



St Mary's Church Wargrave

With Knowl Hill

**THE PARISH OF WARGRAVE WITH KNOWL HILL
PARISH REPORTS**

For the Year

2018

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
and
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL MEETING**

**To be held in St Mary's Church Centre, Wargrave
on
Sunday, April 7th 2019
at 11.00 a.m.**

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Wargrave with Knowl Hill APCM – 7th April 2019

AGENDA

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on April 16th 2018
4. Vicar's Report; 2018 Highlights and 2019 Priorities
5. The Electoral Roll
6. Financial Report and election of the Auditor
7. Parish Reports
8. Elections and Appointments:
 - Deanery Synod Election
 - PCC Election
 - Appointment of Sidesmen
9. COG Reports
10. Other Reports
 - Mission Team Report
 - Eco Church Report
11. St. Mary's Church Centre Project update
12. Any other notified business
13. Prayers

MINUTES OF THE MEETING FOR THE ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS, AND THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING OF THE PARISH OF WARGRAVE WITH KNOWL HILL HELD ON MONDAY 16th APRIL 2018 IN ST. MARY'S CHURCH AT 8.00 P.M.

About 45 members of the congregation were present. Before the meeting, refreshments were served.

Meeting for Election of Churchwardens

Christine Walker and Robert Austen had previously been proposed and seconded for Wargrave, and Sandra Baker for Knowl Hill. There being no other nominations, the three above named were unanimously declared elected as Churchwardens.

The Vicar thanked the Salome Laschinger, the retiring Churchwarden and Christine Walker and Sandra Baker for all their work in supporting the life of the church.

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1. **The Annual Parochial Church Meeting** commenced with readings from 2 Corinthians 2:15-16 and a short talk on being the "aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing", followed by prayer.
 2. **Apologies**
Apologies for absence were received from Jane Austen, Mike Buckland, Dick Bush, Sean Carradine, Peter & Annette Dart, Gavin Dunbar, Jon Edgell, Julia Freeman, Sue Griffiths, Sue Mayes, Chris & Helen Perry, Jimmie & Serena Remnant, Anne Whittaker, David Williams, Sue Witney.
 3. **Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 24th April 2017**
The minutes of last year's meeting were reviewed and agreed *nem con*.
 4. **Vicar's Report**
The Vicar's report is included in the published Parish Reports document, page 8. The importance of our APCM was highlighted as being an opportunity to collectively reflect on our ministry as a Church over the past year and to look ahead to the challenges and opportunities ahead of us.
There were no questions and the report was received *nem con*.
 5. **Electoral Roll**
Richard Lloyd, the Electoral Roll Officer, informed the meeting that there were now 264 members on the combined electoral roll (Wargrave, 232, Knowl Hill 32). This represented an increase of 3 on the number on the roll in 2017. As the Electoral will be renewed from scratch in 2019, members of the Churches' congregations are encouraged to apply to join the Roll – as the Vicar uses it as the basis for his daily prayer for the Parish.
 6. **Financial Report for the year 2017**
Jane Wills gave an overview of the Parish finances for 2017 – the accounts had been distributed beforehand and on the website - a copy of her presentation is also available there, as well as her Annual Report included with the Parish Reports document, page 7.
The general day-to-day activities of the Church showed a strong surplus of £44,656, compared to the surplus of £18,298 in 2016, mainly as a result of the continuity of the income stream from our Church family.
The 21C Project fund raising had resulted in £414,000 now in hand, needing a further £50,000 to complete the new Annex.
The accounts were accepted *nem con*.

The appointment of Paul Worthington as our Independent Examiner, proposed by Robert Austen and seconded by Salome Laschinger, was approved *nem con*.
 7. **Parish Reports**
The statutory parish report, which is bound with the accounts, gives a full account of the membership of the PCC and an overview of its work during the year.
Reports of the activities and plans of the Churchwardens and the Deanery Synod were also included in the Parish Reports document.
There were no questions and the report was received *nem con*.

8. Elections and Appointments

Election of Deanery Synod Representatives

As a result of the ordination of Steve Turville and the sad death of Dave Manning only 3 representatives for the Parish remain and continue for one more year

Sue Griffiths Richard Lloyd Sheila Williams

As there were no further nominations the Reverend John Cook proposed that any candidates wishing to fill the 2 remaining representative places should speak to him after the meeting.

Election of Parochial Church Council (16 lay members for Wargrave, and 2 for Knowl Hill)

With only 13 Nomination Papers received for Wargrave and 1 Nomination Paper for Knowl Hill it was agreed that Co-Options should take place at the May PCC meeting.

Wargrave:

Mike Buckland	Linda Carradine	Michael Carver	Doug Clark	Andy Ferguson
Verna Houghton	Andrew Imlay	Karen Lloyd	Peter Mayes	Haydn Selwyn-Jones
Lesley Turville	Jane Wills	Sue Witney		

Knowl Hill and Warren Row:

Bill Haines

The election of the above was approved *nem con*.

Appointment of Sidesmen

Wargrave:

Bob Austen	Tessa Baird	Chris Bookless	Michael Carver	John Coombes
Gavin Dunbar	Julia Freeman	Brenda Keast	Guy Laschinger	Barbara Lloyd
Sue Mackenzie	Peter Mayes	Sue Mayes	Lesley McCLure-Fisher	Tony Moul
Neill Pitcher	Marion Pope	Michael Pope	Lloyd Scrivener	Margaret Snell
Angela Thomas	Christine Walker	Tony Wilson	Ann Woodward	

Approved *nem con*.

Knowl Hill and Warren Row:

Valerie Charlton Brian Griffin Jim Hadden

Approved *nem con*.

9. Strategy Team Reports

The reports of the St Mary's Outreach Team and Support Team and the Knowl Hill Strategy Team are included in the published Parish Reports document; the work of these teams and their regular undertaking of detailed topics on behalf of the PCC were noted.

There were no questions and the reports were received *nem con*.

10. Ministry Team Reports

The reports of the eight Ministry Teams had been included in the published Parish Reports document; the work of these teams and their regular undertaking of detailed topics on behalf of the PCC were noted. There followed some discussion and explanation of topics addressed within these reports.

There were no questions and the reports were received *nem con*

11. St Mary's 21C Accommodation Project

Nick Rule presented a brief, but positive, overview on the progress of the project with an expected snagging and completion date of November.

With regard to the Budget, Nick Rule advised that the build contract was running to budget, but, with some overrun on the excavation and the anticipated costs of specialist archaeology, the planned contingency in the budget had now been expended. The budget will be closely monitored during fit out design and specification for adjustments if required.

