

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

Annual Report for 2015

For presentation at the Annual
Parochial Church Meeting

St Anne's Meeting – Sunday 24th April 2016,
12.00noon, St Anne's Church

St Mary's Meeting – Monday 25th April 2016,
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 2015 to April 2016, the following served as members of the PCC:

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Vicar Vacancy to 19th October 2015, Revd Duncan Strathie from 19th October 2015
 Associate Vicar: Revd Hazel White
 Assistant Priest: Revd Frank Berry
 Revd Caroline George
 Reader: Jonathan Hodgson
 Wardens: Trish Everett
 Peter Jupe

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Deanery Synod Members: Mike Stocks
 Rob Brown
 Philip Simons
 Helen Rehman

PCC MEMBERS:

Until APCM 2016 (Ray Cocks, Jenny Daniels, 2 x vacancies)
 Until APCM 2017 Stephen Lewis, Fiona Chew, Nick Drew, Neil McLeod
 Until APCM 2018 Tom Barwell, Jon Stevens, Jenny Jupe, David Kett

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

ARCHITECT Michael Potter, Unit 316, The Custard Factory, Digbeth, B9 4AA
BANK HSBC, 148 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9PN.
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

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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 2015 to April 2016, the following served as members of the PCC:

EX OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Vicar	Vacancy to 19 th October 2015, Revd Duncan Strathie from 19 th October 2015
Associate Vicar:	Revd Hazel White
Assistant Priest:	Revd Frank Berry Revd Caroline George
Reader:	Jonathan Hodgson
Wardens:	Sonia Sheehan Sam Jeffers (Elected at Extraordinary meeting of parishioners, 31 May 2015)

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Deanery Synod Members:	Sabina Bealt John Gray
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PCC MEMBERS:

Until APCM 2016	Jill Adams, Mike Midgley, Chris Cipkin
Until APCM 2017	Stephen Alabaster, Jenny Allen, (1 x Vacancy)
Until APCM 2018	Katy Rami, Barry Jervis, Andrew Horner

PCC SECRETARY	Janet Thorne
PCC TREASURER	Karen Gray

PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS

BANK	HSBC, 148 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham B17 9PN.
INDEPENDENT EXAMINER	Deidre Mattison, 22 April Croft, Moseley, Birmingham, B13 9HP

There is no Solicitor for St Anne's

THE UNITED BENEFICE OF ST MARY AND ST ANNE, MOSELEY

ST ANNE'S ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
Sunday 24th April, 12 noon

AGENDA

Prayer and Welcome

Revd Duncan Strathie, Vicar

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (26th April 2015)
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Churchwardens
5. Election of deputy wardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (26th April 2015)
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. 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
Monday 25th April, 7.30pm

AGENDA

Prayer and Welcome

Revd Duncan Strathie, Vicar

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (27th April 2015)
3. Matters arising
4. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last meeting (27th April 2015)
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 - 2015

Beginning a new role in mid-October was like trying to jump onto a high speed train! I am extremely grateful to so many people for being so helpful and welcoming. The forethought and planning that went into my arrival and induction made it a whole lot easier than it might otherwise have been. Thanks to everyone – and particularly to Hazel.

The interviews for the post of vicar were held just before St Anne's Summer Ball and it was evident that this was going to be a grand event. Due to many people's creativity, hard work and dedication it didn't disappoint and as well as being a very worthwhile project drawing folk together, it also raised funds that will help with the ongoing reordering of St Anne's.

St Mary's also has its projects. The replacement of the bells and refurbishment of the ringing chamber were coming to an end and the Bell Trustees were winding up the charity as its work had been done – and done well. The Churchyard Project was well underway and the open day in June had launched the plans for the transformation of the spaces around the church building. Work here continues apace and thanks are due to the Project Management Team for helping to realise our collective vision for a sacred space in the centre of Moseley.

The build-up throughout Advent peaked with a crescendo on Christmas Eve. St Anne's drew together very successfully, a Community Choir which led our worship most creatively. The 'Nine Lessons and Carol's' at St Mary's was memorable as indeed was the Christingle Service. For me the most exciting and surprising element of our whole journey to Bethlehem was sharing worship in our midnight service with a sizeable group of younger people from the KSIMC Mosque in Clifton Road. Their presence and engagement made an already special evening into something quite unique.

An important aspect of benefice life in Moseley is the way in which the church communities are so closely integrated and form a recognisable part of the wider Village community. I have been investing a lot of time and energy in building relationships with those in the local community. I have met with or attended gatherings of, our local police officers, the Royal Air Force Association, Moseley Churches Together, interfaith gatherings, Hamza Mosque, Moseley Forum, & The Farmers' Market. I have also felt it important to sample the fare of our local hostleries, restaurants and cafes – they are after all an important part of Moseley culture!

Moseley C of E Primary School is another important feature of the local community and I have been getting to know the children and staff at the school. As vicar, I am happy to serve as a Foundation Governor and I look forward to developing my role on the Governing Body.

Not bad for 10 weeks. I look forward to the next 10 years! There is so much to thank God for.

Revd Duncan Strathie
Vicar of St Mary's & St Anne's Moseley.

Associate Vicar's Report - 2015

2015 was a year of change in the ministry team. During the first half of the year, both of our Assistant Priests needed to take time out, and our Reader Jonathan also took a 3 month break following his 70th birthday in April. I was very grateful to our retired clergy, Revd Christopher Ardagh-Walter, Revd Keith Bishop and Revd Richard Tetlow, who helped out with service cover during this time. We also had occasional help from Revd Alison Bownass, Revd Joan Griffin, Revd Hugh Houghton, and the Ministry Team from All Saints Kings Heath, and so were well supported. It was a particular joy to welcome Revd Rosemary Donovan back as Celebrant and Preacher for St Anne's Patronal Festival at the end of July, and Revd Simon Buckley (a previous curate) as preacher for St Mary's Patronal Festival in September. Along with Sunday and mid-week worship, we also conducted 22 funerals, 22 baptisms and 4 weddings during 2015.

2015 also saw a change in our staff team with Lucy Elvin's departure for a new job in March. I was very grateful to the PCCs for agreeing that we should employ a temp. through the agency Office Angels in the short-term, which meant that the administration coming through the church office was ably covered by Brenda Johnson. The position of part-time parish administrator was advertised in June, with interviews in early July, and I was delighted that we were able to offer the permanent position to Brenda. Brenda joined our existing staff team of Mick (St Mary's Director of Music) Mark (Site Services Manager for St Mary's & St Anne's) and Tammy (Children's Work Co-ordinator for the Benefice), and it is a joy to be supported in ministry by a staff team who all see their work as ministry and give so willingly of themselves in their particular roles.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our church wardens, PCCs, and many others in the Benefice who voluntarily give generously of their time, church life continued and flourished during the vacancy, and the reports that follow from our various teams and groups once again give an indication of the breadth of activities that have taken place in our Benefice.

A major focus of prayer and discernment during 2015 was the recruitment process for our new Vicar. An excellent parish profile was produced by a working group with members appointed from both PCCs, with thanks to Trish Everett for her leadership of that process. Our elected parish representatives were Jill Adams and Katy Rami from St Anne's, and Fiona Chew and Jon Stevens from St Mary's. Interviews were held at the beginning of June, and Revd Duncan Strathie's appointment was announced in August. It was good to welcome Duncan as a new colleague and ministry team leader in October 2015, and to begin working together in St Mary's and St Anne's.

On a more personal note, I enjoyed opportunities to lead two Quiet Days during 2015, one for those in the Diocese exploring vocations, and one for church wardens from across the Diocese. I have also been able to offer regular spiritual accompaniment to three ordinands studying for ordination at the Queen's Foundation. In the autumn I was appointed as one of the clergy representatives of the Moseley Deanery for Diocesan Synod.

Many thanks to you all for your support during 2015.

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 26th 2015 at St Anne's Church

The Revd Hazel White welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and opened the meeting with prayer.

She then asked the meeting if they were happy for her to chair. This was agreed.

She also asked if they were happy for Janet Thorne, PCC secretary to act as scribe. This was agreed.

