centre, it will now revert back to having church in the title "Sandford St Martin's Church". The new church noticeboards are finished and are now in place. Fruitfulness on the Frontline course ran throughout Lent and was successful and enjoyed by those who attended. Easter Egg hunts took place at Westgate, Northmoor and Sandford with 128 children taking part. Thy Kingdom Come prayer week will take place in St Martin-on-the-Walls church beginning on Monday 14th May until Friday 18th May. This will consist of prayer stations with resources to help pray and evening prayers Monday to Thursday at 7.30pm.

5. The Churchwarden's Report, including Fabric Report

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your help and support over the past very busy year. I have managed to attend some services in all our five churches and also committee meetings at Sandford and Arne and have been made welcome at all of them.

As all the reports are printed in the celebrating 2018 booklet there is very little for me to add without repetition. Last year in my report I said that our glass is half full and not empty and I hope we can be positive and not negative. I appealed for volunteers for brass cleaning and although this has taken a little time to filter through we now have Team 1 consisting of Sue Bartholomew, Liz Day and Paul Harrison. They cleaned all the brass before Easter. We are now looking for Team 2 and perhaps Team 3. This would make the task such a lot less daunting. I am now appealing for more of you to volunteer for all the other areas of the church that are looking for more volunteers. Form a team and make the job a social time.

Another team that we are in need of is for a Spring clean of the outside of LSM, weeding and general tidying. This was achieved with a few last year and it would be lovely to repeat again.

On the positive we asked for donations for new pew bibles and a new lectern bible very pleased to report that 80 bibles and the lectern bible have all been generously sponsored. One more positive is the food we get from Sainsburys not saleable on the premises, which we can now offer for donations which go to such good causes as the food bank and for the people in need who come to the office.

We have had our overdue Quinquennial inspection and are waiting for the written report and hopefully a clean bill of health with no major work to be undertaken.

Unfortunately we have decided that this will be the last Flower Festival and although it will be a sad occasion for us after 32 years I feel that we have been fortunate to have been able to achieve this for so long with the help of many of you. We will be looking for more help this year as we have the Worle wind Band from Worle, a village near Weston Super Mare for our Saturday evening concert and they will need refreshments before the concert.

Creech Grange is also happening again this year on Sunday 19th August and again we need all your help and support. Speaking to one of the ladies who work their socks off in the kitchen she said that it is hard work but really enjoyable. This is a major outreach to the 1,000 plus people from this area apart from the amount of funds raised. The comments from families are always amazing making all the effort worthwhile. Thank you to Norman Hayward who spends a lot of time and money preparing the grounds for us.

Pat also reported that the food waste partnership is a great success and the donations raised were already benefitting Food bank and meat vouchers were being purchased to give to families also.

I now look forward to serving as Churchwarden for the coming year. I would like to thank Simon the Team for including me as part of the team and giving me their support and Debs and the office volunteers and also Clive as we work as a Team in both our duties.

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2018

A vote of thanks were shown to Pat and Clive Cherrett.

Firstly many apologies that I cannot be with you this evening.

I wish you a successful evening with the various elections and business that you will be debating. I feel that we should be very thankful for the past year within our parish.

I thank you for your support as your parish warden over the past year I wish us all a very successful year ahead.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish Simon a very happy birthday for tomorrow.
Every blessing Merville

6. Deanery Synod Report

The Purbeck Deanery Synod met three times during the year of 2017:

8th March, at All Saints Swanage. The subject was the Dementia Friendly Church, given by Tracy Wilson. In her talk she gave an illustrated presentation to show how churches can become more welcoming and accessible for people with memory loss, dementia and similar afflictions. Tracy is a project worker with Faithworks Wessex, focusing on improving conditions for sufferers of dementia and similar afflictions.

Tracy discussed the variety of forms that memory loss can take, and the different effects on the person suffering from the consequences. Also the rate of progression of the memory loss varied widely, allowing some to carry on with familiar routines in church and voluntary work for extended periods.

It is hoped that the churches of this parish will at some point have a dementia friendly audit, and then we will think about the possibility of starting a dementia friendly service.