In answer to a question regarding where in the Churchyard interment of the recovered remains will be made, the Rev. John Cook advised that the right site will be found within the Churchyard.

12. Any other business

- 12.1. Christine Walker gave a brief summary of the work that had been done to meet the requirements of the new GDPR Legislation and introduced Jayne Trolley, who was giving strong support in the work being carried out.
- 12.2. Richard Lloyd gave a quick run through of the new Church Website.
- 12.3. John Fryer raised a question regarding the tree stump that had been left on Mill Green and was advised that the necessary stump grinding would be taking place shortly.

13. Prayer

There being no further business, the Vicar closed the meeting at 9.25 pm with prayer.

Haydn Selwyn-Jones

Hon Secretary to the PCC

Vicar's Report on 2018 Highlights and 2019 Priorities

THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Is constituted according to The PCC (Powers) Measure 1956, and The Church Representation Rules (Amendment) Resolution 2009 as authorised by the Synodical Government Measure 1969. Its financial operation is in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, which define the relationship to the requirements of the Charities Act. It is Registered Charity No 1129390.

It has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the two Churches, Mission Hall and associated buildings.

MEMBERSHIP

Members of the PCC are ex officio, elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, or co-opted by the PCC, in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is chaired by the Incumbent.

Incumbent: The Revd. John Cook
Curates: The Revd. Hugh Barne
The Revd. Steve Turville

After the Annual Meeting in April 2018, the following served as members of the PCC ("K" denotes a person elected by the parishioners of St Peter's Knowl Hill, "W" a person elected by the parishioners of St Mary's Wargrave).

Churchwardens:

W Mr Robert Austen
K Mrs Sandra Baker
W Mrs Christine Walker

Representatives on the Deanery Synod

W Mrs Sue Griffiths
W Mr Richard Lloyd
W Mrs Sheila Williams

Elected Lay Members of the PCC

W Mr Mike Buckland
W Mrs Linda Caradine
W Mr Michael Carver
W Mr Doug Clark
K Mr Andy Ferguson
K Mr Bill Haines
W Mrs Verna Houghton
W Mr Andrew Imlay
W Ms Karen Lloyd
W Mr Peter Mayes
W Mr Haydn Selwyn-Jones (Secretary)
W Mrs Lesley Turville
W Mrs Jane Wills (Treasurer)
W Mrs Susan Witney

Co-opted Members of the PCC

W Mrs Amanda Bayley

COMMITTEES

Following a further series of Visioning meetings and a Congregation Survey held in the middle of the year it was agreed that our lay volunteer base should be strengthened by creating 8 COG (Callings of God) Ministry Areas in which they can get involved to reflect a Church at the heart of the Community.

These COGs are:-

- "Gathering" – Focusing on our time together to learn from God's word, pray and worship.
- "Nurturing" – Helping people to develop their faith.
- "Caring" – Helping people through life events – Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, as well as home and hospital visits and community service.
- "Celebrating" – Not only in our weekly worship but in our fellowship and social events together.
- "Reaching" – All about making connections with the community.
- "Supporting" – All admin and resource areas of our functioning Church.
- "Stewarding" – Caring for our Church buildings, cemetery and land.
- "Communicating" – Activities, events and news within our Church and with our wider community.
- The Mission Team, supporting out of Parish and overseas Mission, and the Eco-Church Team are both still standalone teams.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2018

Curates – The Revd Hugh Barne and Revd Steve Turville were ordained as Priests on the 23rd June 2018 at Reading Minster and continue their roles serving as Curates to the Parish.

Church Membership - At the April 2017 APCM the Electoral Roll was revised, and increased from 261 to 264 names. The usual Sunday attendance is still around 120 adults and 20 children in Wargrave, and 15 adults in Knowl Hill / Warren Row.

Haydn Selwyn-Jones was re-appointed as **PCC Secretary** and **The PCC** met 5 times during the year with an average attendance of 81%. Committees, Ministry & COGs Teams met between meetings, and their meeting minutes were received by the full PCC for their recommendations to be discussed and acted upon.

Much **voluntary work** on the buildings and grounds has kept costs to a minimum. The detached Churchyard extensions of both Churches are now being mostly maintained by additional support from their local communities, both financially and with volunteer labour.

Work continued on defining and implementing the proposed extended **facilities and accommodation at St. Mary's** to meet changing needs.

The audio/visual system has continued to provide a very positive benefit in developing our services – enabling screen displays for hymns and information during services and the recording and filming of services and events.

Detailed discussions with contractors, The Local Authority and with English Heritage resulted in the faculty and planning permission being granted and work commenced on the building of our new, long awaited, **St Mary's Church Centre** on the north side of the Church.

Delays were experienced due to a large number of dislocated and articulated skeletons discovered, during the ground works, resulting in the need for the remains, which cannot be removed from site, to be removed, catalogued and stored subject to re-burial.

Despite this, progress was rapid once the work was re-started and a joyous soft opening took place on 17th of February 2019.

Accounts Report from Jane Wills.

The Parish **Health and Safety Policy** continues to operate so that for all significant areas of activity, risk assessments are undertaken and monitored.

A **Safeguarding Policy** is in place, for work with children and young people and vulnerable adults as well.

A **GDPR Policy** and team is now also in place and working well delivering all the necessary elements of the new legislation.

St Mary's continues to support several external causes with the **Mission Ministry Team** providing information, and coordinating prayer and financial support. Tearfund, Yeldall Christian Ministries, London City Mission, and Faith Christian Group and CCA, both of which are in Reading and are the most notable causes. Support was also given to 2 congregation members undertaking evangelistic and training projects with Youth with a Mission and Operation Mobilisation.

Mid-week activities flourish around the parish, with several **House Groups** meeting regularly for prayer, study and fellowship. Courses on Christianity Explored, Discipleship Explored and Life Explored were held. Under the auspices of the **COG's Caring Team**, a growing number of services of worship and Holy Communion have been held at retirement homes and for the housebound.

The work of our **Youth Worker** and **COG's Gathering Team and support volunteers** has resulted in a positive increase in work among **children and young people**, enhancing the amount of contact with the children in the Parish.

The **Knowl Hill Strategy Team** under the leadership of the Churchwardens has continued to build on working with the **Village Association** on social events and on making the Church an accessible place with special services, such as **Village Praise** on the first Sunday of every month providing a focus. The link with the local Primary School – Knowl C of E Academy - has continued with School visits and the making use, by the School of the additional space in Church created by the removal of three pews, and the construction of a direct gateway and pathway between the school and the Church.

