

**The United Benefice,  
Moseley  
St Mary's and St Anne's**

# Annual Report for 2016

For presentation at the Annual  
Parochial Church Meeting

St Anne's Meeting – Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2017,  
12:00noon, St Anne's Church

St Mary's Meeting – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April  
2017, 7:30pm, Moseley C of E School



## BACKGROUND

The Parochial Church Councils (PCC) of St Mary's and St Anne's, Moseley, are responsible for co-operating with the Ministry Team in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

### MEMBERSHIP OF St MARY'S PCC

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year April 2016 to April 2017, the following served as members of the PCC:

#### EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Vicar:            | Revd Duncan Strathie                     |
| Associate Vicar:  | Revd Hazel White                         |
| Assistant Priest: | Revd Frank Berry<br>Revd Caroline George |
| Reader:           | Jonathan Hodgson                         |
| Wardens:          | Trish Everett<br>Glyn Samuel             |

#### ELECTED MEMBERS:

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Deanery Synod Members: | Vacancy<br>Rob Brown<br>Philip Simons<br>Helen Rehman |
|------------------------|---|

#### PCC MEMBERS:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Until APCM 2017 | Stephen Lewis, Fiona Chew, Nick Drew, Neil McLeod   |
| Until APCM 2018 | Tom Barwell, Jon Stevens, Jenny Jupe, David Kett    |
| Until APCM 2019 | Paul Chew, Jean Lindley, Carmel Midgley, 1 Vacancy. |

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### PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

**ARCHITECT** Michael Potter, Unit 316, The Custard Factory, Digbeth, B9 4AA

**BANK** HSBC, PO Box 68, 130 New Street, Birmingham B2 4JU.

**INDEPENDENT EXAMINER** Deidre Mattison, 22 April Croft, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9HP

**PROPERTY AGENTS** Fishers, 22, 24, 26 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9NF

**SOLICITOR** Blackhams, Lancaster House, 67 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1NR

**MEMBERSHIP OF ST ANNE'S PCC**

Members of the PCC are either ex officio, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year April 2016 to April 2017, the following served as members of the PCC:

**EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:**

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Vicar:             | Revd Duncan Strathie                     |
| Associate Vicar:   | Revd Hazel White                         |
| Assistant Priests: | Revd Frank Berry<br>Revd Caroline George |
| Reader:            | Jonathan Hodgson                         |
| Wardens.           | Vacant<br>Vacant                         |

**ELECTED MEMBERS:**

|                        |                           |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deanery Synod Members: | Sabina Bealt<br>John Gray |
|------------------------|---------------------------|

**PCC MEMBERS:**

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Until APCM 2017      | Stephen Alabaster, Jenny Allen  |
| Until APCM 2018      | Barry Jervis, Andrew Horner   |
| Elected at APCM 2016 | Jill Adams, Sally Beavan, Chris Cipkin, Keturah Nyuar,<br>Sonia Sheehan |

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**PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>BANK</b>                 | HSBC, PO Box 68, 130 New Street, Birmingham B2 4JU.           |
| <b>INDEPENDENT EXAMINER</b> | Deidre Mattison, 22 April Croft, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9HP |

**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ST MARY AND ST ANNE, MOSELEY**

**ST ANNE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 12 noon**

**AGENDA**

**Prayer and Welcome**

Revd Duncan Strathie, Vicar

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (24<sup>th</sup> April 2016)
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Election of deputy wardens

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (24<sup>th</sup> April 2016)
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral Roll repor.
5. Election of Parochial Church Council
6. Appointment of sidespeople
7. Accounts
8. Appointment of independent examiner
9. Churchwarden's report
10. Report from Church organisations (tabled)
11. Closing comments - Vicar, Revd Duncan Strathie
12. Date of next year's APCM

**THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ST MARY AND ST ANNE MOSELEY**

**ST MARY'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm**

**AGENDA**

**Prayer and Welcome**

Revd Duncan Strathie, Vicar

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners**

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (25<sup>th</sup> April 2016)
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Churchwardens

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

- 1 Apologies
  - a. Apologies from Jennifer Holloway.
- 2 Minutes of last meeting (25<sup>th</sup> April 2016)
- 3 Matters arising
- 4 Electoral Roll report
- 5 Election of Parochial Church Council
- 6 Appointment of sidespeople
- 7 Accounts
- 8 Appointment of independent examiner
- 9 Churchwardens' report
- 10 Report from Church organisations (tabled)
- 11 Closing comments – Vicar, Revd Duncan Strathie
- 12 Date of next year's APCM

## Vicar's report 2016 – St Anne's Church

This is an exciting place to be. The communities at both St Mary's and St Anne's are filled with wonderful people who are generous, love God and find many interesting ways to serve him. This past year has been one of 'bedding in' for me – whilst trying not to keep us all standing still. I've also had the opportunity to explore more of the local area and this wonderful city in which we live. We are blessed.

It is impossible to include everything that has happened in the past year, so here is a selection of things I wish to report on. 2016 was for all of us, a year of *Listening & Reflecting* as we asked three important questions: where have we come from, who are we and where are we going. A number of events were held throughout the year giving people, including the local community, the opportunity to respond to these questions. The fruit of that exercise will appear in next year's report!

We continue to be blessed with creative people leading and contributing to our worship and daily life together. It is a marvel to have such active and helpful retired colleagues who make a valued contribution. I have greatly enjoyed getting to know all my colleagues better in the ministry team and to see that team expand with the addition of Conan as our curate. We also hosted Jenni, an ordinand from Queen's on placement and amongst a number of people within the benefice exploring questions of vocation it was great to see Mark Simons selected for, and beginning training, to become a Reader. Within any church community signs of vocational life – to whatever vocation – are signs of health and growth. My thanks to Hazel for overseeing this side of our life together. Our Sunday worship has also given opportunities to receive updates from the many missions' partners that we support across the benefice.

Music continues to be a vital component of our worship and we have been blessed by the faithful and creative ministry of Chris Cipkin and Mike Carter. We lament the loss of our Music Group. We were fortunate to be given a baby grand piano which is a significant improvement on the old upright it replaced. Thanks to a generous legacy in memory of Joyce Cockel it is currently undergoing extensive renovation which will not only transform how it sounds but also how it looks.

Links with our community continue through a number of community groups where there are strong relationships. Our Church School continues to perform excellently and some from church are involved in a variety of ways – not least by supplying pupils. I am grateful to those who serve as Foundation Governors and also to those who are governors at other schools across the city.

The benefice Lunch Club continues to reach out to the more elderly and provides fellowship and a channel of pastoral and spiritual support to this important group. My thanks go to Chef David Sandison and to Ann Andrew and others who lead this work. This year we celebrated HMQ90 with a range of special events across the benefice. Around the Christmas and New Year period different ministry groups and leaders enjoyed getting together at the vicarage and we have had well over 120 benefice people enjoying some festive cheer through this.

Our prayer life continues to be resourced by the pew sheet and in particular the weekly 'thought' item that many have contributed to. For the benefice, Silent Space and the Prayer Circle are vital components at the centre of our common life together. We have also raised our social media profile and have become well established across a number of platforms. Nigel Blakey has done an excellent job in the behind the scenes role of maintaining our website. Work with our youngsters continues to benefit from Tammy's.

As a benefice we have established strong links with KSIMC Clifton Road Mosque and have shared in a number of events between the churches and the mosque. We are also developing links with our good friends and neighbours at Hamza Mosque and look forward to building on the valuable work being done by Richard Tetlow. The more understanding and acceptance that we can enter into, the more quickly fear and suspicion will diminish in their influence. I am now part of the diocesan Presence and Engagement network exploring how inter faith links can be developed.