The second meeting was held on Wednesday 21st June, at Corfe Castle School. the subject was 'Youth, Church and the Local Culture': Lindy Cameron, the lay co-chair, introduced the topic, outlining her background and extensive experience in youth work and counselling.

Accompanying Lindy was Berno Vierbergen, a youth minister with "The Wave" (a charity set up by the all the churches in Swanage to work with young people). he described the wide range of activities that they provided, both in school and outside. All ages of volunteer supporters and workers were involved. In line with the principles explored by Lindy, building personal relationships on a one to one basis was an essential feature of the activities, including regular weekly sessions and occasional visits to camps and festivals, with eating food together a frequent element.

The Third Meeting of 2017 was held here in the Parish Hall, and Explored the subject of Welcoming Visitors into our Churches. The talk was given by Canon John Brown, who is chairman of the "Churches Visitor and Tourism Association".

He gave an outline of his previous experiences with ministry in both urban town centre churches and rural parishes. This had led him to recognise the importance of the ministry of church buildings in the mission of the church.

He argued that the value of the Church of England parish structure, with a church building in every significant community, should be more recognised and utilised in the mission activity of the church. The church building was an ever-present reminder and symbol of God's presence in each community, having a meaning to even those who professed to have no religious inclination. If we agreed that the church is there to serve the community, and is to be a continual symbol of God's presence, then the church building should also serve the community, with easy access for long hours as can be arranged for all who want to enter. All must be welcome, not just the select few who refer to it as 'my church'. He then gave practical advice on how to encourage tourist to visit, and how to overcome difficulties such as vandalism etc.

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2018

Simon Everett – Rural Dean

7. Electoral Roll Officer's Report *Electoral Roll*

Electoral Roll

Our Electoral roll has currently 312 persons which is an overall decrease of 14 compared to 326 last year. The Breakdown is as follows;

Arne	46	up 3
East Holme	28	the same
LSM	189	down 19
Sandford	33	up 2
SMOW	16	the same

We give thanks for the lives of those who have died in the last year;
Nigel Barnes, Graham Elmes, Patricia Ferguson, Michael Hipwell, Sarah Massey, Denis Podger, Anthony Richardson, Kathleen Rogers, Kirsten Webb, Guy Williams

also remembering those who were not on our Electoral Roll but were influential in our community

Bob Naylor, Viv Guilfoyle, Michael Holmewood

And for those whose funerals are in the next week

JJ Mangan, Reginal Spiller, Peggy White, Peter Welsh, Peter Anderson, Norman Mears.

We pray that those who mourn find Your Peace, Shalom, Amen

Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer for 2018

Di Beaumont to be appointed as Electoral Roll Officer

Proposed by Rebecca Green and seconded by Anne King - All were in favour

8. Team Rector's Report:

I want to start my address with some updates on important matters that have been in the news recently. The first is Safeguarding. Not a popular subject but one that the Church has had to take very seriously in recent years. I am sure all saw the Archbishop of Canterbury on TV recently at the inquiry into historic sexual abuse within the Church of England. Because of the evil acts of a few within the church of yesteryear, the whole church of today has to make safeguarding a priority, and I want you all to know that here in this parish we have within the past year adopted a new policy that was put forward by General Synod. Also, that we are in the throes of making sure that all people within the church working with, or near, children or vulnerable adults will have the right safeguarding training. I know that for some this is a big commitment and for many an inconvenience, but unfortunately it is necessary that Church is seen to be proactive in making sure that the crimes of the past are never allowed to happen again (as far as we are able).

The second matter is the equally unpopular subject of Health and Safety. Now I know that this comes in for a lot of bad press, and when it is taken to ridiculous extremes, rightly so, but it is responsible for making the world a much safer place. For everyone's safety, and for insurance purposes, the churches of this land have had to make sure that they are compliant with latest regulations, and again this is something that we are getting to grips with, with the help of Ecclesiastical insurance.

Stuart, with Deb's help, has been at the forefront of both of these revisions and updates, and I am most grateful for his help on these matters. This is the less glamorous side to ordained

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2018

ministry that they don't prepare you for at theological college! Now to something a little more interesting.