The reorganisation of the work pattern in the busy Parish Office continued to be successful, but, with the development of the new Centre, the Parish Office has now been moved into the Vestry and the necessary re-organisation is still being worked through. Despite this, the Office has continued to function, thanks to the work of Kim Moul, our Parish Administrator, and her team of supporters.

Jane Wills was re-appointed as **Treasurer** and continues to provide the PCC with regular accounts and valued reports.

The **Parish Magazine** in full colour, along with its availability on the Website, continues to be well received and continues to bring in a profit.

Peter Dart as **Director of Music** continues to plan and lead the musical worship of the main morning services at St Mary's and for additional festivals such as the Christmas Carol Service and the Concert in November, with strong input from local schools. The singing group provides positive leading for our worship through their singing and instrumental participation.

The **Parish Roadmap** which was established in 2009 continues to act as the overall strategic plan under a new vision for the church to be "**A church at the heart of our community**" and the **Parish COG's Teams** are undertaking to carry out a number of fresh initiatives following our several PCC Visioning days to review and re-vitalise the work towards its long term objectives.

On behalf of the PCC

The Revd. John Cook (Incumbent)

Church Treasurer's Report

The 2018 year was a much more successful year than was envisaged at the time of my last annual report - showing a surplus of £12,969 on 'normal activities' compared with a budgeted deficit of £1,734. However, this was well behind the 2017 result of £24,229. This result is looking at the day to day activities of the church – with income generated from stewardship, collections, donations and fund-raising etc, and the total costs of the day to day administration and ministry of the church, and the maintenance of its properties and churchyards.

Each year we examine our costs and implement whatever savings we can, but the element that most importantly influences our result is the continuity of the income stream from our church family. Stewardship income (excluding gift aid tax recovered) ended the year at £108,456, an increase of 1.7% over the 2017 total of £106,662. Whilst this is testament to the generosity of our parishioners, and to the success of the campaign run by Andrew Imlay in 2017 to increase our regular giving in the light of the increased costs which need to be covered, the slow increase in such income over the prior year is a little concerning given the additional costs of the new St Mary's Church Centre (SMCC) which are expected to come into full impact in 2019, and generally rising costs across other expenditure. Gift aid recovery was slightly below the previous year, whilst Church collections were down by over £2,000 compared to 2017.

Fund raising, excluding the 21st Century, amounted to £2,532 compared with £20,676 last year due to 2017 including the additional gross income from the events run during the Festival that year. Fees from weddings and funerals (retained by the PCC) decreased by around 25%, due mainly to there being fewer funerals in the year than in 2017.

The Parish magazine continues to flourish and brought in revenue of £7,000 compared to £6,900 in 2017. We received £6,000 fewer unrestricted donations and legacies in the year, and £1,290 less income from dividends compared to 2017, the latter due to the decision to use the trust fund from the sale of the Woodclyffe Hall towards the capital costs of the SMCC which was approved by the relevant Trustees as an appropriate use of this capital.

Overall, total income from 'normal' activities at £196,567 was £31,658 (13.9%) lower than the previous year.

Total unrestricted costs at £184,240 were £19,756 lower than last year with a number of major influences causing this reduction in expenditure. These include:-

- Ministry costs – £17,013 up £6,860 over 2017 – this is due to a full year of expenses for Steve and Hugh, and the funding of accommodation for Hugh and Grace. Unlike for Jon Drake, the diocese is not paying the rental for their house, and we are also covering Council Tax and Water Rates (which we have always covered).
- Fundraising costs including Festival events costs - £0 down £13,307 over 2017– this is due to 2018 being a non-Festival year.
- Churchyard and Cemetery and Mill Green expenses – down £7,944 to £904 – although much work was done in the year, this work was covered by specific donations and fundraising (the Cemetery Maintenance Fund).
- Youth groups - £7,325 up £1,905 over 2017 – this cost also includes the salary paid to Grace until August for her work as a youth worker as well as new initiatives such as Messy Church.
- Office expenses - £7,861 down £1,354 – in 2017 this expenditure included much of the cost of developing the new website which went live in April 2018.
- Mission giving - £8,249 down £1,429 – the Mission allocation is governed by a formulae based on unrestricted income agreed by the PCC a number of years ago, and has decreased in 2018 due to the lower surplus in the year.

- Heating, lighting, water and insurance - £15,716 down £1,630 over 2017 – the increase is mainly due to the additional heat and light charges due in a festival year not recurring in 2018.
- Parish share – there was a £4,530 fall in our allocated Parish Share to £87,940 in the year.

Total restricted funds were £75,484 at the end of 2018 compared to £232,481 at the end of 2017. This was mainly due to the SMCC construction which utilised the £200,032 available at the start of the year together with the generous £223,005 (including gift aid) we were able to raise in the year. Other restricted funds remain materially similar in total.

Fundraising in 2018 focussed on the raising of the additional funds to cover the final construction phase of the SMCC and to purchase equipment for the Centre. The fundraising was supplemented by a general reserve transfer from prior year accumulated surpluses, and the raising of a number of interest free loans to ensure we have sufficient funds to complete the work. At the end of 2018 the project was nearly complete, and since the year-end, we have been able to use this wonderful new resource.

A draft budget has been prepared for the new financial year. Following the recent increases experienced in 2017 and 2018 in overall income from the 2017 stewardship campaign, this source of income is starting to be affected by the changing circumstances of a number of donors. Whilst this is an understandable movement over time, we need to ensure reductions in the current base of stewardship income is offset by new or increased giving from those who are still able and willing to give, and from new contributions. The initial budget for 2019 shows a small surplus despite the on-going additional cost base likely to be associated with the operation of the St Mary's Church Centre. However, we cannot afford to be complacent – in a time of rising prices we need to ensure that we continue to monitor all costs to ensure we get the best possible return on the generous funds provided by the church members. Whilst efforts in 2018 have been rightly concentrated on the completion of the 21C project, we cannot afford to ignore the regular and unsung work which goes on and which will still need funding on a day to day basis. So, our emphasis for 2019 must be to ensure the funds for the ongoing work of the parish are secure.

My thanks to Richard Lloyd for administering the gift-aid system, Andrew Imlay for his efforts on stewardship and to Kim for her help in the office,

Jane Wills

Vicar's Report

Did you know that the Great Wall of China took over 2000 years to build? It's hard to grasp the size of a project that would not only not be completed in our lifetime but for so many generations.

Imagine a stonemason in the year 972BC as the building of the Great Wall began, looking at the foundations already laid, looking up in to the distance, looking down at a small stone in his hand, then wondering how many more thousands of stones would be needed for his section alone. For centuries it seemed the task would never be finished.

In such circumstances the ongoing work of laying the small stones in front of you would be an act of faith.