The Discipleship Team have helped resource a number of courses and events in this important area. We have completed another successful growing Leaders Course and seen people go on to take up new positions of leadership as a result. We have also seen a number of folk – young and not so young, Confirmed by Bishop David in December – my thanks to those who ran the courses. It has been a privilege to share in leadership with both PCCs who are filled with gifted people. Our Pastoral Team who do such quiet but valuable work is being expanded and folk are in training to become commissioned by the Bishop in their role. Janet Thorne has continued to keep up with the ever changing and expanding requirements of Safeguarding to ensure that we properly look after those we serve and one another.

It has been our privilege to share with families in joy at times of baptism and also marriage. It has also been a privilege to share with those who mourn the loss of a loved one as well as folk who face difficulty and crisis. Sometimes all that we can do is sit with people, praying with them and for them. God is gracious and knows the needs of his children.

All of that sounds pretty exciting for a year of 'bedding in'. I wonder what 2017 will bring. We pray on ...

*The Revd Duncan Strathie*  
*Vicar of Moseley*

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Music has been an important part of the past year under the leadership of Mick Perrier. Our Singers and Choir have continued to inspire and lead our worship week-by-week and they have been augmented by additional voices at different festivals to present a range of singing. Our choir did an excellent job in residency at Bury St Edmunds in the summer. We have hosted bi-monthly concerts on a Saturday morning throughout the year as well as The King's Men, Schola Cantorum and an Orthodox choir from St Petersburg. In May we welcomed back David Briggs for a virtuoso concert to launch the Organ Renovation Appeal.

Links with our community continue through a number of community groups where there are strong relationships. The renovation of the churchyard under Becky Greenhill's leadership is bringing about a wonderful transformation by creating a beautiful and sacred space in the heart of Moseley. Our Church School continues to perform excellently and many from church are involved in a variety of ways – not least by supplying pupils. I am grateful to those who serve as Foundation Governors and also to those who are governors at other schools across the city.

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the behind the scenes role of maintaining our website. Work with our youngsters continues to benefit from Tammy's leadership and inspiration and those who assist.

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*The Revd Duncan Strathie*  
*Vicar of Moseley*

## Associate Vicar's Report – 2016

With a full complement of clergy and staff during 2016, and stability in the team, it has been good to have the space to focus on our Discipleship programme, as well as encouraging and enabling lay leadership. Do have a read of the report on Discipleship which shows the range of discipleship opportunities on offer in the Benefice. It is encouraging that many groups and activities are lay led, and I have enjoyed investing time in encouraging and supporting folk on their journeys of faith and in leadership roles. It has been good to offer supervision for Mark Simons as he has embarked on his Reader training. With support from the PCCs, we have also supported 9 people as they have begun the Diocesan training scheme for offering pastoral care and community skills.

New safeguarding requirements mean that role descriptions are required for each volunteer role in our churches, and I have been working with team leaders and others to produce these. Although time consuming, this does give the opportunity to review what is needed for each activity, and ensure that we are following best practice. We are blessed with so many folk who voluntarily give generously of their time, and it is a real privilege to share in ministry with all who give so much.

During the early part of 2016 I spent time co-ordinating our celebrations for the Queen's 90th Birthday, which came together in a programme of events during the second weekend in June. A tea party was held at Moseley CofE School for some of our older parishioners, there was a churches together flower festival in St Mary's, an Art Exhibition in St Anne's, and a specially commissioned piece of music written by Mick Perrier for worship in St Mary's on the Sunday.

Alongside work in our churches, I have continued as a trustee for the Elizabeth Dowells Trust, maintained a pastoral relationship with Moseley CofE School, including leading Collective Worship, continued to offer regular spiritual accompaniment, and continued as one of the representatives of the Moseley Deanery for Diocesan Synod.

After five years in post I remain happily in ministry in Moseley, and am very grateful to you all for your support.

*Revd Hazel White*

*Associate Vicar, Benefice of Moseley*

**The Parish of St Anne Moseley**  
**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners**  
**Held on Sunday April 24th 2016 at St Anne's Church**

The Revd Duncan Strathie as chair welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and opened the meeting with a prayer.

There were 27 parishioners present.

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Apologies                                       | These were received from Stephen Alabaster, Joyce Hodgson and Jaime Sheehan  |   |
| Minutes of Last Meeting held on April 26th 2015 | These had been previously circulated   | They were accepted as an accurate record and signed by the chair. |
| Matters Arising                                 | There were no matters arising  |   |
| Election of Church Wardens                      | There were no nominations for the position of church warden.   | Positions remain vacant   |
| Election of Deputy wardens                      | The following people were nominated and appointed as deputy wardens- Stephen Alabaster, Malcolm McDonald, Rob Curtiss, Sonia Sheehan |   |

**St Anne's Church Moseley**  
**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Held on Sunday April 24<sup>th</sup> 2016 at St Anne's Church**

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| Apologies   | These were received and noted at the Annual meeting of Parishioners  |   |
| Minutes of the last meeting held on April 26 <sup>th</sup> 2015 | These were accepted as a true record and signed by the chair   |   |
| Matters Arising   | There were no matters arising  |   |
| Electoral Roll Report   | There are 54 names on the electoral roll 39 of whom are non-resident. This is a net increase.  |   |
| Election of PCC   | There were five vacancies, 3 for 3years, 1 for 2years and 1 for 1 year. The following nominations were received:- Sally Beavan-proposed by Karen Gray and seconded by Graham Hindley, Sonia Sheehan: - proposed by Elisabeth Leicester and seconded by Graham Hindley, Keturah Nyuar:- proposed by Andrew Horner and seconded by Jill Adams ,Christopher Cipkin:- proposed by Sonia Sheehan and seconded by Graham Hindley. Jill Adams proposed by Rob Curtiss and seconded by Malcolm McDonald. | There were no further nominations so all were duly elected. The decision concerning which members will fill the various vacancies will be made at the first meeting of the PCC. |
| Appointment of sidespeople                                      | Andrew Horner and Sam Jeffers were added to the list of people already serving and agreed at the last APCM .   | These were proposed by Jill Adams and seconded by Jenny Allen.<br>Revd Duncan thanked all who   |

|                                     |  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|
|                                     |  | had served and continued to do so.   |
| Accounts                            | These had been prepared and were presented by Sally Beavan, She said that there had been an increase in planned voluntary giving but other income had dropped, however the position is sustainable.  | There were no specific questions. Thanks were expressed to Keith Bishop for all his hard work on the boiler and to Karen Gray for her hard work as the outgoing treasurer. It was noted that the accounts had not been signed off by the independent examiner so acceptance was proposed by Sonia Sheehan and seconded by John Gray subject to that agreement being obtained. All in favour. |
| Appointment of Independent Examiner | Deidre Mattison is prepared to stand for a further year  | Proposed by Jill Adams and seconded by Karen Gray. All in favour   |
| Church Wardens' Report              | Sonia thanked everyone who contributed to the life of the church and reported that the faculty relating to the removal and disposal of pews would be on its way soon. She invited everyone to come and get involved particularly while there are no church wardens.  | Sonia and Sam were thanked for all their hard work during the past year.   |
| Reports from church Groups          | These had been previously tabled.  | Thanks were recorded to Mick Perrier for obtaining a good piano and Mike Carter was thanked for playing it. Richard Tetlow expressed thanks to Revd Duncan for taking up the idea of working with other faiths.  |
| Vicar's closing remarks             | Revd Duncan said that he was happy to be in Moseley and that he and Katrina had appreciated the welcome they had received. He said he was grateful to all those helping with the process of moving forward. He acknowledged the significant contribution that the summer ball had made to the re-ordering. He said that the reflecting and listening still continued and it was an opportunity for all to learn. | For the future he hopes that the parishes can be brought closer together, that there will be many more smiling faces and more planned giving. He said that his expectations had been exceeded and there wa. a great team at St Anne's  |
| Date of next meeting                | This has been proposed as April 30 <sup>th</sup> 2017  |  |

**St Mary's PCC report – Trish Everett - PCC Minute taker**

St Mary's PCC has met five times throughout the year. The Standing Committee has met on four occasions to progress the work of the PCC between meetings.