There were 19 parishioners present

Apologies	These were received from;- Jill and Terry Adams, Revd Frank Berry, Revd Caroline George, Wiliam George, John and Karen Gray, Chris Cipkin, Mike Midgley, Duncan Preston.	
Minutes of the last meeting held on March 2 nd 2014	Minutes of that meeting had been circulated.	It was agreed that they were accurate. Hazel pointed out that Terry Adams had resigned as Church warden in July 2014 and Sonia Sheehan had been acting as sole warden since then.
Matters Arising from those Minutes	There were no matters arising.	
Election of Church Warden's	There was one nomination for Church Warden. Sonia Sheehan was proposed by Tracy Jarvis and seconded by Jurgita Dean. Sonia agreed to stand for one more year,	Sonia Sheehan was duly elected to the role of church warden for one year. Any further interest in the second post of church warden will be considered at an extraordinary meeting of the Parishioners.
Election of Deputy Warden's	The following people were nominated as deputy wardens: Stephen Alabaster, Rob Curtiss, Malcolm McDonald.	This was proposed by Keith Bishop and seconded by Elisabeth Leicester. All in favour and all nominated duly elected.

**The Parish of St Anne Moseley
Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Held on April 26th 2015 at St Anne’s Church**

Apologies	These were received and noted at the Annual meeting of Parishioners	
Minutes of the last meeting held on March 2 nd 2014	These were accepted as a true record	
Matters Arising	There were no matters arising	
Electoral Roll Report	There have been 8 people added during the past year and one removed. The total now stands at 50. Revd Hazel thanked John Gray for looking after the electoral roll.	It was agreed to return the copy of the electoral roll to the church to make sure everyone had had a chance to check their details
Election of PCC	There were three vacancies for three years. The following nominations were received:-Andrew Horner – proposed by Tracey Jervis, seconded by Paul Dean; Katy Rami-proposed by Sonia Sheehan seconded by Jaime Sheehan; Barry Jervis proposed by Sonia Sheehan seconded by Jaime Sheehan	There were no further nominations therefore all were elected. There remains one vacancy for 2 years due to the resignation of Mandy Rees. There are currently no nominations for this post.
Appointment of Sidespeople	The following people were nominated;-Jenny Allen, Eileen Clarke, Rob Curtiss, Paul Dean, David O’Brien, Malcolm McDonald, Stephen Alabaster, Mary Arnold, Keturah Nyuar	These were all proposed by Richard Tetlow and seconded by Sally Beavon. All agreed.
Accounts	These were presented having been approved by the PCC on Monday April 20 th . A detailed summary was tabled with the accounts. Sally Beavon (who has assisted in their preparation) was asked to speak to the accounts in the absence of the treasurer. A question was raised about the relatively small amount of money donated to charities. It was explained that as this was a percentage of church income the amount would increase as income increased. There was a further question seeking clarification on why so much money had been taken from the Piggott fund.	Acceptance proposed by Keith Bishop seconded by Sonia Sheehan. Revd Hazel recorded thanks to Sally Beavon for assisting with the preparation of the accounts

	Sally said that 2014 included catch-up items from 2013	and to Karen Gray for all her on going hard work as treasurer.
Appointment of Independent Examiner	Deidrie Mattison was proposed by Keith Bishop and seconded by Sonia Sheehan	All were in favour of the appointment. Revd Hazel recorded thanks to Deidrie for all her hard work on behalf of the benefice.
Church Warden's Report	This report had been previously tabled. Sonia recorded thanks to Keith Bishop who has helped with warden tasks particularly with the rising damp in the hall. A question was raised about the heating in church and its unpredictability	Tracking of heating is to continue to try to establish the true problem. A new control mechanism would cost £1000. Revd Hazel recorded thanks to Sonia
Reports from Church organisations	These were all previously tabled An appeal was made for more people to offer to go on the after-service coffee rota. Richard Tetlow outlined his role with Moseley Interfaith. He asked everyone to be aware of issues and to be involved. A question was asked about forming a group to go into rest Homes.	Please give your names to Keith Bishop. Revd Hazel said that she was in agreement but it might be part of a bigger question about working together as a benefice.
Questions	A further question was raised about parking on double yellow lines near St Anne's Court during service time.	This matter is now in the hands of the council
Closing Comments from Associate Vicar	Revd Hazel thanked clergy, wardens, staff team, retired clergy and all who have helped in the management of St Anne's. She said it was a growing church with 100 adults involved and over 30 children. She appealed for a little more commitment.	
Date of next APCM	It was agreed to defer a decision on this pending the arrival of a new incumbent.	

St Mary's APCM 27th April 2015, Moseley C of E School

Prayer and welcome: Rev Hazel White, Associate Vicar.

Rev Hazel thanked the school for the use of their premises for the meeting.

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

1. Apologies: Rosemary Berridge, Angela Brown, Phil Simons, Kate Stocks, Mick Perrier, Rev Caroline and William George, Jokhim Meikle, John Carey, Stephen Southall, Jon Stevens, Alison Johnson, Richard Tetlow, Chris Andrews.

2. Minutes of last meeting [2nd March 2014]. Accepted as an accurate record.

3. There were no matters arising.

4. Election of Church Wardens: Two nomination papers had been received [nominees proposed and seconded]. Trish Everett and Peter Jupe were duly elected to continue as church wardens for St Mary's.

PCC extended a huge thanks to both of them for the excellent work which they do to support our church.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Apologies [as above].

2. Minutes of the last meeting [2nd March 2014]. Accepted.

3. No matters arising.

4. Electoral Roll Report

Jenny Livermore reported 150 on roll – 71 non-resident 79 resident. This does not accurately reflect true numbers which are closer to 500 on the data base. This includes children.

Thank you to Jenny for her work on the Roll [a legal requirement].

5. Election of PCC

There were 6 vacancies, 4 for 3 year period and 2 for 1 year. Having received nomination papers, the following people were nominated for St Mary's PCC until 2018 [3 years]:

Jenny Jupe, Dr David Kett, Jonathan Stevens and Tom Barwell.

The 1 year vacancies were taken by Jenny Daniels and Ray Cocks.

6. Election of sidespeople

Wardens proposed the following:-Vernon Batsford, Elizabeth Southall, Chris Andrew, Ann Andrew, Diane Hirst, Christine Guest, Carolyn O'Toole, Julia Kilby, Audrey Samuel, Charles Hughes, Jenny Livermore, Stephen Southall, Helen McNicholl, Kate Stocks, Alison Johnson, Janet Thorne Angela Brown, Margaret Gosney, Neil Greenhalgh, Helen Collet, Trish Everett, Amanda Doyle, Steve Rhodes, Vicki Castles, Kevin Parry, Barbara Hanes, Peter Magson, Heather Frazier, Charles Wall, Sue Lloyd, Paul and Fiona Chew and Michelle Best.

Proposed by Liz Blakey, seconded by Janet Thorne. PASSED

Warm thanks to all these helpers who are so essential to our church.

7. Accounts

Treasurers report. Jenny Jupe spoke to the papers received from the Finance Team.

Accounts have been approved by the PCC and are a legal requirement.

Jon Stevens has joined the team and is responsible for the property portfolio. Stephen Lewis is in charge of investments, insurances and claims, plus FW offering. Paul Chew is PCC accountant and at present Stewardship co-ordinator.

Speaking to the paper, Jenny explained the key objectives which PCC monies have been allocated to. .

- Ensure the consecrated buildings and the church offices are kept in good repair, particularly responding to the Quinquennial inspection.
- Develop the work with children through support to a Children's worker.
- Continue the improvement to the church grounds through the Heritage project.
- Support the Associate Vicar in her Discipleship role.
- Support the clergy and staff in their worship, administrative and maintenance tasks.
- Support our designated 8 charities, plus the Winter Night Shelter.
- Meet the day to day running costs of the Church without depleting our reserves.

The income for St Mary's stands at £195,497. Investments have realised a greater value than when simply on deposit, despite low interest rates. Major investments have included building work and human resources. These include: solar panels [generating circa £2k in two years], conversion of the old Parish office into apartments [now generating income], contribution to the new bells and a donation to the Church school for a new building. Investment in human resources includes a three year commitment to part fund the cost of a Children's Work Coordinator and that of an Associate Vicar. The latter are funded from the interest on the Development Fund.

There were no bequests this year and the monies from weddings and funerals was down. While there is retention in the overall position, there is a reduction in Fund raising and the Common Fund goes up again. Money-saving activities contribute to a better financial position [Rob Brown reducing utility charges]. A donation from Friends of St Mary's Choir was noted – thank you.

Concerns from the Financial Team for the PCC for the following year are:-

- Supporting a Stewardship Campaign
- Encouraging FWO.
- Fund Raising [needs to keep buoyant].
- To work closely with Property managers [Fishers].
- To reduce the utility bills and stationery costs.
- Work to keep day-to-day expenditure within budget.