In Bishop Frank Houghton's (1894-1972) wonderful hymn, 'Facing a task unfinished' he wrote:

*We bear the torch that flaming
Fell from the hands of those
Who gave their lives proclaiming
That Jesus died and rose
Ours is the same commission
The same glad message ours
Fired by the same ambition
To Thee we yield our powers*

All of us are called to play our part in our God's world-changing project of bringing all things together in Christ. We follow in the footsteps of faithful saints who, 'gave their lives proclaiming that Jesus died and rose'.

Having recently marked ten years in post, I am filled with gratitude for those in this parish who are following in those footsteps of faith - those who have kept their eyes focussed on God's Kingdom and priorities. Many in this generation carry the torch with us in this work.

My prayer is that we all play our part in our Lord's world-changing project and that many others are added to our number. All aspects of our church life should be driven with this goal in mind, whilst being totally dependent on God's call and His grace.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting provides an opportunity for us all to look back with thanksgiving and to review what could have been better accomplished. To that end, there are several areas of church life that I would like to draw your attention to. (These are in no particular order)

1. PCC COG's. The PCC introduced COG's, in what is hoped to be a more helpful way of structuring our church life. (A COG is a 'Call of God', an area of service, each working with the others). These COG's are: Caring, Communicating, Gathering, Stewarding, Supporting, Nurturing, Celebrating and Reaching. They are designed to be a way of ensuring that every aspect of our church life is carefully overseen. Parts of these COG's do need further attention. Perhaps as we reassess the role of Churchwardens these areas will be further energised and aid the effective mission of the church in our community.
2. Visitors. In particular we have enjoyed welcoming Mervyn Thomas from CSW to speak about the work of the persecuted church worldwide and David Kereto from the Maasai Evangelistic Association to update us on the ongoing evangelism and practical support amongst the Maasai.
3. Welcome Café. It has been great to see the growing numbers attending the weekly Welcome Café (this is clearly much appreciated) and the development of pastoral work with the elderly. Special thanks to Steve Turville and the team who bake, serve tea and chat week by week.
4. Children and young people. It was wonderful to see our first Holiday Club hit the ground running last August. The children seemed to thoroughly enjoy discovering Jesus through the theme of 'Treasure Island'. Many thanks to Grace Barne for her leadership and organisation. We are looking forward to running our second holiday club this year. Messy Church has gained steady momentum this year. Launched by Hugh Barne at Robert Piggott Junior School with a team of craft/tea suppliers it has been greatly valued by those who've attended and reached some families who are not regular members of our church family. Holiday Club has definitely had a positive impact on the weekly Sunday Club. We are conscious that the numbers in Pathfinders are low and are looking at ways of encouraging young people to continue coming to church as they head into secondary school. I am grateful for those who make sure that the Bible is taught in a relevant and engaging manner every Sunday and at the Tuesday Group for teenagers.
5. Home Groups. These continue to play a vital role in the discipleship of our church family, as well as providing care and pastoral support within each group. Particularly encouraging is the start of a second men's group led by Hugh Barne. If you're not yet in a small group do consider joining one. They really are a great place get to know others much better and to be challenged to grow as members study God's word together.
6. Young Families. It is a great encouragement to see more and more young families coming to St Mary's each Sunday morning. Butterflies continues to attract increasing numbers of young parents and their little ones. Much of the smooth running of this comes from having a highly dedicated team led by my wife Camilla who make the breakfasts and care for those who come. Butterflies has been complemented by a new Who Let the Dads Out venture. This has been spear headed by Matt Perowne and Hugh Barne and is starting to see more dads putting the date in the diary and getting to know one another better.
7. St Mary's Church Centre. Many of the aforementioned activities have already been enhanced by the completion of our new Church Centre. There have probably been some who felt as if we were waiting for the Great Wall of China to be built! However, since building commenced last year, apart from a delay for archaeological work and inclement weather, the building progressed well under the careful direction and supervision of a committed team. The team was led most ably by our architect, Nick Rule. Those who inputted are too numerous to mention (so apologies if I haven't mentioned you by name) but Nick was very helpfully supported by Peter Mayes, Christine Walker, Jane Wills, Hugh Barne and Andy Fergusson in various ways. I am so grateful for the many hours that Nick and others gave to bring this to completion. None of this could have happened without Bob's fundraising team. I am so grateful to God for people's generosity. As I write there are still a few snagging issues to sort but I think we are all thrilled with the new build and excited about using the building for the Lord's work.

8. St Mary's Churchwardens. We have been incredibly well supported as a church family with two wonderful Churchwardens. Bob Austen stepped up last year (his second tenure) and Christine Walker six years ago. They have been thoroughly godly in their support and challenge and I am thankful for their servant hearted leadership. It is with sadness that I had to communicate to the church family that no-one was prepared to fill these positions, aside from two octogenarians. Should these two be the only nominees they will nominally take up these positions and we will distribute the tasks between others. This is potentially a good opportunity to review the role of Churchwardens at St Mary's but also a huge challenge for others to prayerfully reconsider taking up the role. We are grateful as ever to 'senior' members of our congregation who have stepped up.
9. Church Administrator. It's been a challenging year for Kim Moul and those who've helped in the office, especially Annette Greathead. Kim has patiently endured over a year of workmen and disruption, as well as a change of office space. We are working on improving the new office space. Thank you to Kim and the team for soldiering on in adverse circumstances!
10. Music. Sunday by Sunday our singing is encouraged and enhanced by our music group led by Peter Dart, Rosie Creedon and Ian French. Many hours of preparation are involved in this area of church life and I am thankful for those who give up so much time for our benefit. The musicians have played a particularly important role at Christmas and Easter. This past Christmas they managed to field a variety of teams at all of our many services. On Good Friday this year many of them will head to the Royal Albert Hall to participate in a scratch performance of Handel's Messiah. A high point was also the wonderful concert in memory of Alan Baird back in November.
11. Maintenance. With the Church Centre being built this has possibly been more onerous than usual. Many thanks to all the teams: cleaning, gardening and mowing who ensure that our churchyards and buildings are maintained to the highest standard. Visitors to St Mary's always comment on how well cared for our buildings and grounds look.
12. Flowers. Sheila Williams and her team have made sure that the church looks beautiful for our special occasions and also provide lovely flowers on the top communion table week by week. Thank you to all of the arrangers.
13. Eco church. Mike Buckland has continued to champion eco church. We have seen bird boxes established in Wargrave and Knowl Hill and Mike has done several assemblies in our local schools, which pointed the children to the wonder of creation. He also ran a Tradecraft stall during Fairtrade week this year.
14. Knowl Hill. The church continues to be fragile because of the size of congregation: recently a number of key couples have relocated in the country, others are housebound due to ill health and others have died. Sandra Baker has been key in the life of the church as Churchwarden. We are trying to explore possible shared use of the building with the school. More importantly, however, we are trying to nurture a Christian community and not just maintain the building. I am grateful for all the musical help from Hilary Buckle.
15. Treasurer. We are all indebted to Jane Wills for her careful stewardship and financial planning. This has been a challenging time with the building of the new church centre and Jane has remained wise and unflappable throughout.
16. Youth Worker. Grace Barne completed a year as our part time youth worker before taking up a position at The Piggott School as a trainee English teacher. In that year she started and ran our first Holiday Club in August, led Tuesday Group and Pathfinders and read the Bible one to one with some of the teenagers. I am incredibly grateful to Grace for the way in which she was so committed to each of these areas. She also modelled biblical leadership in a way that has encouraged many others.
17. Assistant ministers. I am personally very thankful for my colleagues. First, thank you to Andy Fergusson. Andy has stepped up his involvement at church since moving to part-time employment, he is a licensed minister for funerals and provides a helpful sounding board and healthy challenge. Steve Turville and Hugh Barne have entered their second year of training here and in July they were ordained as priests. Both Steve and Hugh are discerning, godly people to share the ministry with. They are both prayerful and delight in God's word. I believe all of us have benefitted from and been challenged by their preaching and teaching: different but totally Christ centred. I have been challenged and encouraged on numerous occasions both from the pulpit and in conversation in our weekly meetings.