It has been a year of Listening and Reflecting, and a year where we have seen the Churchyard changing and developing as the Churchyard and Heritage Project has progressed apace. We have seen new paths laid, gates refurbished, new plants springing up and our first harvest of honey from our bees. The extension to the Garden of Remembrance is almost complete and there will be easy access to both Gardens.

Membership of the PCC has been stable, although the position of PCC Secretary has remained vacant throughout the year.

The teams reporting to PCC have been efficient and diligent. The Finance team have presented detailed and clear accounts of our income and expenditure and financial position. They have worked to develop and present an approach to long term financial planning which the PCC has accepted. FWO and Stewardship continues to be concerning: a Stewardship Group has been working on strategies and proposals to develop and maintain a sustainable approach to planned giving.

PCC has received regular reports from the following teams: Buildings and Properties, Finance, Charitable Giving, Ministry, Safeguarding, Church wardens, Deanery Synod, and Music activities. Safeguarding continues to be a key responsibility for the PCC and Safeguarding Training sessions have been held for PCC members.

Fundraising for the repair and refurbishment of the Organ was launched with a stunning and well attended concert by David Briggs.

We look forward to exciting developments as the Vision 13 group has been established to take forward the feedback from the year of Listening and Reflecting.

**Extract from: St Mary's PCC**

**Held on Monday March 27th 2017 at 7.30 pm at Moseley C of E School.**

**Notes of the meeting *included*:**

**Present.** Rev Duncan Strathie, Christine McAteer Jon Stevens, Jean Lindley, Rob Brown, Stephen Lewis, Phil Simons, Fiona Chew, Paul Chew, Neil McLeod, Glyn Samuel, Trish Everett, Tom Barwell, Nick Drew.

**Apologies from.** Rev Hazel White, Helen Rehmann, Rev Caroline George, Rev Frank Berry

**Finance**

**Acceptance of accounts – proposed by Glyn Samuel. Seconded Stephen Lewis. Carried unanimously.**

**Proposal to adopt financial plan and reserves policy. Proposed by Paul Chew, seconded by Nick Drew. 13 in favour, 1 abstention. Carried.**

## WORSHIP

### St Mary's Music Report – Mick Perrier

2016 has had its challenges and its successes for the music team. Challenges, in that the team has been depleted by moves away and sad demises; successes, in that an excellent group of young trebles have taken their place on the launch pad and are beginning to contribute well to our worship.

We are particularly pleased with the growing band of youngsters - from ages 5/6 upwards - who enjoy fun music activities, music reading skills, singing and fellowship on a Tuesday from 5.00pm-5.45pm. We have many potential new members in our congregation - why not bring your young people to swell the throng and benefit from what's on offer. It all feeds into intellectual skills, mental flexibility, enhanced academic performance and social skills. What's not to like?!!

Reviewing past activities, we can mention the 2016 Palm Sunday open workshop at which a good number of our own congregation and visitors rehearsed the music for the Evening Service of music and readings. The end result was very pleasing and appreciated by the congregation.

The summer term included Music Sunday, a Moseley Festival Concert and preparation for the Outreach Residential at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Music Sunday is a national initiative by the RSCM celebrating the work of parish musicians, their contribution to worship week by week and the debt owed by congregations and churches to their dedication.

The 2016 Moseley Festival concert in July was a joint venture between our own parish musicians and Ashaaq Al Rasul, a Muslim band which has performed world-wide to great acclaim. We were privileged to welcome them and the large contingent of Muslim supporters to our church. We look forward to further collaborations.

The residential at St Edmundsbury Cathedral was a great success. The music team carried the name of St Mary's to a new cathedral community which greatly appreciated the contribution to their worship. An invitation to return at an early juncture was a measure of the success of the venture. We were grateful for the support of Revd. Duncan, Revd. Hazel and Revd. Caroline at various stages of the trip.

The autumn term saw two high profile concerts supported by the Friends of St Mary's Choirs and Music: the Schola Cantorum of Oxford in September and the Voskreseniye Choir of St Petersburg in October. Both of these entailed a huge amount of work by a dedicated band of volunteers but each was rewarded by a very large and appreciative audience.

The now well-established series of bi-monthly Saturday Morning Coffee Concerts has continued to engage members of our congregation and community. These take place to coincide with the Farmers' Market on the last Saturday in January, March, May, July and September. The November event is of a seasonal flavour to coincide with the Benefice Christmas Fair.

Over the past twelve months we have been indebted to Magenta Ladies' Choir, Jeanne Conard (mezzo soprano), Christopher Cipkin (organ), and the late - and much lamented - Bob Meikle and his flautist colleague.

So what of the future. Music has been an important part of our ministry for more years than I care to remember. There's no need to be proficient to be part of it - we weld anyone into the team. Who do we need. Ladies, gentlemen, boys, girls - all are welcome. We have much to offer all ages and especially our young people. Could this be the year we grow our team considerably. I hope so!

### **The Friends of St Mary's Choirs and Music – John Carey**

FSMCM exists to support all the musical activities associated with St Mary's. It organises choir trips such as the choir residence weeks in recent years in St David's, Norwich, Wells and Bury St Edmunds. FSMCM in general supports the Director of Music in activities ranging from arranging concerts to Choir trips and exchanges. Fund raising is an important part of this and is done in various ways such as the annual barbecue, coach trips, raffles and wine-tastings.

There are about 55 members and a committee of eight that meets once a month.

In the past year FSMCM has supported the Robed Choir and Singer's successful visit to St Edmundsbury Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds last August and arrangements are in hand this year for Portsmouth.

Their wine-tastings are popular and another is planned for the spring.

In the last year 'Coffee Concerts' have been organised. These are informal concerts in church on a Saturday morning at 11:00am. They happen every two months on the day of a Farmers Market so you shop, then relax with a coffee and enjoy a short concert. They have proved very popular.

We have tried to dispel the illusion that FSMCM is an exclusive club and have attempted to publicise events like the wine-tastings and summer barbeque as being open to all.

For more information contact the Chairman: (Dr John R. Carey 449 2506) or any committee member.

### **Bell Ringers' Report - Frances Dodds, Tower Captain – 2016/2017**

Our goal, last year, was to attempt a local band Quarter-peal for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations. This, we knew, would be an ambitious goal, so it was no surprise when we failed to achieve this. However, the loss was not the fault of the ringers, but mine, alone (mea culpa!). All was not wasted, though, as it gave the band valuable experience & confidence, which has been built on throughout the year. We are now able to make full use of the 10 bells, on occasions, without outside help - something that looked impossibly optimistic 12 months ago.

I believe that we have managed to ring for service every Sunday, & for special occasions as requested.

Our local Bell-ringers Guild, St Martins for the Diocese of Birmingham, holds a monthly Thursday daytime practice at Moseley, which is proving quite popular. We have also had several visiting bands of ringers, during the last 12 months.

A recent Guild daytime activity, being run by our Guild Master, Simon Linford (who is a Moseley resident), is 'Brum-Dingers' a training programme for really junior recruits. Teaching children to ring on these bells will certainly mean that they are well equipped to cope with ringing at any of the other local towers, and bodes well for the future of ringing in Birmingham.

Our own team of ringers is relatively low in number, at the moment, so we may be looking to increase this, via recruitment/training in future.

My thanks to all our band for supporting me, as their leader, during the last year, & look forward to the next 12 months.

**St Mary's Flower Guild – Betty Clarke, Laura Dowell & Dorothy Pridham**

Members of St Mary's Flower Guild have continued to keep the Church decorated beautifully with flowers during the year. This year, however, and for the first time, flower arrangements have had to be bought in for Festivals, as the manpower required to fill the Church with flowers is sadly lacking. It is a consequence of the group getting older, and the loss of some members through age, infirmity or because they have moved away. Needless to say, it is costlier for the Guild to buy in flower arrangements for the Church.