Proposal: That the meeting adopt the Financial report from the Finance Team and agree the accounts. Proposed by Michael Hell, seconded by Rob Brown. PASSED unanimously.

8. Proposal: that Deidre Mattison continue as external independent examiner for the accounts for 2016.

Proposed by Peter Jupe, seconded by Mike Stocks. PASSED unanimously.

It was felt that the Stewardship should be a separated from the Finance team and PCC asked to review this.

9. Church Wardens' report.

Wardens have maintained the fabric of the church throughout the year. A faculty has been granted for the lighting work in the Bell tower and should be completed by the summer. The Lady Chapel is now used as a sacred space within the church. CCTV is fully operational and proving its worth. Wardens have been responsible for the vicarage while vacant and checks have been carried out in line with Diocesan regulations. The Parish Profile was a cooperative effort from parishioners and coordinated by Trish. Particular thanks to Rob Brown, Nigel Blakey and Tom Barwell for their skills and expertise in compiling the final document. Norman McLeod has improved the sound system and we are grateful for his help.

Thanks also extended to John Dowell and Jeff Isaacs for their role as Deputy Wardens. They are stepping down and volunteers to replace them would be helpful - please see Wardens.

Peter and Trish expressed their thanks to everyone who contributes to the smooth running of the church – their time, effort and diligence over the year.

10. Reports from Church organisations

Tabled report circulated electronically and some paper copies available on request. Rev Hazel commented on the diverse and lively events reported. It reflects the team work from all areas of Church work – including children. A particular thanks to Mark Simons for the excellent work which he has done with Moseley Chimes.

11. Questions

Tom Barwell requested the return of any spare copies of the PCC handbook.

Peter Jupe: suggested that Clergy and Church staff should not be distracted by queries before/after worship on Sunday. Questions and complaints can be directed at more appropriate time. A notice to that effect would help.

12. Closing Comments Rev Hazel

Hazel expressed her warm thanks to the Clergy team who have worked together so well during the Interregnum. Caroline, Frank and Jonathan have been a huge support and ensured the continuing worship at St Mary's. Jonathan is taking a three month rest but will return later in the year. Richard Tetlow, Mark, Tammy, Mick and Lucy give generously of their time and contribute so much to the Church. A temp is presently in the office but PCC will address an administrator's job description at the next meeting.

Rev Hazel thanked the wardens, Peter, Trish and Sonia, plus the clergy and team at St Anne's. The following groups have worked tirelessly throughout the year and Hazel noted her thanks and appreciation: hospitality team, Heritage and Churchyard, Pastoral team, Flower Guild, Finance team, Cleaning team, Outreach projects [lunch club, night shelter, Christmas Day together, Coffee and Company, Open Church] and PCC members:

"Thank you to all of us. We are all part of this Church. We are well off in treasure and talent and need to appreciate it – being wise stewards of our resources and legacies. We need to take a wider view to include all Moseley – not just parishioners". Rev Hazel.

We await the outcome of the interview process for a new Incumbent – interview day is 2nd June.

There is a promising future for our Benefice.....

13. Peter gave very warm thanks from everyone to Rev Hazel for all her work and care during the Interregnum. This was echoed by all in the meeting.

Reminder re next PCC meeting is 11th May. APCM ended at 8.30

St Mary's PCC report – Jenny Daniels, PCC secretary

St Mary's PCC met six times throughout the year and Standing Committee for the same number.

It has been a year which has seen important changes to our church and some exciting developments too. Rev Hazel has been a source of strength and help for the PCC, guiding our thoughts and decisions. We were delighted to welcome Rev Duncan Strathie to be our new Incumbent in October and he has taken the reins of management. My thanks to Nick Drew for being our chair until October.

The teams reporting to PCC have been efficient and diligent over the year. The Finance team have presented detailed and helpful accounts of financial expenditure. FWO continues to be matter of concern as does Stewardship. Recent suggestions from Nick may be able to address this important area.

Membership of PCC had been problematic due to a number of reasons. It was gratifying to be able to rectify these and all officers were duly elected at the meeting on 11th May. The PCC has had a good range of skills and interests represented; discussions have been increasingly focused and productive. The year was marked by the death of two members. Mike Stocks was a current member of PCC; his sudden illness and death in September was a huge shock and sadness. Similarly, Rosemary Berridge, although not a current member, had been a long serving member of PCC. We grieve the loss of them both.

PCC has received reports from the following teams: Buildings and Properties, Finance, Charitable Giving, Ministry, Safeguarding, Church wardens, Bell team, Deanery Synod and Music activities. We are conscious that Safeguarding continues to be an important area of responsibility. Tammy and Hazel maintain overview of this in a scrupulous manner. The Bell Tower is now complete and the Trust fund disbanded.

The most exciting development has been the Churchyard and Heritage project. On a glorious summer day the Bishop came to officially open proceedings; the event was well attended and the church reached out to the community. We look forward to hearing of further developments and our thanks to Becky Greenhill and her team for their hard work and enthusiasm. Restoration of the organ is now high on the agenda; the concert in May will be the start of further fundraising activities.

So, a year of changes – and more to come! St Mary's relationship with Moseley C of E School continues to flourish and shows the importance of including children in our church. We need to look for ways in which we can move ahead in a spirit of love and community, conscious that we have a wonderful gift in our church and all the people who give so much.

St Anne's PCC report – Janet Thorne, PCC secretary

The PCC has met on five occasions during the year and the Standing Committee 4 times.

The position of lay vice chair was ably filled by Barry Jervis during the interregnum and many thanks are due to him for his very calm and efficient management of the important issues which arose during that time.

Thanks are due also to Revd Hazel White, in her position as Associate Vicar, for her thorough and efficient oversight of all matters arising.

The Revd Duncan Strathie, as newly appointed Vicar, was welcomed to his first meeting in October 2015.

Andrew Horner was a newly elected member at the 2015 APCM and Sam Jeffers was appointed as Church Warden later during the year.

There are 12 elected members of the PCC plus clergy.

During the year the PCC have been involved in the following business:

- The appointment of the Revd Duncan through their elected representatives.
- The agreement of the New Hall-users Guidelines including improvements to the parking situations and rent increases
- Received reports concerning the church heating boiler which has been less than adequate. This has now been resolved following a great deal of hard work
- A decision was taken to replace some pews with free standing chairs as part of the re-ordering process and to seek approval to dispose of the pews.
- Approved staff contracts and working practices.
- Approved and accepted the update of the Child protection Policy and the new Vulnerable Adults Policy. Approved various children's events requested by the children's work coordinator or music director.
- Received the resignation of Karen Gray as treasurer and recorded their sincere thanks for all her hard work.
- Received and approved proposals for the future management of the financial situation at St Anne's.

WORSHIP

St Anne's Music Report – Revd Hazel White

We are very grateful to Mike Carter, Chris Cipkin, Katy Rami and members of the music team who have offered their time and musical gifts to enhance our worship at St Anne's throughout 2015. We were again able to have a Community Choir who contributed to our worship on Advent Sunday. Thanks to a generous anonymous donation during 2015, the music team were able to benefit from an improved amplification system. The music rota is currently being organised by Hazel, with administrative support from Brenda in the church office, following Katy's decision to step down from this role in the summer of 2015. The PCC agreed that this should be a temporary solution because they would like to review worship at St Anne's, and music within that, but this review was put on hold whilst awaiting a new Incumbent.

St Mary's Music Team Report – Mick Perrier

This has been another busy year for the music team at St. Mary's but one of mixed fortunes and very real sadness.

After Easter 2015 members of St. Mary's Music team visited the Anglican chaplaincy on the Costa Del Sol. They had a productive week rehearsing with some from St. Andrew's church, singing for them at Sunday morning service and at the catholic cathedral for evening Mass.

Following their enjoyable concert for the Moseley Festival in July the team spent a week at Wells Cathedral deputising for the cathedral choir during the summer recess. This was a wonderful experience. Accompanied on the organ by John Pryer (formerly Assistant at both Birmingham's Anglican and catholic cathedrals) the group was congratulated by the cathedral authorities and invited to return on a future occasion. It was a special time of music making and social bonding.

During this time we were very sadly aware of the worsening health situation of our long-standing colleague and friend Mike Stocks. On returning to St. Mary's after the summer break and the joy of our Patronal Festival we had the shock of Mike's passing. Following the quiet family funeral we were able to celebrate Mike's life in a memorial service in October which brought together many past members of the team to share their reminiscences and their music. We were humbled to have with us Chris Clifton (organ) from Norway and Margaret Faultless (violin) who leads the Orchestra of the Enlightenment and the Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra. Together with our own Catherine Ardagh-Walter (cello) they played a fitting tribute to Mike's 35 years' service to the music of St. Mary's.