Yours in Christ and in His service

John Cook

Churchwardens' Report

2018 has been a year of change and development within the church family. The most important change was the decision to relaunch the St Mary's Church ministry teams to encourage more people to be involved in the work of the church. Under the direction of the PCC and Steering Group we have established eight ministry teams to implement our vision. The underlying objective is to make St Mary's a church at the heart of the community.

These teams, branded COG's to indicate their essential position in the ministry mechanism, have been met with interest and a degree of enthusiasm by the church family, and it will be the responsibility of the COG leaders to promote their particular group's values and encourage participation. This will inevitably take time as we are living in an age of 'busyness' by younger members of the congregation particularly, and the needs of the church will need to be effectively promoted over the myriad of other commitments and choices which people face these days. With God on our side, and a following wind, we are optimistic of reaching out and achieving wider participation.

Of course progress on the St Mary's Church Centre was a significant feature of 2018 and the SMCC team worked closely with architect Nick Rule throughout the year to monitor development and ensure that things ran smoothly. By the end of the year we had a secure, watertight building that looked as beautiful from the outside as the fittings did on the inside. Progress in 2019 has been marked and at the time of writing this report, the Centre has just celebrated its 'soft launch' on Sunday 17th February to great acclaim from the Church family that attended. The furniture and kitchen equipment were especially well received.

The APCM in May saw the resignation of Salome Laschinger as Churchwarden after three years of valued service and she was replaced by the old stager Bob Austen, Churchwarden from 1992 to 2008, who offered to fill the breach for one year as support to Christine Walker. Christine has continued her devoted work on the fabric of the building, ably assisted by Peter Mayes who has additionally put in endless hours on restorative work in the churchyard and cemetery as well as supervising work on St Mary's Church Centre. Peter has been a great servant of the Church over many years and his energy and skills are highly valued. Christine has recruited and managed several teams of loyal servants over the years to fulfil routine tasks and we are grateful to everyone involved in these teams for their commitment. It is a testament to Christine's attention to detail and devotion to St Mary's Church that this wonderful old building remains in such good condition.

Another new development in 2018 included incorporating eco friendly initiatives in the churchyard and the cemetery, including pieces of land set aside for insects and wild flowers and locating bat boxes and bird boxes. Our commitment as Christians to improving God's world needs to be indoctrinated in our current and future thinking and we are grateful to Mike Buckland for his wise counsel in this area.

In conclusion Christine and I would like to thank the Clergy and all our friends and colleagues on the PCC and the Steering Group for their friendship and support during the year and to pray that new names will come forward to replace us in 2019 as we both step down from our roles.

Bob Austen and Christine Walker
Churchwardens

Parish Statistics

	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Communicants for the year St. Mary's	4930	4836	3891	4089	4182	4029	3742
Communicants for the year St. Peter's & St. Paul's	144	260	162	252		387	771
Baptisms	15	23	16	5	26	23	11
Thanksgiving for birth	0	0	1	-	1	-	1
Funerals/Memorial Services/Cremations/Ashes	17	27	36	30	31	32	52
Weddings	10	6	5	7	8	10	13
Services of Blessing for Marriage	1	3	1	-	2	3	2
Confirmations	12	0	1	-	4	-	-
Thanksgiving for Marriage	1	1	2	-	-	-	1

Deanery Synod

The Sonning Deanery Synod comprises representatives of 14 Parishes in the local area. Representatives are drawn from the Clergy in each Parish and elected Lay Representatives. For the Parish of Wargrave and Knowl Hill the Lay Members are Sue Griffiths, Richard Lloyd and Sheila Williams. Meetings are held quarterly at locations around the Deanery and are chaired alternately by the Lay Chair and the Area Dean. In 2018 the new Area Dean, Rev Richard Lamey was granted permission by the Bishop to have an Associate Dean who is retired priest Rev. Jane Kraft.

During 2018 meetings were held in Arborfield, Crowthorne, Sonning and the Church of St Eligius which is on the old Arborfield Garrison site. This site, along with many others around Wokingham, is the location of a large new housing development. Many new families are moving into this area and the Deanery is conscious of their needs and their impact on existing communities. Tonia Elliot from the Parish of Finchampstead and California has been appointed as New Communities Minister for the Deanery.

The start of each meeting has a special focus. At one there is a Communion Service which focuses the attention of the members of Synod on their responsibilities and group identity. At other meetings in 2018, Synod was addressed by the Diocesan Youth Adviser on Lay Discipleship; and by the Diocesan Generous Giving Advisor on fund raising, stewardship and the possibilities afforded by electronic donation devices.

The Parish Development Adviser for Berkshire attended a Deanery Day in December, where contributions from individual parishes were pulled together to produce a Deanery Plan. This Plan was the subject of much discussion at meetings throughout the year and the contribution from Wargrave and Knowl Hill was a wish to see the Deanery provide more centralised training opportunities; and a forum for the sharing of good practice between officers of individual Parishes e.g. Parish Treasurers.