Over the past few years that I have been here I have explored what it means to be a team in the context that we are in, and then how the pervading culture of the team and the parish is the foundation upon which we will build the ministry we carry out in God's name. And gradually over the months and years there have been changes, often subtle but nevertheless significant. Giving has increased, and the attendances at the Sunday services have been gently increasing, although it would always be good to see more folk week by week, and the mood of the parish has, and is, changing. All this said there is no room for complacency and there is still plenty of work to be done - there always will be until the Lord comes!

In many ways this past year has been a year of adjusting and bedding down (so to speak). With Stuart's arrival just over a year ago it has been a steep learning curve for him, coming into a pre-existing team. It is widely recognised that the step-up from Curate to Vicar is the one of the biggest in Church ministry and he has done incredibly well. He has brought his experience and insights and with these he has challenged me and the other leaders to think what it means to be a Ministry Team but also a Team Ministry.

Jane has been on a pretty steep learning curve too as she settles into her ministry as priest. One of the great joys of being a Curate (I can just about remember back that far!) is that you do not get bogged down with so much of the routine admin that incumbents and Team Vicars have, and Jane has certainly made use of the time that this gives by getting involved in many local projects (like Toddler Group – Thursdays, and Governing at Wareham St Mary Primary school, ladies breakfast). But there have also been other one-offs like the fashion show, the ladies afternoon, "Cause you're worth it, this past weekend and her forthcoming Dying and Living evenings coming up.

Then there is Michael and Brigid who bring a wisdom and experience from having lived and worked locally for a number of years. These are the ordained members of the Ministry Team but the danger with clergy is that they can get too 'clericalised' (which sounds pretty ghastly – well actually it is rather ghastly!) That's why it is so valuable having Pat as Churchwarden and Debs as Administrator to keep our feet on the ground. We have an excellent Team, for which we should thank God.

One of the great benefits of being a team, we can all learn from, and support, each other and we all bring different personalities, gifts, strengths and weaknesses – you will have seen this as we minister in the different churches week by week, and you get to know us.

Having looked back, and assessed the present, the obvious next step is, where do we go from here. And that is what the Ministry Team has been putting its mind to. Things have come into a sharper focus only this last week. Brigid went off to Spring Harvest at Minehead just after Easter, and came back sharing a new initiative that explores discipleship – what it means; what it looks like in a local setting and how it can be encouraged. Now I know that to a certain degree some of this was covered in our recent Lent course but with something as fundamental as discipleship it is helpful to see it from different perspectives and different people will respond to different approaches.

Anyway we shall see, but the course starts by asking what may seem an almost unnecessary question, 'Are you a Believer or a Disciple?' Now probably, in a great many of your minds they are synonymous, and indeed they can be, but to quote Ira Gershwin, 'It ain't necessarily so!' Cris Rogers, the writer of this course, suggests that for too long the modern day church has put too much of an emphasis on encouraging people to be believers rather than disciples i.e. it has placed the emphasis on knowing and understanding the Bible and the Christian

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2018

faith, rather than living it out. Now don't get me wrong, these are incredibly important parts of our Christian life, but they are part of a bigger whole.

To quote from the Introduction of 'Making Disciples', '*Jesus didn't tell his disciples to listen to more of his teaching but to follow him and see how he 'did' life in relationship with God... At its heart, the church has to be disciple making not just believer making. Jesus is not looking for more believers, He is also looking for people who will give everything of themselves to His mission to change the world.*' (p7)

A little later he continues, '*Sadly, many people claim to be believers but Jesus never asked for more believers. Jesus talked about "disciples". In Matthew 28 Jesus sends His followers out and tells them to make more "disciples". Disciples making disciples.*

'There is a significant difference between believers and disciples. Believers are those who have their golden ticket. They believe Jesus lived, died and rose again. These believers are saved and now wait for the day they die to make their way on the heaven train. This group is sitting back, attending worship, and waiting until the day they get into heaven. But there is so much more than this. God is looking for partners in His Kingdom work. What God has in store for his people is much more than longing and waiting for death.' (P8)

Unfortunately in the Church of England there has in the greater part been a culture of the clergy being the main ministers rather than the leaders of congregations of ministers. The recent reduction in clergy numbers has caused the church to go back to the Bible and reflect on the ministry of the early church, and indeed the ministry of Jesus' disciples, and this shows that there is a part for every believer to play.