Sadness was again to follow joy later in the year when, following the much anticipated arrival of Rev. Duncan we were to lose another much loved and long-standing member of the music team: Rosemary Berridge. After 40 years service to our church, Rosemary's life was fittingly celebrated in another memorial service in January. Again it was the occasion for past members to reunite in remembrance.

On the concert front, St. Mary's has seen some notable occasions:

2015 saw the consolidation of our bi-monthly series of Morning Coffee Concerts. These now attract a regular audience of 50+ on Farmers' Market Saturdays. Our thanks have to go to our artists who freely give of their time and talents.

The Kings Men (from Kings College Cambridge) visited in October and sang to a capacity audience. The Jubilate Singers from Cheltenham came last May and, we hope, will visit again on another occasion.

Having this year lost key personalities in our team it gives us cause for thought. There is so much to be gained by being a member of the music team - in experiences, musical appreciation, comradeship and growing as important "cogs" in the wheels which enable our worship to take place. For our young people especially this is something that is life long and transformational. It would be so good to share this with you and especially with the children in our church family. Might 2016 be the year you or yours give it a try?

Finally, I would like to thank some key people who have been key in our work during the year: Mark Simons, our excellent librarian and crucifer; Rob Brown for his financial acumen and wizardry

in helping organise our outreach; Bob Meikle for his willingness to conduct and to take rehearsals often at a moment's notice; to the members of the Friends of the Choirs Committee for their organisational and support skills. Thank you for your inestimable support.

Mick Perrier
March 2016

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 Dublin, Christchurch Priory, St Davids and Norwich. 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's successful visit to Wells Cathedral last August and arrangements are in hand this year for St Edmundsbury Cathedral at Bury St Edmunds.

There was a successful wine-tasting in December and another is planned.

In the last year 'Coffee Concerts' have been organised. These are informal concerts in church on a Saturday morning at 11am. 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

Nearly all outstanding works, as reported at the last AGM, have now been completed. The ropes are finally a satisfactory set, which enables our band to make progress. We have rung every Sunday for the 10.00hrs service, with a minimum of 6 ringers & have rung for each wedding, where required, despite occasionally getting short notice to arrange a team! In recent weeks, the choir/organ have been practising more quietly on a Sunday, which has enabled us to hear what we are ringing. Much appreciated.

The ringers had an outing to Coughton & Alcester, where we met with our former tower-captain, Ian, last summer.

The Bell-ringers held their own AGM on 23/11/15, with the Vicar, Duncan Strathie, in the chair. As we were still in a period of consolidation, officers were all re-elected.

There has been a request from the Central Council of Church Bell-ringers, that all churches ring their bells over the weekend of 12th June to make a special event for our Queen's 90th birthday. We are aiming to attempt a 'local band' quarter-peal that day (although that may be rather ambitious!)

We have continued with our 4th Monday 'enhanced practices' which encourages visitors to come over & help us. These are most beneficial. We all wish to thank those who come over, for their time & patience. Although there have been fewer peal-requests (the novelty has now worn off) we still get plenty of visiting bands to enjoy our bells.

My thanks to all the band for their support & commitment over the last year & look forward to progressing further as a band, in the next one.

St Mary's Flower Guild – Betty Clarke

The Flower Guild at St Mary's continues to decorate the Church and although we welcomed two new members this year the group is getting older and badly needs younger members, female or male to beautify the Church which is large and would be very bleak otherwise.

If you like to see flowers in Church and could spare ONE Saturday morning in the year, plus festivals, please consider being on the rota. Experience is not necessary as help can be given.

Some members bring flowers, perhaps in memory of a loved one, but costs can be met as required and covered by funds and donations at festivals.

St Anne's Flower Arranging

We thank Jan and her team for all of their hard work in making St Anne's look so beautiful for worship throughout 2015.

Churches Together – Jill Adams & Jennifer Holloway

Jill Adams is the representative for St. Anne's, and Jennifer Holloway for St. Mary's. It was a pleasure to have the last meeting at Rev. Duncan Strathie's house, so that representatives from other churches could meet him.

The group meets every two months to exchange ideas, give information about events and future plans in which all the churches may be interested, and to have a time of fellowship and prayer together. At Easter and Christmas, cards are produced for circulation to households in Moseley, giving details of services or special events being held over the period. The cost is met by the churches, proportional to their congregation numbers. Churches Together has a stall at the Moseley Festival every year to emphasise their presence in the community. Many thanks to everyone involved both in the production of these and their distribution.

In 2015, Rev. Hazel White led our first March of Witness on Good Friday, stopping at each of the churches it was practical to walk to, for a short prayer or time of reflection. This will again take place in 2016 led by Rev. Duncan Strathie. The joint service was this year held at Riverside, and attended by members from all the churches. To mark the Queen's 90th birthday, we are planning to take part in the flower displays at St. Mary's as a joint venture.

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship – Revd Hazel White

Growing Leaders

The CPAS Growing Leaders course has continued to be a key priority for discipleship in the Benefice. Most of the twelve participants from the first course are now mentors for a second group of eleven participants on the course. It was encouraging to hear those who completed the course in 2015 share with all our congregations something of their experiences of growth through the course.

Vocations Group

One of the developments following on from Growing Leaders has been a vocations group, with 4 people meeting for mutual support and encouragement as they explore vocations to various forms of ministry.

Small groups

In addition, there have been a number of opportunities for people to meet in small groups:

- During Lent 2015 the Pilgrim course on the Lord's Prayer was used during Sunday worship, with opportunity for the morning congregation at St Anne's to discuss themes from the course in small groups within the service. At St Mary's there was a short time for silent reflection following the sermon. Mid-week communion services on Wednesday evenings during Lent provided a further opportunity for reflection on the Lord's Prayer.
- Thursday thinkers has met throughout the year on Thursday mornings, led by Revd Caroline George and assisted by Jonathan Hodgson.
- Revd Richard Tetlow led a group of Muslims and Christians in discussion together following a Sunday morning service at St Mary's.
- The theological book group read and discussed 'The Greatest Prayer: Rediscovering the Revolutionary Message of the Lord's Prayer' by John Dominic Crossan and 'The Lord and his prayer' by Tom Wright in the spring term, and 'What clergy do especially when it looks like nothing' by Emma Percy in the summer term.

- A Confirmation group for adults was run by Glyn Samuel, with 4 adults from St Mary's confirmed in November.
- A new group for Contemplative Prayer began during Advent, led by Peter Alcock and Richard Ellis.
- The prayer circle has organised a varied and interesting programme to enable people to pray together – see their report.

3D (Diocesan course for Developing Disciples)

Helen Kavanagh and Chrissy McAteer completed the 3D course in July 2015, and Jenny Daniels began the course in September 2015.

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. A new development during 2015 has been a monthly all age 'Messy Church' on a Sunday afternoon at St Anne's with crafts, food, and worship (see Tammy's report). y@smaa again led a very well prepared and thought-provoking evening service in the summer term, this time in St Mary's.

Greenbelt

Finally, I enjoyed introducing some folk from the Benefice to Greenbelt over the August Bank Holiday weekend as a group of 12 of us camped together.

Prayer Circle – Liz Blakey, Helen McNicoll and Elisabeth Leicester

Since our last report, the Prayer Circle have met ten times. We've had something of a focus on creation. Revd. Richard Tetlow led us on a prayer walk in Moseley Park. Revd. John Williamson helped us consider climate change. We had a service about water, and one of our last meetings was on celebrating creation when people brought items and Bible passages which they wanted to share.

Revd. Caroline George led us prayerfully on the subject of charity; and there was a time of concentrated silence as we put into practice Revd. Hazel White's suggestions for praying with colour.

One evening was devoted to prayer for our clergy. On another occasion we considered the plight of refugees as we moved about different areas and listened to a befriender from 'Restore'.

'A Fresh Start' was the title for our January meeting, as two visitors involved with debt resolution told us of their work. Mark Simons generously brought many artifacts and showed slides of his visit to the Holy land – "Every day is Christmas Day in Bethlehem".

The Prayer Circle was asked to provide samples of Bible-reading booklets and information regarding online resources. There was almost no take-up of booklets and we have no way of knowing if people are using the online material.