The Deanery is responsible for the collection of the Parish Shares from each Parish and Synod were informed that the final total for our Deanery was 91.1% of the total demanded by the Diocese. The Deanery encourages all Parishes to pay their full share – an amount is refunded to the Deanery if 100% is achieved. However, individual Parishes still, for various reasons, may withhold full payment.

The Deanery holds monies which it uses for supporting Parishes within the group and also for running training courses for clergy and the laity. In addition a separate fund exists to pay for Quinquennial Inspections of Churches within the Deanery. This fund is currently sufficient for this need, and in 2018 7 Churches had their inspections. Of course, the fund only pays for the inspections – not any identified work that then needs to be undertaken.

Sheila Williams

PCC Report

(In order to avoid duplication of information, this is a shortened version of the formal report which is published with the Annual Accounts)

After the Annual Meeting in April 2018, the following served as members of the PCC ("K" denotes a person elected by the parishioners of St. Peter's Knowl Hill, "W" a person elected by the parishioners of St. Mary's Wargrave).

Incumbent: The Revd. John Cook
(Chairman)
Curates The Revd. Hugh Barnes
The Revd. Steve Turville

Churchwardens:
W Mrs Christine Walker
W Mr Robert Austen
K Mrs Sandra Baker

Elected Members

W Mr Mike Buckland
W Mrs Linda Caradine
W Mr Michael Carver
W Mr Doug Clark
K Mr Andy Ferguson
K Mr Bill Haines
W Mrs Verna Houghton
W Mr Andrew Imlay
W Ms Karen Lloyd
W Mr Peter Mayes
W Mr Haydn Selwyn-Jones (*PCC Secretary*)
W Mrs Lesley Turville
W Mrs Jane Wills (*Treasurer*)
W Mrs Susan Witney

Representatives on the Deanery Synod

W Mrs Sue Griffiths
W Mr Richard Lloyd
W Mrs Sheila Williams

Co-opted by the PCC

W Mrs Amanda Bayley

The PCC met 5 times during the year with an average attendance of 81%. Committees, Ministry & COGs Teams met between meetings, and their meeting minutes were received by the full PCC for their recommendations to be discussed and acted upon.

COMMITTEES

Following a further series of Visioning meetings and a Congregation Survey held in the middle of the year it was agreed that our lay volunteer base should be strengthened by creating 8 COG (Callings of God) Ministry Areas in which they can get involved to reflect a Church at the heart of the Community.

These COGs are:-

- **"Gathering"** Focusing on our time together to learn from God's word, pray and worship.
- **"Nurturing"** Helping people to develop their faith.
- **"Caring"** Helping people through life events – Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals, as well as home and hospital visits and community service.
- **"Celebrating"** Not only in our weekly worship but in our fellowship and social events together.
- **"Reaching"** All about making connections with the community.
- **"Supporting"** All admin and resource areas of our functioning Church.
- **"Stewarding"** Caring for our Church buildings, cemetery and land.
- **"Communicating"** Activities, events and news within our Church and with our wider community.

The Mission Team, supporting out of Parish and overseas Mission, and the Eco-Church Team are both still standalone teams.



Haydn Selwyn-Jones
PCC Secretary

Reaching COG report

The Reaching COG is all about making connections with the community in order to give people opportunities to consider the gospel message, and for those connections to communicate how the gospel transforms lives through the witness of the church.

An Exploring Christianity Course runs each year in January. This year take up was lower than usual and the course did not run as planned. However contact was made with individuals as a result of advertising the course which has enabled tailored follow-up.

Butterflies - in the last twelve months Butterflies has continued to be an encouraging context for fruitful connections with young families. Those who attend Butterflies will often engage with other church activities and Sunday services once established at Butterflies (WLTDO, Messy Church).

Who let the Dad's out? - after a trial period in 2018 WLTDO now meets monthly on the second Saturday of every month at 8.45am in the church centre. Some of the Dad's attending are from within the church family whilst many wouldn't typically attend church. The last few months have been an exciting phase of developing this ministry.

Messy Church - after a trial period Messy Church also meets monthly and on the second Sunday of every month from 4pm in the church centre. Attendance has fluctuated with no discernible pattern over this period.

Men's group - although principally a 'nurturing' group, the new men's group also seeks to engage men who are exploring Christian faith. The first few weeks have been an encouraging start.

Holiday Club - in part a 'nurturing' activity, Holiday Club is also an important opportunity to make and strengthen connections in the wider village community. The trial run last summer was deemed successful and plans are in place for the 2019 Holiday Club.

Other events – Stand-alone events continue to provide opportunities for inviting people to church to engage with the gospel message. These include the annual wreath making events, 'get to know St Mary's' Saturday, children's games afternoons and festival events.

Looking ahead

Seeking increasing levels of lay leadership and involvement will be a key consideration within this COG. Many of the new initiatives are currently reliant on just a few and so an increased volunteer base is essential, however there have already been many encouragements in this area.

Hugh Barne

Gathering COG

The Gathering Ministry Team supports our Church Community as we come together in worship, praying, singing, learning from God's word and sharing Holy Communion.

There are many roles: sides-people, readers and intercessors, the music team, bell ringers, leaders and helpers for our Sunday morning young people's groups, AV operators, people to make and serve refreshments at the end of the service, chalice administrators at communion, a prayer team to offer individual prayer after the service, and of course our clergy and lay minister team who lead, preside and preach. A big thank-you is due to the many people already serving in these varied roles. However, there is room for many more, and if there is an aspect that you think you could help with, have a chat with any of the clergy. Talk to Peter Dart or Rosie Creedon for music, and Camilla Cook and Sue Witney for the young people's groups. Details are on the church website.

Over the past year the Music Group has continued to lead the music at the weekly Sunday 10.30am services. We currently have 22 musicians in the group, mostly singers, and a few instrumentalists. We try to provide a

balance of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs, choosing music to support the themes of each service, and steadily developing and extending the repertoire. In the past year we have missed greatly the much loved and highly talented Alan Baird who, sadly, passed away in March 2018. The annual concert in November was dedicated to his memory, and amongst the usual wonderful variety of musicians, his daughter and step-daughter performed, making it a moving and memorable occasion. The carol service was another highlight, with an enhanced choir of 40 singers leading the singing in a joyful celebration of Christmas. We are fortunate in having our music enriched occasionally by a few local professional musicians, but week in, week out, the group is made up of enthusiastic amateurs. The group is always pleased to have new members, and at the moment more tenors, basses and instrumentalists would be particularly welcome. You don't need to be an expert, just have a willingness to learn, to enjoy music-making, and have a desire to serve God through music.