Donations towards funding the flowers are received from time to time from Church goers. This is very much appreciated. The Flower Guild invites all members of the Church to consider sponsoring a flower arrangement.

Donations of time will also be welcomed warmly. The Flower Guild uses this report as an opportunity to ask members of the congregation to join the group to help not only with Festivals but also with maintaining the flowers on a regular basis. Please contact the Parish Office with your details and a member of the Flower Guild will get in touch with you.

**St Anne's Flower Arranging - Jan Midgley**

We thank Jan and her team for all of their hard work in making St Anne's look so beautiful for worship throughout 2016.

Jan demonstrated Flower Arranging in a Flower Workshop organised by Elisabeth Leicester, as well as contributing to the Flower Festival held in St Anne's church for HM the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Financial donations towards the cost of flowers are always welcome. Please speak to Jan Midgley.

**Churches Together**

The annual joint service of Churches Together was held in January at St. Mary's, at the end of the week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We were pleased to welcome members of the congregations from participating churches. The diverse work of Churches Together was recognised in the pew leaflet on that day. As a group, we meet together roughly quarterly for planning, sharing events happening in the churches and having a time of prayer. Representatives for this benefice are Jill Adams and Jennifer Holloway.

We organise the joint churches' Christmas and Easter cards, which are delivered to households throughout Moseley, and every year we have a free tombola stall at the Moseley Festival Street Fair to raise awareness of the churches in Moseley.



## DISCIPLESHIP

### Discipleship – Revd Hazel White

#### Growing Leaders and Vocations

Eleven people completed our second CPAS Growing Leaders course during 2016, and it has been good to support most of them in either continuing in existing leadership roles, or taking on new leadership roles in the Benefice. There are now 6 people at various stages of exploring vocations who have met together for mutual support and encouragement. One member of the group, Mark Simons, successfully completed the selection process for Reader Ministry, and began his training in September 2016. Another member of the group, Peter Alcock, became a member of the third order of the Society of St Francis.

#### Small groups

Opportunities for people to meet in small groups have included:

- Four sessions led by Duncan and Hazel that formed part of the 'Listening and Reflecting Process' during Lent 2016.
- Thursday thinkers has met throughout the year on Thursday mornings, led by Revd Caroline George and assisted by Jonathan Hodgson.
- In 2016 the theological book group read and discussed 'The Return of the Prodigal Son' by Henri J M Nouwen during Lent, 'Is a Radical Church Possible?. Reshaping its Life for Jesus' sake' by Adrian Aiker during the summer term, and 'Being Disciples, Essentials of the Christian life' by Rowan Williams in the autumn term.
- A Confirmation group for adults was run by Glyn Samuel, and a 'Youth Emmaus group' for young people to explore the Christian faith was led by Hazel. 6 adults and 6 young people were confirmed by Bishop David in November.
- The Contemplative Prayer group has continued to meet throughout the year, led by Peter Alcock.
- Moseley at the Movies took place once a month on a Wednesday evening with discussion on a range of different films.
- A group met for 'Contextual Bible Study' led by students from Birmingham University Religious Studies Department, part of their research programme supervised by Karen Wenell.
- The prayer circle has organised a varied and interesting programme to enable people to pray together, including the Annual Benefice Quiet Day led by Duncan – see the Prayer Circle report.

#### Training

We agreed to be part of a pilot scheme for the Diocese, whereby Hazel was trained to offer basic level safeguarding training in the Benefice (rather than expecting those who need this training to travel to other parts of the Diocese). A training session for our PCC members, children's group leaders, choir chaperones, and those who work with vulnerable adults was held in December 2016. This has now been evaluated and further sessions can be offered.

There have been training sessions for Eucharistic Assistants, and also for those who lead intercessory prayer in church.

### **3D (Diocesan course for Developing Disciples)**

Jenny Daniels completed the 3D course in July 2015, and Fiona Chew and Jean Lindley began the course in September 2016.

### **Discipleship for children and young people**

Our work with children and young people continues to be ably led by Tammy Tearoe, with thanks to all who work alongside her as volunteer leaders and helpers, do have a read of Tammy's report.

I am grateful to the Discipleship team who have been a 'sounding board' and have assisted with the planning of Discipleship across the Benefice during the year: Tom Barwell, Liz Blakey, Trish Everett, Jonathan Hodgson, Una Lodge.

### **Benefice Prayer Circle Report for 2017 – Elisabeth Leicester, Helen McNicoll and Liz Blakey.**

In March 2106, the Prayer Circle arranged the Benefice Quiet Day which was held at St Mary's Convent Handsworth and attended by some 23 people. Revd. Duncan Strathie led us in concentrated contemplation on "Living a Life of Tension". The Prayer Circle has subsequently met ten times.

We have learnt more about and prayed for [Y@SMA](#); Brenda Johnson and Mark Simons helped us to gain insight into their work as benefice supporters and their need for prayer. Mark has also led us in learning about prayer with the internet. A very few people met at All Saints Church, Kings Heath where we were guided in walking their labyrinth. In June some members went into the Wetherspoons pub "Elizabeth of York" and were well received and where we asked about their prayer requests. This information was taken back to people praying at St Mary's.

At harvest time, we had a session on "Food for the Soul" where people brought meaningful items of poetry, art etc. Peter Alcock guided our thoughts on All Saints Day. At the end of November, Revd. Hazel White helped us to consider "Doing December Differently". In our first meeting of 2017, we shared thoughts and prayers for peace. In February Revd. Duncan Strathie helped us reflect on "God in the everyday".

We again gave Christmas gifts to Anawim.

The Prayer Circle is privileged to underpin our church and community with prayer. Anyone is welcome to come to the meetings. Why not try to attend at least one during the remainder of 2017.

## **Children's Work – Tammy Tearoe**

### **SUNDAY GROUPS:**

- St Mary's: Sunday groups continue to run during term time. During the summer term we trialled some new curriculum and have decided to use a new lectionary based curriculum called *Seasons of the Spirit*. A training session was held in September for leaders who would be working with the new materials. For leaders who were unable to attend I circulated a written guide to implementing the lesson plans. There has been a good amount of new volunteers stepping forward to work with the children but as ever there's always room for more!
- Young Discoverers continues to grow in attendees and volunteers. There is a terrific group of volunteers that I meet with regularly to plan and prepare creative bible based activities. This autumn I took the decision to piggy back off of Young Discoverers and share stories

across to the age 3-4 group whilst providing a slightly more challenging craft activity to support their lesson.

- St Anne's: I have been leading the group weekly with helpers. The number of children is strong with average attendance of 8-15 children ranging from age 1-12 years. I have taken the opportunity to try new storytelling techniques with this group (mainly Godly Play style) which has been very well received by the children. It is imperative, however, that new leaders and helpers come forward to take the children's worship and development work at St Anne's to the next level and to remain compliant with our Safeguarding policy.
- Training of Sunday Group Leaders: Introduction to Seasons of the Spirit and individual support for new leaders.