We arranged the Benefice Lent Quiet Day at Manresa House when Revd. and Mrs Morton led us on "Praying with Icons". We again gave Christmas Gifts for the women at Anawim.

We hope that these times give space for thought and inspiration for prayer about our benefice, community and the world. We would value the contribution of others in planning and running the Prayer Circle activities.

Children's groups – Tammy Tearoe

SUNDAY GROUPS:

- St Mary's: Sunday groups continue to run during term time using Roots curriculum which is lectionary based. Volunteers are needed as many who have served on the group's rota for many years are stepping down to participate in other areas of the church. I still feel that the weekly turnover of leaders and helpers in the groups limits our ability to form lasting relationships with the children and youth thus contributing to a decline in youth attendance in later school years. I am in conversation with the clergy about how we recruit volunteers and what the vision is for the children's and youth worship and development at St Mary's.
- Volunteers Jenny Jupe and Amy Ashton have done a tremendous job in reimagining our crèche group which is known as Young Discoverers. A regular programme of singing, a short bible story and a parent/toddler friendly craft are on offer during term time. Since this change we have recruited 3 new group leaders and are looking for more to join the team.
- 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.
- There has been a slight rise in numbers of children with special educational needs. I continue to look for best practice in supporting these children and their families. Churchgoers with special educational needs training or experience would be most welcome to give advice in this area.
- Training of Sunday Group Leaders: SEN workshop with Louise Edgell of Lickey Hills CofE church. We also enjoyed a summer Pimms and puddings social event in Rev. Hazel's garden.

DEVELOPMENT WORK:

- Messy Church: Starting in the autumn term my team and I worked to bring Messy Church worship services to our monthly worship rota. We have enjoyed lively, creative and worshipful early Sunday evenings all capped off with a shared pasta dinner. Attendance has ranged from 18-33 per service with ages ranging from 6 months to over 70!
- Care for the Family ran a six week parenting course at St Mary's. There was not as large a turn out for this as the last session run. Should we decide to hold this course in the future we need to consider alternative times for meeting as for many the afternoon was not viable.

SCHOOL CONNECTION:

- I continue to take the occasional assembly at Moseley C of E Primary

Y@SMAA:

- The group holds steady at 15 young people 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.
- Youth Study Bibles were purchased for the group and get regular use in our sessions.
- ACTIVITIES:
 - Annual outing to Creation Climbing Wall in Moseley.
 - Christian Aid fundraiser with music performed by the group and a tea and cake sale at St Mary's raised more than £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 Mary's with good congregation turn out
 - We hosted a 'meet the youth group' meal in October to welcome new attendees. There are 4 new year 6 attendees.

- The young people prepared shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child campaign.
- Leaders have noted that we are now running a provision for young people ranging in age from 11-16. We are discussing ways in which we can better support the older young people as they move on from secondary school and into Sixth Form or alternative higher education. Members of the congregations who have interest in working with youth are encouraged to volunteer!

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:

- Lectionary based activities are made available along with Discovery Bags on 'off Sunday's' during school activities.
- Good Friday all-age worship at St Anne's was well received with 48 in attendance. Elisabeth Leicester and the rest of the Messy Church team did an incredible job of recreating the events of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday for a diverse congregation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- In 2015 I completed my work on the Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry through the Birmingham diocese and received my certificate from Bishop David at a dinner at his home in March.
- I regularly attend the Children's and Youth Workers Forum which offers mini-trainings and the opportunity to network with other children and youth workers in the diocese; I continue as the administrator for their Facebook forum.
- I completed the benefice 'Growing Leaders' course in June.
- I have completed the Faith Encounters 'Faith Guiding' course and am now a certified Level 2 guide.

Safeguarding – Jennifer Holloway

As welcoming churches, we have a duty of care to all of us, and especially children and vulnerable adults. Our policies relate to those of the Diocese, and are available in the Benefice Office for anyone wishing to see full details. Guidance and summaries are produced, and given out as needed. General information for everyone regarding safety, and who to contact, is placed on notice boards. A welcome new member of the group is Chrissy McAteer, who is the Vulnerable Adult Advocate.

During services where photos might be expected to be taken, the clergy remind the congregation about our policies regarding this. Consents and documentation for visits outside the church premises - especially by under 18's - are kept securely. Issues of safe practice arise from time to time and are kept under review. Guidelines and a "role description" for new volunteers within groups are being completed. This includes information for those undertaking volunteering for additional church activities such as Christmas Day Together and the Winter Night Shelter, as well as those for the regular groups, e.g. adult choir members, pastoral visiting, Coffee and Co. Outside group bookings are done through the Benefice office, and hirers must adhere both to our policies and their own.

This year, as examples of some of the safety implementations, safety flexi glass has been placed over the stairwell open space of the choir vestry, where one of the Junior Church groups at St. Mary's meet, outside lighting replaced, and new First Aid boxes bought and identified on signs. We would like to thank Mark Simons for his help with many of the Health and Safety requirements.

DBS checks are required for some - though not all - of the volunteer roles, and Janet Thorne kindly coordinates these for us. It is important that these are done as speedily as possible, and updated every 5 years. No volunteer who is asked to complete one should work in their role until the check has been made (and 2 references supplied for new volunteers).

Members of the group include Rev. Duncan Strathie or another clergy representative, Tammy Tearoe, Janet Thorne, Mick Perrier, Jennifer Holloway, Pat Sack (Children's Advocate, St. Mary's), Jill Adams (Children and Vulnerable Adult Advocate St. Anne's) and Chrissy McAteer (Vulnerable Adult Advocate and co-ordinator).

OUTREACH

Winter Night Shelter Project – Helen Winwood & Karen Gray

The winter night shelter ran for a third year at the beginning of 2015, and was again a very successful project reaching out to those who are vulnerable. The shelter took place every Saturday night/ Sunday morning for 8 weeks from the 17th January 2015 at St Anne's Church Hall with the 12 beds being full each week. It was run by 65 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 was received from the local Roundtable, Asda Kings Heath, Moseley Farmers Market and others enabling all costs to be covered. Generous donations of cooked meals, lunches, Polish items, books, a weekly floral display and lots lots more were very gratefully received along with those who offered time to do the laundry.

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

Christmas Day Together 2015 – Janet Thorne

A great day was had by all who attended the event at St Anne's. It would not have been possible without the support and participation of many volunteers from the community as well as from the congregations of the Benefice.

Thanks too to Brenda for all her meticulous work signing up the guests and volunteers and to Mark for his Christmas decorations and putting up the tables.

This year we made some changes to the order of the day and to the volunteer recruitment process which all worked extremely well.

We are all sad to know that David our much loved cook has decided to put his feet up at Christmas after many years of stalwart service at the event and we thank him for all he has done and wish him well.

It was really delightful as a volunteer to attend an afternoon tea and cake event at Revd Hazel's house early in January as a thank you to all who helped in any way to make the event happen. There was such enthusiasm that everyone signed up for a Curry night sometime in the not too distant future!! So the group identity will be preserved.

The future of this event depends on volunteer involvement and enthusiasm from the benefice. Can we make it happen again?

Charitable Giving Group Report– Revd. Caroline George

2015 in many respects proved to be challenging and a year not without its sadness. Longstanding member of the Charitable Giving Group, Rosemary Berridge, became seriously ill and as her health deteriorated she could no longer take her place around our table of planning and discussion. Rosemary died in November; her presence, knowledge, passion for charitable work and sense of humour is missed. Alongside this Caroline George was unable to co-ordinate the group for several months when her husband William became ill. Angela Brown took the helm with group members taking responsibility for arrangements with speakers, communicating information to the churches and liaising with clergy and the hospitality team. The

Charitable Giving Group now need a new member to represent St. Mary's and we are praying someone will emerge with computer skills to assist communication, an area the group wish to develop during 2016.

As report writer it never ceases to amaze and also concern me that extremely busy people take on extra responsibilities in difficult times and often continue, their work unseen by many, but providing a seamless continuity. My sincere thanks to Angela Brown, Jill Adams, Julia Kilby, Elisabeth Leicester for all they have done and continue to do. Our thanks as a group also go to Jenny Jupe and Karen Gray in their role as treasurers and of course to the Hospitality Group who continue to arrange events that not only provide invaluable fellowship but extend our mission of hospitality and giving.

Thank you letters from our 2015 charities will be displayed on the Charitable Giving notice boards in both churches and last but by no means least, thank you to each and every member of the congregations and to visitors for your generosity that helps transform lives and reflects a response to Christ's commandment to love one another.