Jesus was approached one day and asked, "What is the greatest commandment?" He responded, "'Love the Lord your God with all heart, and with all you soul, and with all your mind and with all your strength'; 'and love your neighbour as yourself.'" Discipleship is about Loving God with all that we have and then showing that love by serving others. Or, to put it another way, the believer will know the greatest commandment, and say it week by week, the Disciple will live it!

And so the question to ponder in the coming days, 'Are you a believer or a disciple?'

As I have already said in my letter to the Annual Reports it is great to see the parish gradually changing and growing and this is thanks to everyone playing a part in showing God's love and a good many serving God in many different ways. Our Annual Report, 'Celebrating 2017' highlights many of those ways and there are too many people to thank in person, although I would like to mention.

To start with there are some thank-yous that need to be said:

Ministry Team: Stuart, Jane, Michael, Brigid, Debs, Pat and Hilary

Churchwardens and Local Wardens

Clive as Verger, and Eddie deputy

Sacristans

PCC (Malcolm (by a regrettable oversight not mentioned) and Michael Treasurer, Debs Secretary)

All who work in the Parish Office

Organists (Maurice)

Bill & the Choir

Coffee makers (Sat & Sun)

Bell Ringers

Flower Arrangers

Cleaners

Mary and the Angel –Voices committee

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2018

Hand bell ringers (esp. Jenny Elmes + Angela)
Guardian and Guides
Ladies and Mens Breakfast
LPAs & OASIS
Open House
Foundation Governors
Those working with the Toddler Groups
Carol Turner & All involved with the Parish Hall

Particular thank you to John Cleaton, who has represented this parish on the Burial Board for I don't know how long – not a glamorous job but important that we are represented and that our voice is heard.

Reading the Annual Report it is clear that there is a huge amount going on in this parish and I would like to thank all those who play an active part within the church and community. There are too many people involved to thank them all by name, but please take it from me that I am both impressed and truly thankful for all that you do. The Bible says that Christian Disciples should be salt and light in the world and it is clear that many of you take this seriously, (both in the church and community). Thank you.

9. Election of members to serve on The Parochial Church Council:

PCC Nominations:

Lady St Mary Church (3 places vacant) – 0 applications received.

Sandford St Martin's Church, (1 places vacant) – 0 applications received.

St Nicholas Church, Arne (1 place vacant) application received as local Warden from Pippa Cracknell

Deanery Synod Nomination:

1 Vacancy to stand 2020 – 0 applications received. 1 nomination received from Rebecca Green from the floor.

The above were proposed by Simon Lathwell and seconded by Di Beaumont – All Agreed

10. Appointment of Sidesmen and Women:

There was no appointment of sidesmen or women as the churches have welcome teams, which Simon thanked for their support.

Canon Simon Everett as Rural Dean will be doing the Archdeacons visitations in Purbeck along with Canon Charles Mashedor who will be doing the visitation for Wareham

11. Closing Prayers and Blessing

Meeting finished by 9.30pm

Signed..... Chairdate

Minutes of the Meeting held in 2018

THE PARISH OF WAREHAM ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

WENESDAY 10TH APRIL 2019 at 7.00pm in the PARISH HALL

AGENDA

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2018
4. Election of Churchwardens for East Holme and Wareham

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th April 2018 (Please read prior to meeting)
2. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the Accounts for 2018
3. Appointment of the Independent Examiner or Auditors for this year's accounts
4. Team Vicar's Report
5. The Churchwarden's Report, including Fabric Report
6. The Deanery Synod Report
7. Electoral Roll Officer's Report (Di Beaumont)
8. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer for 2019
9. The Rector's Report
10. Election of members to serve on The Parochial Church Council
 - 1 Vacancy – Lady St Mary Church, Wareham*
 - 1 Vacancy – St Nicholas Church, Arne*
 - 1 Vacancy - St Martin-on-the-Walls Church, Wareham*
 - 1 Vacancy – Sandford St Martin's Church*
11. Election of members to serve on Deanery Synod
 - No Vacancies to serve at this time*
12. Closing Prayer and Blessing