#### **DEVELOPMENT WORK:**

- Messy Church: This year Messy Church was held monthly with attendance holding steady. Perhaps the most creative service was our 'Forest Church' held at Moseley CofE Primary- there is a lot of interest in holding another such service in future.
- Stay and Play: In the autumn term I began a 'Stay and Play' parent's and toddlers group during the weekly Open Church session on Thursday mornings. Whilst slow to start the group is now going strong with ten individual families (mainly families that do not attend our churches) attending on a nearly weekly basis. Many thanks to the Open Church crew for being open to the idea and for popping in and having a chat with us each week.
- Playground Prayers (see School Connection)
- Java Lounge (see y@smaa)

#### **SCHOOL CONNECTION:**

- I continue to take the occasional assembly at Moseley C of E Primary
- For the early part of 2016 Rev. Duncan and I led Morning Prayer intended for staff, pupils and parents on a Tuesday morning as requested by the school. While there were a small number who were able to attend the idea never really got off the ground. In the autumn term, however, we took a new course of action and developed 'Playground Prayers' (thanks to Fiona Chew for the snappy moniker). Each Tuesday morning Rev. Duncan and I served tea and coffee and offer prayer to the parents that assemble on the playground before the start of school. We now connect with dozens of individuals during the twenty or so minutes as we circulate around the playground and serve drinks. I keep a prayer journal of the requests made by the folks I get to speak to.

#### **Y@SMAA:**

- The group holds steady at 15 pupils with regular attendance at between 8 and 12 at our monthly meetings.
- The leaders, Una Lodge, Fran Rowley, Bee Narga-Martin, Peter Alcock and I, meet termly to discuss the progress the group is making and to plan for upcoming sessions.
- ACTIVITIES:
  - Annual outing to Quasar Elite Birmingham.
  - Christian Aid fundraiser with music performed by the group and a tea and cake sale at St Mary's raised nearly £200.
  - A Christian Aid Collective young adult volunteer visited our group and gave us a better understanding of where the money raised by the youth will be used.
  - Youth Service was held in June at St Anne's with good congregation turn out.

- We hosted a 'meet the youth group' meal in October to welcome new attendees. There are three new 'Year 6' attendees- two of which are not regular Sunday morning worshippers.
  - Youth prepared shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child campaign.
  - The group worked together to make a pot of beef stew for the Winter Night Shelter and helped with the set up on one of the Saturday evenings.
- As leaders had recognised the expanding range of ages in our youth group we took the initiative to start a new group for our youth aged 16 and up. 'Java Lounge' meets on the second and fourth Sundays of each month to chat about the demands of college, plans for the future, the intersection of faith and life and of course politics. There is a great rota of adults accompanying me at the coffee shop and I look forward to our group expanding with 2017 school leavers joining us.

#### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:**

- Lectionary based activities are made available along with Discovery Bags on 'off Sunday's' during school activities.
- Good Friday worship was once again a collaborative effort with a wonderfully creative team of volunteers developing and delivering the all-age service.

#### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

- Commenced training in The Diocesan Scheme for Offering Pastoral Care and Community Skills (this is a two year accreditation course).
- Serving as mentor for Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry as well as delivering training to this year's graduates of the scheme at one of the Saturday sessions.

### **Safeguarding – Jennifer Holloway**

**The council has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.**

This group meets as required to look at safeguarding issues which may arise, and to ensure that required practices are complied with. National and Diocesan Policies and Guidelines do change from time to time, and we additionally have to address issues which are particular to the benefice. For those who are required to have DBS checks, please respond quickly in supplying required information. In future, the Diocese advocate that volunteer roles cannot start until the check is completed. Delays also cause additional work for the co-ordinator.

There are a core group of members, but those with a particular knowledge and expertise are often asked for their advice, and possibly attend meetings to update, advise or clarify an item.

*Core members are: clergy, Janet Thorne, Tammy Tearoe, Mick Perrier, Pat Sack (Children's Advocate, St Mary's), Jill Adams (Children and Vulnerable Adult Advocate, St Anne's), Jennifer Holloway. Christine McAteer is the Vulnerable Adult Advocate for St Mary's*

## OUTREACH

### Winter Night Shelter Project – Helen Winwood & Karen Gray

The winter night shelter ran for a fourth year at the beginning of 2016, and was again a very successful project reaching out to those who are vulnerable. The shelter took place every Saturday night/ Sunday morning for 6 weeks from the 20th February 2016 till Easter Sunday at St Anne's Church Hall with the 12 beds being full each week. It was run by 76 volunteers from St Anne's and St Mary's, Moseley C of E School and also from the wider community.

The feedback from the Guests and Volunteers was overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating the need for such a shelter. For Guests it provided a warm secure place to sleep, eat and feel welcomed. For the Volunteers it gave them an opportunity to care for those in need, build friendships and contribute to a community project.

Funding of £500 was received from Moseley Farmers Market. Generous donations of cooked meals, lunches, Polish items, books, a weekly floral display and lots more were very gratefully received, along with those who offered time to do the laundry.

With thanks to Karen Gray, Julia Kilby and Helen Winwood for co-ordinating the volunteers for this project, and to all who helped.

### Christmas Day Together 2016 – Janet Thorne

At 12:45 on Christmas day approximately 100 people sat down together in St Anne's Hall and enjoyed a delicious lunch- turkey and all the trimmings.

People had come from within the church family, from the local community and from various areas of South Birmingham.

Father Christmas visited after lunch with a surprise gift for everyone and some lusty carol singing took place!!

A great day was had by all. It would not have been possible without the support and participation of many volunteers from all faiths in the community as well as from the congregations of the benefice.

This is a well-established, eagerly anticipated event associated with the Moseley benefice and would be sorely missed.

All the volunteers were invited to a social event at Hazel's house in February and have become a well-established and dedicated team.

However more people are always needed if the event is to continue.

Look out for information nearer the time and perhaps consider getting involved?

**Benefice Charitable Giving Report 2016 – Revd. Caroline George**

2016 saw generous support for Benefice and Church charities from the PCC's, members of the Benefice and in specific contexts from the wider community. The Charitable Giving Group promoted and found speakers for some of the Benefice and church charities and were extremely grateful to the Hospitality Group for devoting so much time, energy and expertise to fundraising events.

A challenge of 2016 was to consider the question of how Gift Aid works, and what is included in the final donation figures for a year. The Charitable Giving Group would like to see money from all events large and small going directly to the named charities in addition to the annual budget. Paul Chew has very kindly given time to the Charitable Giving Group to talk about Gift Aid and St. Mary's budgets, Jill Adams has talked us through St. Anne's procedures including payments to Benefice Charities. Discussions regarding donations for Benefice and Church Charities will continue in 2017 and the group's proposal brought to the attention of the PCC's.

Questions about raising the profiles of charities have also been considered in 2016. St. Anne's had three speakers for their church charities from HoverAid, Practical Action and Restore and a promotional month for all charities. Chris Cipkin from St. Anne's has put forward some creative musical events to raise money for St. Anne's charities. We hope a date may be found for one of these in 2017. St. Mary's had one speaker from their church charities, Canon Andrew Pearson from the Busoga Trust and a presentation about Coram Voice. A 'promotional month' for each of St. Mary's charities will be organised in conjunction with the Hospitality Group in 2017.

There were speakers representing three of the Benefice Charities at both churches, Christian Aid, the Diocesan Malawi Fund and Médecin sans Frontières. The 'Médecin sans Frontières' fish and chip supper evening raised £644.00. This was supported not only by church members but by the local community and our thanks to Julia Kilby for organising the speaker and the Hospitality Group for arranging the fish and chips. Money from this evening went directly to M.S.F. Our thanks to Julia too for continuing to co-ordinate Christian Aid Week in Moseley and all who dedicate time to Christian Aid in a variety of ways. The total donation speaks of the commitment to Christian Aid week.

There are one or two charitable exercises that have crept in during 2016 but more of that next year after our Charities have been reviewed. The Charities will remain the same during 2017 maintaining local, national and international organisations with a breadth of focus including welfare, development and Christian mission. Charities will be reviewed in 2017 for 2018.

I just know I shouldn't say this, because you might all want to join, (and yes we have a new member for 2017) but Charitable Giving Group Meetings are always cheerful, positive and dare I say fun. It is a joy to be part of this group.