Donations 2015**Benefice Charities**

- Children's Society £1250.00
- Malawi £1250.00
- MSF £1400.00 (including £150 from collection at Duncan's installation)
- Christian Aid £4,030.00

St. Anne's Charities

- Anawim £250.00
- MAF £250.00
- Mission to Seafarers £250.00
- Practical Action £400.00 (including £150 from collection at Duncan's installation)

St. Mary's Charities

- Kinmos £500.00
- Bible Society £500.00
- Coram Voice £500.00
- Busoga Trust £500.00

Practical Action and Campaigning in 2015 included:

- Knitting for Christian Hope International.
- Support for Amnesty, Write for Rights.
- The Christmas Shoe Box Campaign.
- Support for Anawim.
- The Winter Night Shelter.
- Participation in campaigns for justice
- Support for the Christmas Night Shelter. (Newtown Birmingham)
- The Sparkhill Foodbank.
- The Malawi Container Appeal

Charitable Giving 2016

The following charities have been chosen for the benefice, St. Anne's and St Mary's during 2016 accommodating the most popular suggestions from both churches but maintaining local, national and international charities with a breadth of focus including welfare, development and Christian mission.

Benefice Charities 2016

- Christian Aid
- The Children's Society
- The Diocesan Malawi Fund
- Médecin sans Frontières

St Anne's Charities 2016

- HoverAid
- Practical Action
- Restore
- Embrace the Middle East

St. Mary's Charities 2016

- The Busoga Trust
- Coram Voice
- The Bible Society
- St. Basils

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 Ray Cocks.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care & Care Home Ministry - Jennifer Holloway

The group meet about quarterly. Rev. Caroline George attends whenever possible, and we are very grateful for her support, and that of the clergy team. Elisabeth Leicester from St. Anne's has recently joined the group, and it is good to have her with us. Meetings often end with Compline or a short time of prayer.

All church members are, of course, in a position to give pastoral care. Welcoming newcomers is especially important and can be done by everyone. Ensuring that anyone ill or in other kind of need are given support and notified to the clergy, if this is appropriate, is important. So, too, is being aware of members of the congregation who seem to have been absent from services for a longer time than is usual for them. Please do contact a clergy member if you have any concerns - we don't want people to feel that they are forgotten, or that our churches are not places of caring.

The group all have DBS checks and several are Eucharistic assistants and so are able to administer reserved Holy Communion to people at home or in the Care homes we visit and hold services in on a monthly basis. Not all group members go into the Care homes, and there is discussion about extending the group and its remit to include specific areas eg: young parents, bereavement. Distribution of baptism cards to mark the anniversary date of a child's baptism (up to the age of 5) has been restarted at St. Mary's and we are grateful to Pat Dowell, John, and Laura who have undertaken this initially, and now to Carmel Midgley who has agreed to do this for children attending St. Mary's Junior Church groups. Elisabeth Leicester does a good job in following up baptism families at St Anne's. Another initiative has been the presence of a group member at the Friday Open Church sessions. We are grateful to Peter Alcock who has particularly taken on this role, supplementing the work of the regular Open Church group.

If anyone is keen in knowing more, please do have a word with one of the clergy or group members (see the notice boards for details) - we welcome new ideas and interested people.

HOSPITALITY

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

The Hospitality group have had another busy year in the Benefice. As a group we aim to organise and co-ordinate a range of events that are open to everyone. Some of our events are fundraisers while others are aimed to foster fellowship.

Some of the events we have organised during the last year are listed below.

- Members of the hospitality group arranged events for Christian aid week including, breakfast, lunches afternoon teas and suppers.

- Refreshments were provided for the launch of the Church yard project in June. Our cream teas were very well received!
- Thanks go to our friends from Drama 13 who organised an enjoyable murder mystery evening for us in September, with the hospitality group providing the catering.
- We were delighted to welcome Duncan to Moseley in October and ensured there was plenty to eat for all following Duncan's institution.
- November saw our annual Christmas Fair. This was a real example of team work in action with the church filled with stalls and helpers. Thank you to everyone who volunteered in any way this year. I was really impressed by the number of people who gave their time so willingly. The proceeds from the Christmas Fair go towards our external giving, so it was pleasing to see that we raised over £1700 this year, which will go to our Benefice charities. It makes all the hard work worthwhile.
- Our pancake party on Shrove Tuesday proved to be very popular. Lots of hungry children and grown-ups devoured a very large mountain of pancakes. We have decided to make this an annual event as people seem to have enjoyed the last two we have organised.

A new initiative for the group this year has been the introduction of Benefice Sunday lunches. These were held in St Anne's hall and have been planned for people to share good food and fellowship. To date we have held one in August, one in November and one in January. Our largest event of the three was the one held in January, which was part of Reverend Hazel's birthday celebrations. The event was not intended to be a fund raiser but we did make over £200 profit. The profit will be donated to the Children's society, which was Hazel's choice of Benefice charities.

Future dates for lunches are 22nd May, August 21st and November 6th, if you want to make a note of these in your diary.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of the Hospitality group for their hard work throughout the year.

During this time of listening and reflecting we need to consider whether there are ways we can improve what we do. As a group we organise events but would welcome feedback and ideas from you as to what sort of events you would like to attend. We are always looking for volunteers to join our group. If you would like to find out more either have a chat with me in church or contact the Benefice office and I will get in touch.

A few of our future events:-

September 13th Benefice Quiz

October 1st Barn Dance

November 26th Christmas Fair

Coffee and Company Report March 2016 – Angela Brown & Janet Thorne, Coffee & Company leads

Coffee and Company has continued to offer refreshments and an opportunity for a chat at St Mary's every Saturday morning between 10.30 and 12.00 throughout the year.

Coffee and Company is able to happen due to the volunteers who give their time so freely. We were pleased to have 3 new volunteers join our group during the year. Thank you all.

We have a number of regulars who come for a drink and a chat most weeks. Our numbers have increased every other month with the Coffee concerts which are now a regular feature. Mick Perrier has planned a varied selection of performers and these concerts are well attended. Our audience arrive from 10.30 for

coffee and cake with the concert starting at 11.00. If you haven't attended one yet why not come along on May 28th and see for yourself? The concerts are a good way of welcoming people to our church who don't normally attend. I spoke to a lady at the last concert who had lived in Moseley all her life but never been in the church before, she said she would definitely be back.

A new initiative for St Mary's is that we have registered to be a 'Place of Welcome'. Places of Welcome follow guiding principles known as the 5 P's:

- Place - offer an accessible and hospitable building open at the same time every week
- People - open to everyone regardless of their circumstances or situation, staffed by volunteers
- Presence - a place where people actively listen to one another
- Provision - offer free refreshments and basic local information
- Participation - recognise that everyone who comes to a Place of Welcome will bring with them talents and experiences they may want to share with others

These 5 P's are what we aim to do already through Coffee and Company, so we won't do anything different to what we normally do as we are hopefully already a place of welcome. We just want to spread the word that we are open. Look out for the notices around church. If you haven't come to Coffee and Company before why not drop in one Saturday morning, we can assure you of a warm welcome.

St Anne's Lunch Club – Ann Andrew

The club, now in its 30th 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; this year 4 of our members Chris Andrew, Margaret Nixon, Kay Burton and Joan Dakin reached their 90th birthdays.

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, Betty Clarke, June Dudleston, Jean Mowlam, Antony Reed, Alan & Margaret Williams. Mark Simons joins us when possible and we're grateful for his help and practical skills. Earlier in the year our numbers dipped for a while; however with our new members we are almost up to capacity, but do still have a few vacancies.

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

Buildings & Finance Reports

Church Wardens' reports

St Mary's Churchyard Heritage Committee – Becky Greenhill

The Church

2015 saw the completion of the Church Recording led by Liz Dancey of NADFAS. The Church was presented with bound copies of the record at a special service of thanks to the volunteers. The record is a comprehensive log of the church memorials, metalwork, stonework, woodwork, textiles, paintings, libraries, windows and other items and is well worth an inspection.

The Churchyard

The largest project the committee continues to be involved with is the St Mary's Churchyard Heritage and Access Project.

Funding and management

As at the end of 2014 the project has been costed at £220,600 funded by the award of an Our Heritage Grant of £69,100 from the HLF, the Eva Cohen legacy (£120,000 in September 2014), a further £30,000 being underwritten by the PCC and £1,500 private donations.

The HLF gave permission for the project to start in June 2015, and it was officially launched at a Community Open Day by the Bishop of Birmingham at the end of the month – upwards of 450 people attended the event.