Our work with children on Sundays has recently moved into the new Church Centre. After many, many years of Pathfinders meeting in Wargrave Court (a huge thank you to Verna Houghton for opening up her home for so long!), it was decided to trial bringing Sunday Club and Pathfinders together for at least part of the morning and then splitting into four age groups: pre-school-Y2, Y3-Y6, 11-13s, 14-16s. This is in the early stages, but we are trying to look at the way in which we encourage and keep our young people on Sundays. Sunday Club have particularly enjoyed the move and being with the older children for part of the morning. The all-age slot in church continues to be really helpful in starting our learning from the Bible. In our groups we open the same passage as the adults and apply it in an age appropriate manner, complemented with songs, drama and crafts. Aside from our Sunday meetings we've loved getting together socially for several action-packed parties this year, the highlight being our Light Party on 31st October.

Central to our meeting together on Sundays, as well as in our midweek groups, is to listen to the Scriptures being read and expounded and explained by those who preach. As the ordination service reminds us, this is primary to an ordained minister's calling, and so the clergy make preaching and teaching an absolute priority at Sunday services, funerals, weddings, Lent courses, Digging Deeper meetings and assemblies in all five of the Church of England schools in our parish each week. It is when we do this that the Spirit of God takes the Word of God to produce the people of God. This is key to spiritual advance in our disintegrating culture.

Reverend John Cook

Nurturing COG

The Nurturing COG seeks to develop the discipleship of our church congregations through education and learning outside of Sunday services. This includes Home Groups, Discipleship Explored, Digging Deeper, Lent Course, Church Away and occasional conferences.

Home Groups are by far our main way of discipling our congregations outside of Sunday church. There are currently 9 Home Groups for all ages, meeting throughout the week attended by c.60 individuals with many attending more than one group. A new group for men has just begun, and growing membership of our groups is always a priority.

Digging Deeper: There have been 3 Digging Deeper mornings arranged by Hugh. The first two were at St Marys Maidenhead, and the third in February in the new church centre, run by Hugh on 'Can we trust the Bible'. Attendance at this was 19. This was an encouraging number, but we would love to see more.

Lent Course: A lent course on Prayer is currently being run by John.

Discipleship Explored: TBC after Christianity Explored.

Church Weekend Away: After the success of the Weekend Away in 2017, the next Church Weekend Away is planned for March 2020 at a local hotel. Thereafter, we hope it will happen every other year during non-festival years.

Occasional Conferences: Groups have gone to the London Women's Convention and the London Men's Convention for many years. The Women's convention has been particularly popular. However, those conventions have now stopped so alternatives will be sought for the future.

Challenges

We understand that everyone is busy, with many demands on time, so a big challenge to us is to convince our congregations of the benefits of giving time outside of Sunday mornings to learn more about the faith we confess, and thereby mature in their discipleship.

Reverend Steve Turville

Caring COG

The Caring Cog: As well as helping people through life events- Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals- the church is involved in home and hospitable visits, community service, working with Trusts and giving people the opportunity to meet at the weekly Welcome Café.

Home Visiting: Formally this is done by arrangement through Linda, Lesley or one of the clergy team. Do let us know if there is someone who you know would welcome a visit. It can be a one-off visit or a more regular commitment. It may include home communion if this is requested. Obviously, this is in addition to the wealth of informal visits and caring that takes place between individuals every day.

Welcome café: This meets every Tuesday in the Hannen Room from 2.30 until 4.00pm. All are welcome. It is a chance to meet and chat over tea, coffee and a range of refreshments. This has been very successful with numbers regularly in the high teens. Lifts can be arranged for those who need it.

Trusts: The church is involved in several trusts such as the Piggott, the Almshouses, and the Woodclyffe trusts.

The Seniors Carol Service with Afternoon tea: This is organised in partnership with the Gathering and the Reaching Cogs. It is a special service provided on a weekday afternoon leading up to Christmas for our more senior worshippers. Lifts are provided for those who need it, traditional words and carols are read and sung and afternoon tea provided. This has become a regular part of our Christmas gatherings with attendance growing from 35 in 2017 to 55 in 2018.

Challenges: We appreciate and thank all of those who 'care' for each other in this parish and know that a vast amount of informal lifts, visits and help is given to each other. However, we also appreciate there is a need for a system to reach those that might be suddenly in need of help or are more isolated. To do this we need a list of people who we can call on to visit or give lifts. If you would like to help, please let Linda or Lesley know. We will need to ensure that you have a DBS check before you can help in a formal capacity.

Linda Caradine and Lesley Turville

Stewardship COG

Including: eco–church, buildings, cleaning, flowers, flag, rotas, churchyard, Mill Green, cemetery

The churchwardens are responsible for the buildings, their contents and the grounds, ably supported by a faithful and hardworking band of people most of whom have worked for St Mary's for many years. They clean the Hannen Room, church, St Mary's Church Centre, the brass and linen; raise and lower the flag; lock and unlock the church on a daily basis; keep fresh flowers on the altar; will create floral displays for the Festival; assist at services and serve at the many events and activities run throughout the year. For the maintenance team, aside from the routine work the focus of attention has been directed to 21C project support. This included monitoring the work on the Church Centre with direct responsibility for reseeding the temporary roadway across Mill Green, repair to the northern boundary wall, relocation of the memorials displaced by building construction work and the use of spoil from the building works to create a new memorial garden in the cemetery. There were also problems with the church heating and Health and Safety issues concerning trees on Mill Green which required extensive tree surgery including removal of one of the large chestnuts. The latter spurred formation of the Friends of Mill Green which funded tree surgery work and the purchase of a new mower and its housing.

We began 2018 by signing up for Eco Church. Our strongest areas are land management, community and global outreach (Tearfund, Fairtrade). We engaged children in the creation of a wild flower area and bug hotels in St Mary's churchyard, arranged a bat walk for the parish and a bug hunt for the children's holiday club, and installed bat boxes in the cemetery. Assisted by Steve Turville, Hugh Barne and Sandra Baker, Mike Buckland organized three sessions on creation care at Knowl Hill Academy and St Peter's. Also in 2018 we moved from plastic to compostable cups for tea and coffee.

As a Fairtrade Church since 1997, we continued to promote Fairtrade Fortnight in February and March, ran a Traidcraft gift stall during Advent, and sold the Meaningful Chocolate Company's ever popular Real Easter Eggs in March and April, and their equally popular Advent Calendars in November and December - the only chocolate Easter eggs and Advent calendars in Britain that tell the true stories of Easter and Christmas. We also continued to provide Fairtrade tea and coffee at services and meetings, including freshly ground coffee from Kingdom Coffee.