## Donations 2016

### Benefice Charities

|                         |                                       |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Christian Aid           | £3,528.70 including street collection |
| The Children's Society  | £1,250.00                             |
| Diocesan Malawi Fund    | £1,250.00                             |
| Médecin sans Frontières | £1,250.00                             |

### St Mary's Charities

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| The Busoga Trust  | £625 |
| Coram Voice       | £625 |
| The Bible Society | £625 |
| St Basils         | £625 |

### St Anne's Charities

|                         | Budget | Fundraising | Total   |
|-------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|
| HoverAid                | £250   | £100        | £350    |
| Practical Action        | £250   | £100        | £350    |
| Restore                 | £250   | £64         | £314    |
| Embrace the Middle East | £250   | £50.06      | £300.06 |

### Practical Action and Campaigning in 2016 included:

- Knitting for Christian Hope International.
- Participation in campaigns for justice including, Support for Amnesty, Write for Rights.
- Freedom from Torture (jewellery collection)
- The Christmas Shoe Box Campaign.
- Support for Anawim.
- The Winter Night Shelter.
- Support for the Christmas Night Shelter. (Newtown Birmingham)
- The Sparkhill Foodbank.
- Craft Session with ladies befriended by Restore
- Stamp collections for Birmingham City Mission
- Postcard collection for Mission Aviation Society
- Stamp collection for the Leprosy Mission

**St Mary's Open Church (formerly Church Watch) – Rob Brown**

At the PCC's request, this initiative of keeping the doors of St Mary's open to the public for some part of the week has been renamed 'Open Church'. The group of helpers who ensure that the doors of St Mary's are open from 10:00am – noon on Thursdays and Fridays each week, now number twelve. I am extremely grateful for their readiness to give their time so as to maintain this essential task on behalf of the church community and I thank them most sincerely for making it run smoothly.

Apart from welcoming visitors with hospitality and information, a small band of regulars enjoy fellowship, a cuppa and a good old natter. All are welcome.

*Rob Brown, Jonathan Hodgson, Becky Greenhill, Ann Andrew, Gerald McEvoy, Kevin Edwards, Penny & Vernon Batsford, Peter Alcock, Janet Thorne, Michael Hell and Neil Greenhalgh.*

**PASTORAL CARE****Pastoral Care Group, including Care Homes Ministry – Jennifer Holloway**

The group recognises that everyone in the benefice family give pastoral care to those known to them who may be in need. The group meet up with people by request, and particularly try to keep in contact with those who would like, but are unable, to attend church services, usually because of long term illness or frailty. Contact may be by phone or visits to home, hospital, or care home. Home Communion can be given by authorised group members, if requested.

We also distribute cards to young children at St. Mary's on the anniversary of their baptism-apologies to anyone who might have been missed out- this is normally if changes of address have not been caught up with. St. Anne's also have a similar system.

Some lay members of the group (along with other members of the congregations) are currently undertaking a course on Pastoral Care in the Community, which is being run by the Diocese. This is not an essential course for members to undertake, but is helpful in keeping up with current ideas and best practice.

Care Homes – we now have monthly services at Stennards Leisure, Highbury Nursing, and Barkat Care Homes. During the past year, Oaklands, where services had been held for many years, unfortunately closed, with a loss of 40 beds. Several residents and staff were fortunately found places together at another home in Birmingham.

We would welcome anyone who might be interested in pastoral care to contact a member of the clergy or group members. We hold meetings about 3 monthly to plan, offer advice or support to each other, and frequently meet informally after church services.

*Group members are: all the clergy (and in particular Rev Caroline George who attends our meetings on a regular basis), Helen McNicoll, Liz Blakey, Elisabeth Leicester, Kathleen Jones, Peter Alcock, Janet Thorne, Jennifer Holloway (co-ordinator)*



## HOSPITALITY

### **Benefice Hospitality Group – Angela Brown, chair of the hospitality group**

The Hospitality group have had another busy year. As a group we aim to co-ordinate and promote events throughout the year within the Benefice.

Some of our events are fundraisers and we work closely with the Charitable Giving group, whilst some of our events are part of our outreach and some events are planned to offer fellowship.

During the last year we have arranged a number of events:

- Supper for a very interesting evening where we had a speaker telling us more of the work of Medecins sans Frontiers;
- A celebration for the Queen's 90th Birthday;
- The Christmas Fair;
- A Pancake party, with fun for all the family.

One of our biggest successes have been the Sunday lunches which are now regulars on our calendar of events. We arranged 4 for last year and have planned 4 for this year. They are very well attended. Whilst our lunches were originally planned for fellowship, they have raised money which has been donated to our Benefice charities.

Whereas the events above were successful, unfortunately we had to cancel 2 events, a quiz in September and a Barn Dance in October due to insufficient numbers. We were able to rearrange the Quiz for January and it proved to be a good evening.

As a way forward we need to know what events you would like to attend. We will be putting out a simple questionnaire asking your thoughts soon, please take a few minutes to give us your views. As a team we are happy to arrange and deliver events but we need people to support them.

We have planned events for the rest of the year and will be producing a bookmark so people are aware of dates in advance. Hopefully this will help.

Our next event is a Sunday Lunch on 14th May with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Hospitality group who in addition to attending meetings to plan events, work hard to make sure events run smoothly. We also make cakes for special services and respond to requests when asked. Your help is much appreciated. If you are interested in joining the Hospitality group particularly if you attend St Anne's please contact me via the Benefice office. If you would be able to help at events again please let me know.

Here's to another successful year.

*Angela Brown*  
*Chair of Hospitality Group*

### **Coffee and Company Report March 2017 – Angela Brown & Janet Thorne, Coffee & Company leads**

Coffee and Company is open to all every Saturday morning from 10.30 - 12.00 throughout the year at St Mary's church. We offer the opportunity for people to share a coffee, piece of toast and a chat all in a friendly welcoming environment. We have a regular group of visitors but are always happy to have more. Do tell your friends we are open.

St Mary's is a 'Place of Welcome' Places of Welcome do just what it says in the title.

Places of Welcome is a growing network of Hospitality run by local community groups who want to make sure that everyone in their area has a place to go for a friendly face, a cup of tea if and when they need it; which is just what we offer at Coffee and Company.

If you want to find out more about Places of Welcome please look on their website at: [www.placesofwelcome.org](http://www.placesofwelcome.org)

We do not charge for what we offer but ask for donations that people feel able to afford. Any surplus funds are donated as part of our charitable giving.

Our numbers grow every other month on Farmers Market Saturday's with the popular Coffee Concerts which are now a regular fixture on the diary of events.

The next Coffee Concert will be on Saturday 27th May where Jeanne Conard Jones will be singing 'Songs for a Spring Morning'

Coffee and cake are served from 10.30am with the concert starting at 11:00am.

Coffee and Company is only possible thanks to the dedicated group of volunteers who give up their time to make sure we are able to open our church every week. Your work is much appreciated.

If you think you could spare a couple of hours once every couple of months for this well worth cause, please let us know.

If you haven't been to Coffee and Company before, why not drop in one Saturday morning we can assure you of a warm welcome.

*Angela Brown and Janet Thorne  
Coffee and Company leads.*

### **St Anne's Lunch Club – Ann Andrew**

The club, now in its 30<sup>th</sup> year meets each Monday in the Parish Hall at the rear of St Anne's Church to enjoy a 2 course freshly prepared hot meal cooked in the Hall kitchen. Members begin to arrive independently or using the Ring & Ride service from about 12:15pm and the meal, preceded by grace and notices, is served at 12:45pm; the meal ends with coffee and tea and members depart at 2:00pm. On the second Monday of each month there is a short service of Holy Communion in the Council Room before lunch. Members' birthdays are celebrated with cards and wine. At Christmas with proceeds from a raffle and donations from members we were able to send a cheque for £53 to St Basils.