In May 2015, the church appointed Becky Greenhill as Project Manager to assist with delivering the HLF aspects. Recognising a need for a greater level of involvement in the day-to-day management of the project, the PCC created a Project Management Committee (PMC) comprising Rob Brown as Chair (PCC), Ray Cocks (PCC), Peter Jupe (Church Warden and PCC), Becky Greenhill (Project Manager) and David Masters (volunteer and heritage interpretation designer). The wider churchyard heritage committee continues to support the various events and activities planned over the next 3 years.

Events and Activities

It has been a busy 6 months; activities and events have been organised which have appealed to a wide range of groups; from gardening with Brownies, bunting making, Corporate Give and Gain Days, Churchyard Recording, a Heritage Open Day, talks, gardening sessions and school trips.

Works in the Churchyard / The Landscape Masterplan

The project continues to work with Moore Environment who have been appointed to manage the tender process and oversee the landscaping works. Contractors were invited to tender in December 2015 with work planned for mid 2016.

St Mary's Churchyard and Heritage Committee – Peter Jupe, Rob Brown, Carolyn O'Toole, Becky Greenhill, Mick Perrier, Ray Cocks, David Masters, Will Baldwin.

St Mary's Churchwardens' report, Peter Jupe & Trish Everett

We record our thanks to the team of deputy wardens and sidespeople who support us in our role. We are grateful to Mark Simons, working with us to maintain the church buildings and address issues as they arise. Brenda Johnson has provided much appreciated admin support, too.

The bell project is now completed with the installation of new lighting, seating and carpeting to the ringing chamber. The formal faculty for the seating/ carpeting is awaited following approval from the DAC.

All gutters were cleared in the autumn, but there were some leaks in the West Room following heavy rainfall on Christmas Eve. There has been no further ingress of water since and we continue to monitor this.

The recording of our church, its fabric and historical detail by NADFAS under the leadership of Liz Dauncey has been completed, and the record formally presented to us at a service in the spring.

The Quinquennial report continues to be used as the basis for the work of the buildings and properties group. Some of the works required are included in the churchyard project (under a separate report). Works of minor repairs have been completed. Works required for the eroded stone work are outstanding and are to be addressed.

The overhaul of the organ and removal of asbestos will be addressed through the organ project due to be launched in 2016.

All properties are in good repair and continue to be let.

The interregnum continued to run smoothly under the leadership of Reverend Hazel. We continued to oversee the Vicarage in Oxford Road and interior decorating was completed ready for the arrival of Reverend Duncan, who we were pleased to welcome on his and Katrina's arrival in Moseley in September. We would like to express our thanks to the ministry team and others who have supported us throughout the interregnum.

We were pleased to support the launch of the Churchyard project following a successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid. A community open day was held, with the Bishop of Birmingham and Archdeacon in attendance.

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 our team of deputy wardens and sidespeople.

St Anne's Churchwardens' Report - Sonia Sheehan

Sonia Sheehan, Samuel Jeffers supported Rev. Keith Bishop.

Church Building.

The Church remains in good condition. The **Boiler** had a spate of "Cut-Outs" intermittently during spring 2015, but the cause could not be diagnosed until the control box finally broke in autumn. Once the control box was replaced the heating ceased to "Cut-Out" again. Thanks to Keith B and Graham H.

No capital purchases have been made. We have had a gift of a Baby Grand **Piano** which will benefit our worship as well as looking and sounding attractive. Lighting, renewal/alterations or repair is needed and attention to it will follow the congregation's feedback to "A Year of Listening" along with the Parochial Church Councils (PCC) wishes.

Our current **seating** for Worship remains "in the round" having had approval of the Vicar, Wardens and PCC under the authority of an Archdeacon's Licence in 2012. Our re-ordering continues and we will explore further ways to create worship space. No significant problems have been experienced in adapting our existing forms of worship to this newer configuration. The changes still seem welcomed generally by the congregation and the growing number of newcomers and visitors we have received here since 2012, during the interregnum, in 2015 and today.

In June 2015 a "Summer Ball" was held in the Church Naive to **raise funds** for St Anne's Church and to welcome our community to attend the event itself or be involved in occasions we host and encourage for outreach. Our **grateful thanks** go to the organising Committee who successfully raised £8,500. Particular thanks to Barry Jervis and Katy Rami. In view of the labour involved in moving the pews out of the church to host the Summer Ball, the PCC agreed to spend the major part of the proceeds to replace a portion of the **pews** with suitable **chairs**, to enable the space within our building to be more easily adapted to a wider range of uses for us or to hire. A sub-committee is due to present a proposal to the PCC shortly. A faculty is being applied for; once agreed upon by the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC), it is hoped to sell that portion of pews to raise further funds, if you are interested in a pew, please register your interest and you will be informed of further details.

Hall

I'd like to highlight particularly the **major support** that St. Anne's Church and folk have had from Rev. Keith Bishop. He has taken on The Hall maintenance works, in a way that I (Sonia) could not have done. Keith has also had great support from Mike Midgley, and their efforts have significantly improved conditions in the hall. **Thank You** very much!

We are **fortunate** to have a frequently used Hall, by all manner of groups which sustains much of our income/funding for running our Church. We will continue care for its appearance and maintenance; it is not to be taken for granted. We have new terms and conditions, basic housekeeping rules, for all users to abide by. In order to better manage the User Parking at the Hall and ensure access for Emergency Vehicles, we marked out 3 "Authorised" parking spaces for "User Key-Holders" only. In addition we have set up 2 "Disabled" and 1 "Temporary Unloading" space on the reinforced grass area outside the Church/Hall. We have asked Users to dissuade parents/clients from driving into the Church Grounds, let alone either to park or wait there.

Worship.

St Anne's continues to offer regular services and Eucharist and in term-times encourage a group discussion or contemplative pause.

Music has continued to be freely offered by musicians of many differing levels who have chosen to share their time and skills for St Anne's because they too worship here. We have a mixture of styles from Songs, Taize/Chants and Hymns. Anyone who wishes to offer musical, organisational and vocal talents would be most **welcome** to contribute here.

People

Well without people, a church is just a building- huh?!

We are fortunate to welcome an **increasing** number of around 12 children each week to 11am services and more still, at Messy Church co-ordinated by Tammy and Volunteers. St Anne's people welcome the Children and must continue work for **inclusion** in services, activities and growing the young people's faith as part of regular Church life. We **Thank** Tammy and those who have helped and supported work with the children for such successful, dedicated and creative effort.

Fewer adults are attending regularly; in 2015/16 there was an average of 35 adults in a service compared to 50 before our period of interregnum began. We are sure to experience a temporary lull. Maybe if you haven't seen someone in Church, pray for them or ask them how they are.

Our dedicated clergy team, headed by Rev. Hazel White, during interregnum, had **very sufficiently managed** to care for the Benefice parishes and provide all the normal requirements and more, in what was an exceptionally busy time with additional administration changes and vacancies too. I'd like to again **thank the Clergy Team**, Hazel, Frank, Caroline, Jonathan, Keith and Richard as well as the Staff, Mark, Tammy and Brenda for the endeavours and **accomplishment** for that period and positive attitude to moving forward.

We are pleased to **Welcome Rev. Duncan Strathie** to our ready and able team. Already Duncan has shown himself to be a good listener and enabler of people. He has shared his interest in creating an open parish group "Moseley at the Movies", a contemplative exploration of faith through watching interesting and thought provoking films. Wherever could we explore next?!

We **thank** both our St Mary's and St Anne's Parish Representatives for a very well done interview and selection process, which took much of their personal time. Thanks also to the people involved in writing up our new Parish profile. The Parish Profile will be a **highly useful document** to be referred to and regularly reused to aid our "Year of Listening" and going forward with communications and future recruitment. Our Clergy team are still growing and maintaining their connected support for one another. They work extremely well together and encourage one another in their strengths and weaknesses, in services, pastoral support, evaluating and training- there's nothing this team couldn't do... providing we, the parish/community and congregation support them!

The Warden's would like to thank all members of St Anne's congregation who help make all sorts of things run smoothly during the year; upwards from the very tiny deeds, your contributions of time and effort are greatly appreciated.