The team of bell ringers continues to thrive under Tower Captain John Coombes with a local complement of eleven ringers available for Sunday service ringing. This group has been supplemented by ringers from other towers for practice nights and weddings. Remembrance Day saw three ringing sessions which kept them very busy. An inspection by Taylor Bells revealed some serious work was needed on the bells which will put them out of action for three weeks in May 2019. A grant from Wargrave Heritage Trust is much appreciated in helping to pay for these repairs. The ringers also opened the tower for visitors during the 'Get to Know St Mary's' event, for Guides, Brownies and Cubs as well as providing facilities for visiting bands.

All the groups mentioned would welcome fresh blood and deserve the active support of the **whole** congregation. They also deserve a huge thank you for their efforts and support over the past year, the current year, and those to come.

Christine Walker

Celebrating COG Report

The role of the Celebrating COG is to celebrate not only in weekly worship but in fellowship together. Rambles, lunches and social events are organised by a variety of different people to keep everyone involved as a Church family. In 2018 we enjoyed a very successful BBQ in the gardens of Wargrave Court and a number of Sunday rambles which have proved to be very popular.

2019 will bring new opportunities with the Wargrave Village Festival and plans are in place for a number of Church sponsored events. If you feel that you would like to become involved in the running of these events, please contact me.

Bob Austen

Supporting COG

Including: office, finance, funding, database, GDPR, H&S, safeguarding

Running the church is like managing a small business with volunteers instead of employees. Alongside the clergy we have just one paid employee, Kim Moul, who manages the Parish Office most efficiently. The Office functioned successfully throughout the year in face of very challenging conditions due to the Church Centre development. Unfortunately the office was left without appropriate heating awaiting the installation of the new boiler in the Centre. At a late stage in 2018 it was decided to combine the Church Office and the Vestry and use the office area for general storage. The Church Office relocation process is still not complete.

Several roles involve ensuring that we meet current legislation which means we regularly review what we do particularly with regard to Safeguarding, General Data Protection and Health and Safety. Fortunately the Health and Safety team have had no major incidents to report but are looking for people to fill roles as Responsible People. During the year Margaret Snell stepped down as Safeguarding Officer and Lesley Turville took over and a new team was formed to implement recent changes to Data Protection.

A successful stewardship campaign in 2017 helped underpin the church finances and we are humbled and encouraged by your faithful ongoing financial support for St Mary's. Your generosity also enabled the fund raisers meet the target sum needed to complete the 21st Century Project. Overall financial control continues in safe hands thanks to Jane Wills.

Christine Walker

Communicating COG

The communicating team maintained and increased its activities in 2018.

Website

Glitches in formatting were ironed out during the year and a review of the content in November revealed that there is a need to constantly keep all the sections up to date in addition to the events which are picked up by the calendar. This is essential to maintain our position as a vibrant, engaged church and processes have been put in place to keep each 'tab' fresh.

Database

During the year an additional 10 people signed up to the database giving a total of 104 users registered. Steps were taken to ensure that the database is GDPR compliant.

Social Media

The response to this in 2018 was varied with a follower base of 81 on Facebook, proving it to be an effective tool and 10 on Twitter. This launch activity indicates that there are opportunities to expand the scope of social media feeds, linking with other organisations in the village and create a regular church blog.

Magazine

The magazine sales of around 360 per month remained constant and thanks to the contribution of advertisers a surplus of just under £2,000 was generated. In the last quarter a new page layout was trialled, putting all advertisers together in a 'Directory' section. The impact of this is still to be measured.

Notice Sheet

The plan to move this to a mainly electronic format was delayed in 2018 and will be a priority for 2019 along with similarly formatted Newsflashes.

Notice Boards

These could receive more attention and need regular updating by the 'COG' leaders across the year.

Public Relations/External Media

In 2019 there were no controversial issues that needed to be managed with the media. A monthly submission was made to ensure that a page of the Wargrave News is dedicated to news from St Mary's.

Many thanks go to Richard Lloyd (website, database, Newsflashes), Hugh Barne (social media), Bob Austen and his team (magazine) and Kim Moul & Annette Greathead (Notice sheet) for all their efforts in communicating with the church membership and village.

Andy Ferguson

St Peter's Strategy Team Report

The St Peter's Strategy Group meets approximately once a month throughout the year. Members are Valda Hadden, Lesley Bell, Jill Hendry, Karen Larkins, Chris Westacott, Tracy Bird, Hilary Buckle and Sandra Baker.

We were sad to lose our Churchwarden, Dave Manning, who died last February and Ann and Brian Griffin who moved to Somerset. We were also very sorry to lose Bill Haines from the Strategy Group and as one of our PCC representatives as he could not agree with our future plans for St. Peter's.

Services Currently these are as last year which are two at St Peter's – 1st Sunday Village Praise at 10.30 am and 3rd Sunday Holy Communion at 9.15 am and 2nd Sunday Holy Communion at St Paul's at 9.15 am.

Mission Work Although most of our energies have been concentrated on achieving our aims of renovating the church by re-plastering and redecorating, installing toilets and a kitchen and removing the pews we have been exploring ways of reaching out to the community. The CAMEO group which meets once a month at the village hall is a firm fixture of village life and is well supported by volunteer helpers from the church and the village association. We are pleased that Steve is able to attend regularly. We have been looking into starting Messy Church activities and I was invited to a St Mary's session which demonstrated the need for a number of volunteers which is beyond our resources at the moment but in our plans for the future. Karen organised a very successful Christianity Explored course over a period of six weeks and it is hoped to continue further study in the coming year. The Christmas Draw and Party organised by the Strategy Group and supported by the Village Association as a social event for the village was once again very successful. We were most grateful for help from Steve, Lesley and Christine.

Eco Church Mike has been working with the school to explore the wildlife in the cemetery which we are very pleased to be involved in. Bill Haines has kindly made bird boxes to be sold towards our fundraising efforts which will be installed in the churchyard and cemetery.

Finance We have organised a number of successful fundraising events throughout the year and are hoping to arrange a meeting with Jane in the near future to discuss our financial position.

Maintenance Various maintenance works have been carried out through the year. Gutters, drainpipes and drains have been cleared and the lightbulbs in the chandeliers changed to LED lights. One of the chandeliers is not working and this will be repaired in the near future. One of the gas boilers is no longer in use but the second one was serviced in June. The stopcock was discovered near the entrance gate and replaced by Thames Water. The outside tap was replaced and the longstanding leak next to the robes cupboard repaired in October. The lightning conductor and fire extinguishers were checked in December and all are in good working order.

Project We have continued to work on the renovation project throughout the year and have been discussing various options with the school. We were pleased to enlist the services of Nick Rule to draw up plans and help with our faculty application.

Sandra Baker
Churchwarden