We have welcomed several new members, Thelma Hodgson, Jean Mowlam, Lavinia Morris, Elizabeth & Stephen Southall & Brian Williams; Mark Simons joins us when possible and we're grateful for his help and practical skills; with our new members we are almost up to capacity but do still have a few vacancies. We have mourned the death of Eric Dwyer who was a long standing and valued member of the club and assisted with the monthly service of Holy Communion; we miss Giles Osborne who is no longer able to attend and Joyce Rimmer as she has moved to Bournville.

The club could not run without its dedicated volunteers: our chef David Sandison, and helpers Margaret Guy, Peter Magson, Betty Padjasek Iris Pope, Lena Skuriat and Derek Pilliner who give their time and skills to make Mondays so enjoyable.

*Ann Andrew*

*April 2017*

## **Buildings & Finance Reports**

### **Church Wardens' reports**

#### **St Mary's Churchwardens' Report . Trish Everett and Glyn Samuel**

Firstly, we would like to record our thanks to the team who deputize for the Wardens and to the sides-people who support us so well in our rôle. We would also like to thank Mark Simons, who works closely with us to maintain the Church buildings, capably addressing issues as they arise.

We have had to address the issue of rough sleepers in the churchyard on several occasions throughout the year. Of particular concern have been people obstructing access/egress through the Church doors and rough sleepers potentially causing breach of Health and Safety responsibilities.

Work is ongoing on a bid for funding for exterior lighting to the front of the Church, under the government's Security for Places of Worship scheme.

There was a failed attempt to break into the Church through the south east door, which resulted in the replacement of the lock. There have also been a number of occasions when Locksmiths had to be called out for failures of some locks.

Stormy weather resulted in ingress of water through a hatch and into the lights in the wardens' office. (Heavy rainfall also caused some leakage into the West Room in 2017).

The guttering has been cleared and collapsed drains repaired.

Problems with the heating system which affected the Lady Chapel have been rectified.

Some outstanding work concerning eroded stone work remains from the Quinquennial report and needs to be addressed. The next quinquennial inspection is due this September.

A detailed health and safety walk-round was carried out earlier in the year and action points are being addressed.

All leased properties remain in good repair, and continue to be let. We are very grateful to Jon Stevens for remaining a first point of contact for matters affecting the leased properties.

We are pleased to report that excellent progress has been made on the Churchyard project, with clearly visible impact. The lighting to the paths at the rear of the church is impressive. The extension to the Garden of Remembrance is almost complete and we will be working with a team of knowledgeable gardeners from the congregation to devise a planting scheme for the gardens.

Repair by silversmiths of the Processional Cross is still in progress. We are grateful for the continued loan of the processional cross from St Anne's.

Finally we would also like to record our thanks to those members of the congregation who generously support us to ensure everything runs smoothly. We couldn't do without them!

We would love to hear from anyone who would like to join the team who deputize for the Wardens or the dedicated team of sides-people

## Treasurer's Report - Year Ended December 2016

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the key financial issues of the St Mary's Church charity for 2016 and to provide a forward view for the coming year and beyond.

### 2. The Finance Team

#### 2.1 Team Roles and Responsibilities

In order to ensure the right spread of expertise and to share the workload and responsibility the PCC have a team covering the various aspects of finance related matters as follows:-

| Team Member   | Responsibilities                             | Relationship with PCC in 2016 |
|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Jon Stevens   | Commercial Properties Lead.                  | PCC Member                    |
| Paul Chew     | Treasurer from June 2016. Church Accountant. | PCC Member                    |
| Nick Drew     | Stewardship Lead.                            | PCC Member                    |
| Jenny Jupe    | Treasurer to June 2016.                      | Resigned During 2016          |
| Stephen Lewis | Free Will Offering Officer.                  | PCC Member                    |

I would like to personally thank all the above individuals for their contribution during 2016.

#### 2.2 Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT)

Support from ACAT has continued throughout 2016 in particular with new Charities Commission accounting reporting requirements. ACAT best practice guidelines have also been used to prepare the detailed financial policies adopted by the PCC during 2016.

#### 2.3 Relationship with the Diocese

We continue to have good working relationships with the Diocesan Finance Team and I attend regular Treasurer's meetings and other briefings to ensure that we are kept apprised of current financial issues.

### 3. Financial Review – 2016

#### 3.1 Day to Day Finances Versus Plan

At the end of 2015 the PCC approved a deficit financial plan (£22,000 for the year) reflecting the part funding of 2 posts from the Development Fund. Performance against this plan has been particularly disappointing and we finished the year £21,000 worse off than we anticipated as is shown in the table below:-

|                            | 2016<br>Plan    | Plan<br>Changes | Revised<br>Plan | M1-12<br>Plan   | Actual          | Variance        |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Income                     | 189,460         | 0               | 189,460         | 189,460         | 168,681         | (20,779)        |
| Expenditure                | 210,460         | 1,000           | 211,460         | 211,460         | 211,711         | 251             |
| <b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b> | <b>(21,000)</b> | <b>(1,000)</b>  | <b>(22,000)</b> | <b>(22,000)</b> | <b>(43,030)</b> | <b>(21,030)</b> |

As can be seen in the table above the key issue for the shortfall was with regard to income. The drivers behind this are shown in the table below:-

| Area               | Shortfall | Issue   |
|--------------------|-----------|---|
| Free Will Offering | £10,576   | During the year we saw a significant number of givers leaving the scheme in addition to a number of givers reducing their contribution. This was nowhere near offset by new givers or giver increasing. Between 2015 and 2016 we saw a reduction of £9,000 or 9% in Free Will Offering. |
| Fundraising        | £3,310    | This was a challenging target and in fact fundraising was nearly £2,000 higher than in 2015.  |
| Rent               | £5,951    | Maintenance and management fee costs are £9.4k for 2016. For 2015 this was £3.7k in total.  |

#### 3.2 2016 Accounts.

A set of Accounts for 2016 have been prepared in line with the revised accounting standards for charities and a model layout provided by the Diocese. This are attached to the Annual Report and are more detailed than previous years.

Prior to investments gains the draft accounts show a deficit for the year of £117,000. This is made as follows:-

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| Day to Day Overspend                   | £43,030         |
| Church Yard (Income in previous years) | £95,480         |
| Other Restricted Funds                 | £318            |
| Less Dividends Received                | (£21,596)       |
| <b>As Per 2016 Accounts</b>            | <b>£117,232</b> |

Investment revaluation gains were an impressive £119k or 8.9% meaning overall (even given the large deficit) the value of funds and the balance sheet actually increased by £2k or 0.1%. Please remember investments values may go down as well as up!!

The accounts have been reviewed by the External Examiner. No significant issues were raised and the examination certificate has been included in the accounts. The accounts were adopted by the PCC at the March meeting.

#### 4. Financial Look Forward

##### 4.1 2017 Day to Day Financial Plan

At the end of 2016 the PCC adopted the financial plan for 2017. A summary is shown in the table below.

|                            | <b>2016<br/>Actual</b> | <b>2017<br/>Plan</b> |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Income                     | 168,681                | 173,910              |
| Expenditure                | 211,711                | 208,160              |
| <b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b> | <b>(43,030)</b>        | <b>(34,250)</b>      |

The key assumptions to achieving this plan include:-

- A steadying of the current Free Will Offering trend of reduced income and a further increase supported by the Stewardship Campaign
- Tight control on expenditure and the identification of a minimum of £1,000 of savings

Achievement of this plan will mean, in the main, only previously agreed salary costs will require funding from the Development Reserve but this requires a reversal of the 2016 deterioration in the financial position. Tighter control of our finances is becoming more and more important as plans to commit Development Funds begin to be developed.

##### 4.2 Long Term Financial Plan and Reserves Policy

In order to get a clearer picture on the amount of future development funding St Mary's has at its disposal a 10 year financial plan has been developed which was agreed by the PCC at its March meeting. As part of the long term financial plan it was agreed that unrestricted reserves would be realigned to match the plan and support ongoing monitoring.

This also supports the development of a Reserves Policy which we are required to adopt as part of our Annual Report which requires trustees to provide a statement outlining what reserves are held and for what purpose. The Policy was agreed at the same PCC meeting and is attached to this report.

#### 5. Conclusions

- 2016 was the most challenging financially for the Church in recent years and we need to reverse this position particularly with regard to Free Will Offering which has reduced significantly in past 12 months.
- We are truly blessed with the level of investments and the return we have received on them but the value of these can go down as well as up. As plans are developed to spend these in the years to come this makes control of our day to day finances even more important.

#### 6. Recommendations

- That the APCM supports the 2016 Account & Treasurers report
- That Deidre Mattison is appointed External Examiner for the 2017 accounts.

*Paul Chew, IPFA  
Treasurer  
St Mary's Church  
April 2017*

## St Mary's Moseley Reserve Policy 2017

### Introduction

St Mary's Church is a large church in a reasonably affluent area. The annual income is around £200,000 which includes c£50,000 from investment properties. The church employs four part time members of staff at a total annual cost of c£50,000. Some costs are shared with neighboring St. Anne's Church which along with St. Mary's forms the United Benefice of Moseley. The condition of the buildings is generally good. There is a quinquennial inspection due in 2017.

Due to the sale of Centre 13 in 2007 and the subsequent investment of the proceeds the church currently has General Reserves of £1.67m. Half of the Associate Vicar and all of the Children's Worker costs are funded from this investment money on an annual basis. Underlying year on year finances have deteriorated in recent years due to a reduction in Free Will Offering. In addition to this the Church has Restricted Reserves of £15,000.

### Considerations

The PCC discussed the following factors in arriving at their reserves policy:

- Money should only be kept in reserve for specific reasons – whilst the Bible clearly indicates that we should not hoard it is also clear that sensible planning is important.
- Given the level of reserves a long term financial plan for 10 years has been developed which supports this policy.
- The development of the long term financial plan and reserves policy means recasting our current unrestricted reserves and potentially supersede decisions previously made.
- Known short and long term commitments should be provided for.
- Deterioration in the underlying finances needs to be at worst stabilised and if possible reversed.
- A wish to have 6 months running costs in reserves in case of major unforeseen problems.
- Relatively prudent assumptions on investment growth should be made.
- A major Listening and Reflecting exercise has been undertaken and some exciting plans will be developed on the back of this. Significant funds will potentially be required to fund the plans.
- It is unclear what the outcome of the quinquennial inspection will be. Some funding should be reserved where possible however major new developments should not be agreed until the outcome is known.
- The policy should be reviewed annually in line with annual financial plan development.

### Reserves Policy

|   |  |            |
|---|--|------------|
| 1 | Provide a general reserve to provide for likely ongoing day to day overspends, small one off costs and cash flow requirements over the 10 year period.     | £146,000   |
| 2 | Assume a 2% above inflation growth on investments. This is significantly less than recent returns but returns can be volatile.                             | (£155,000) |
| 3 | Hold in reserves sufficient funding to provide for the remaining Church Yard Project, external lighting and altar frontals <sup>1</sup>                    | £230,000   |
| 4 | Provide long term funding (10 years) for half of the Associate Vicar and all of the Children's Worker costs.   | £312,000   |
| 5 | Reserve £1m to fund the outcome of the Listening & Reflecting exercise & to provide additional funding following the quinquennial inspection (if required) | £1,000,000 |

<sup>1</sup> It may be possible to reduce the value of this reserve on final confirmation of Church Yard Project costs is determined. This would be added to the Premises Fund.

|   |  |          |
|---|--|----------|
| 6 | Where possible to provide funds for improvements to the church and other PCC premises    | £43,000  |
| 7 | Hold in reserves the equivalent of 6 months general running costs for unforeseen events. | £100,000 |

### MOSELEY DEANERY SYNOD

As usual there have been three meetings of Moseley Deanery synod during the year.

In January we met at Christ Church Selly Park. The Revd. Geoff Lanham led opening worship and gave the parish profile he said that there are about 5,000 people in the parish, about a quarter is from different ethnic groups and about a quarter is lone parents. There is a lot of student accommodation in the parish especially housing post-graduates. The church is reaching to those in need in the parish through CAP ('Christians against Poverty') and offering debt management advice, also considering the needs of asylum seekers and lone parents.

MUSE is a group which meets at the Selly Park Tavern for spiritual discussion.

The speakers were:

- Canon Dr Andrew Smith (Director of Interfaith Relations for the Bishop of Birmingham) – 'The Birmingham Conversations'
- Dr Smith spoke about bringing together people of different faiths who would disagree and addressing areas of conflict, and
- The Revd. Jessica Foster ('Thrive Together Birmingham') - the work of 'Near Neighbours' in building friendships between people of different faiths.

After each presentation there was discussion in small groups.

In June synod met at Immanuel Church, Highters Heath.

Revd. Rebecca Clarke gave the parish profile; there have been a number of initiatives to draw people and the wider community into the church. This started with the new entrance into the church. Contributions came not just from the congregation but also from individuals within the community. Those employed were local and the ribbon cut by the grandson of the man who laid the original foundation stone.

Another project was a garden which had input from local primary schoolers. Materials surplus to requirements were recycled. She spoke movingly about the parish and the way that they came together to make Immanuel Church more accessible to those who use the building daily.

Mission Apprentice Scheme: Fred Rattley, member of the Steering Group and Immi and Abi (MA's in the Deanery) came to talk about the Mission Apprentice Scheme. Fred opened with the background to the Mission Apprentices Scheme. In 2012, sufficient funding to find nine Mission Apprentices, employed 20 hours a week for two years; they are supervised by the vicar, working in some of the most deprived parishes in the city. This first group did include someone from within their congregation. Seven finished and all seven had their posts extended, and only one parish doesn't have the person they invested in still involved.

In October synod met at St Mary's Moseley.

The Revd. Hazel White gave the parish profile, St Mary's is a united benefice with St Anne's Moseley. There are 500 adults on the electoral roll, and 150 school age children. Average numbers at Sunday services are 8:00am (20), 10:00am (120 adults and 50 children), 6:30pm (20/30). We practise a liberal theology traditional and progressive.



We have two full time priests, the Revd. Duncan Straithie and Revd. Hazel White, two part-time self-supporting ministers, one lay reader and one curate. The staff team consists of an administrator, a site director, a music director and a children's worker. We have run a Growing Leaders course which has been very successful and have just started a course for Pastoral care & listening skills. There are many professional people in the congregation who have busy lives our challenge is to connect and involve them, at present St Anne's church has no church wardens. We have been awarded a Lottery Heritage grant and work is now in progress to develop the churchyard to make a sacred space for the community.

Dr John Gray gave a brief update on the winter night shelter. This winter the shelter will run for 12 weeks and 14 churches will be involved; aims for development are to widen a befriending scheme and to run a shelter for women.

The Dean welcomed the Venerable Simon Heathfield, Archdeacon of Aston to synod.

### **The Church Commissioners 'Strategic Development Funding' and Diocesan bid(s) to the Fund**

The Archdeacon said that Birmingham has 150 stipendiary clergy and that with a budget of £10/11 million is one of the poorest dioceses in the country.

Sources of funding are the church Commissioners, St Martin's Trustees and congregations through Common Fund contributions.

#### **Vision for Birmingham**

- Transforming church
- Growing younger
- Growing leaders
- Combating poverty
- Parishes must bid for funding.

#### **Birmingham's bid to the Church Commissioners**

- Growing Younger
- Leading your church into growth
- Ethnic leadership
- Estate churches
- Inter-cultural mission

The Archdeacon said that there is a mentoring scheme available for clergy who are struggling with financial management.

*Ann Andrew, Secretary Moseley Deanery  
April 2017*

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