Treasurer's Report for St Mary's, year ended December 2015 - Jennifer Jupe, on behalf of the Finance Team

1. The year in overview

1.1 Long term and succession planning

This financial report is congruent with PCC accountability as set out in the document Charities Act 2011 and the PCC. The Finance team, established in 2012 has continued to manage the PCC finances to a very high standard. This has included regular communication with the Diocesan Director of Finance, leading a stewardship renewal and placing a strong emphasis on income generation. All of this has been underpinned by monthly financial activity such as dealing with creditors, managing cash flow, keeping costs in control in an economically challenging environment and maximising gift aid on all donations.

2. The Finance team

2.1 Team roles and responsibilities

In order to ensure the right spread of expertise and to build succession planning, the PCC have a Finance Team comprising:

Team member	Responsibilities	Relationship with PCC
Jon Stevens	Properties portfolio	PCC member
Paul Chew	Church accountant, Stewardship Co-ordinator to be succeeded by Nick Drew in 2016	
Jenny Jupe	Treasurer and team leader. Electronic book keeping	PCC member
Stephen Lewis	PCC investments and claims, Free Will Offering secretary. Rob Brown has supported on insurances.	PCC member

The team has continued to successfully use online banking. This has not only enabled easier book keeping and preparation of year-end accounts, but also reduced postage costs, ensuring creditors are paid in a timely manner. The Treasurer is the team member who pays creditors electronically with a limit on any one single payment.

2.2 Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers (ACAT)

Support from ACAT has continued throughout 2015 in particular with new Charities Commission accounting reporting requirements. The PCC (Trustees) should be reassured by this professional approach to managing the Charities' finances and that best practice has been followed.

2.3 Relationship with the Diocese

The Team have continued to hold a strong relationship with the Diocesan Director of Finance, Melanie Crookes, attending Treasurer's meetings. We are also in regular contact with other Finance Officers at the Diocese to ensure that both the team and the PCC are kept apprised of current financial planning. During the interregnum the Treasurer has also been in contact with the Archdeacon over various matters.

3. Raising income

3.1 Financial review

1. Despite a three year Stewardship campaign (2013-2016), Free Will Offering has reduced.
2. The principal funding sources have been Free Will Offering, Income generation, the PV cells and income from legacies. In line with the key objectives of the PCC monies have been used to:
 - ensure the consecrated buildings and the church offices are kept in good repair, particularly responding to the Quinquennial inspection,
 - develop our work with children through support to a Children's Worker,
 - continue the improvement to the church grounds through the Heritage project,
 - support the Associate Vicar in her Discipleship role,
 - support the Clergy and staff in their worship, administrative and maintenance tasks
 - support our eight designated charities, plus the Winter Night Shelter
 - meet the day-to-day running costs of the Church without depleting our reserves.

3.2 Income generation

The Charities Commission report that a significant majority of charities are needing to raise additional funds in the current economic environment. St Mary's Church is no exception. To that end the Treasurer undertook to work with the clergy, hospitality team and mission-giving team throughout the year to raise additional income.

4. Financial activity:

4.1 PCC general account, incorporating the office account

Following the setting of a budget for 2015, income and expenditure has been broadly on track, despite ongoing maintenance costs. I would like to place on record my thanks to the following people - all those who help with the weekly banking of the plate collection and the Free Will Offering monies, the Coffee Pot team who generated c£900.00 (£900.00) income in 2015 and Paul Chew for helping to prepare the quarterly and year-end accounts. Additional expenditure has been incurred through the interregnum (e.g. cost of maintaining the parsonage at 18 Oxford Road). However, some of this expenditure has been met by hiring income, due to the Diocese for weddings and funerals, back to the PCC and through cost saving on the Vicar's expenses. There has been no reduction in the Common Fund payments, even though the PCC are only paying one half of one stipend (Rev. Hazel White).

4.2 PCC Free Will Offering (FWO) account

Stephen Lewis, Free Will Offering secretary, has done some excellent work advising the Treasurer about gift aid and ensuring the maximum gift aid is claimed wherever possible.

4.3 PCC investments

The investments have been realising a far greater value than when simply on deposit, despite exceptionally low interest rates and market volatility. The deposit account remains in credit.

5. Major investment

Over the past three years the PCC has invested wisely in major building works and human resources, ensuring a sound legacy for the future. To remind the current PCC, building works have included solar panels (generating circa £7k in two years), completion of the conversion of the old Parish office into two apartments (now generating income), a significant contribution to the installation of new bells and a similarly significant donation to the Church school for a new building. Investment in human resources includes a commitment to part fund the cost of a Children's Work Coordinator and that of an Associate Vicar.

6. Miscellaneous activity

Other financial activity in 2014 worthy of reporting includes:

Support for the ongoing Heritage project

Greater coherence with the hospitality and mission-giving teams over charitable fund raising

Closer working with St Anne's Church Treasurer, Karen Walford

7. Recommendations:

7.1 That the APCM adopt the financial report;

7.2 That the APCM agree the 2015 accounts;

7.3 That Deidre Mattison be appointed External Examiner for the 2016 accounts.

DEANERY SYNOD

Moseley Deanery Synod Report – Ann Andrew, Secretary

There have been 3 meetings of Moseley Deanery Synod in 2015.

In January we met at Church of the Ascension, Stirchley; the Revd Josephine Houghton gave the parish profile. The main item at this synod was the motion from All Saints introduced by Revd David Warbrick:

This DEANERY / DIOCESAN SYNOD draws attention to:

1. the overwhelming scientific evidence of the damage being done to the planet through the burning of fossil fuels. This damage is already being experienced around the whole world, and it is the poorest countries which are most severely affected.
2. the huge reserves held by gas, oil and coal extraction companies that far exceed what can be safely burned in order to hold global warming below the internationally agreed level of 2 degrees Celsius.
3. the large proportion of the Church of England's funds that remain invested in major fossil fuel companies.
4. the urgent moral, scientific and financial imperative to withdraw investments from companies involved in extracting new reserves of gas, oil and coal.

And recommends the GENERAL SYNOD to:

- a) acknowledge the current review of ethical investment policy, to call on the national investment bodies to make an explicit commitment to disinvest from companies primarily involved in the extraction of oil, coal and gas, as soon as possible.
- b) request the national investment bodies to actively explore options for alternative investment in clean, renewable energy and other low-carbon technologies.
- c) use its moral weight as a national church to encourage the UK government to ensure that binding agreements are reached at the international summit in Paris in November-December 2015

After contributions from synod members a vote on the motion with 2 amendments was taken:

The results of the vote were:

For the motion – 16

Against the motion – 4

Abstentions – 2

The motion was therefore carried and will be sent to Diocesan Synod.

The Dean showed a short video of the recent Bishop's conference; she then asked members to discuss in pairs: "What key experiences & opportunities have sustained you in your discipleship?"

A short video was shown introducing Messy Church. The Revd Philip Ansell shared with Synod the experience of Messy Church which has become a popular and well-supported event at St Agnes Church. A report on Messy Church at Immanuel from Sue Rawlings was read in her absence by Revd Lydia Gaston.

The next synod was held on Tuesday 19th May at Balsall Heath Church Centre. There were 2 short presentations: Fred Ratley gave a talk on the two inter-related initiatives 'Thrive' and 'Safe Families for Children' and Mrs Sarah Smith gave a presentation on 'The Church and Education in Birmingham'; Sarah Smith has been the diocesan Director of Education since March, having previously been headteacher at St John's C/E Primary School, Sparkhill. She outlined the history of church schools and the work of the Board for Education, supporting schools in the diocese with their basic Christian ethos and life in all its fullness.

In October synod met at St Agnes Church the Dean welcomed Duncan to the Deanery.

There were 3 short presentations:

Young Vocations Conference - The Revd Lydia Gaston said that the conference had been deferred; she asked that any under 30's be referred to her.

Winter night shelter - Dr John Gray spoke about the winter night shelter to be held again this year at St Anne's.

Deanery Pilgrimage to the Cathedral - Revd Megan Gibbins & Roy Haselden outlined the programme for the pilgrimage on Saturday 12 December.

Unfortunately the scheduled speaker Revd Arun Arora was unable to be present; however a video 'Reform and Renewal' was shown in which the Archbishop of Canterbury and other senior clergy spoke of vision for 2020 and the challenges faced by the Church of England, such as the reality of resources versus aspiration, the decline in number of clergy, congregations and younger people, resources for the future, should capital be spent now? Resourcing increase in ordinands, discipleship, lay leadership, future leaders.

In December 2015 members of St Mary's and St Anne's joined a pilgrimage to the Cathedral with members of other churches in the deanery to celebrate the tercentenary of the Cathedral.

Last year we mourned the deaths of Mike Stocks and Rosemary Berridge; Mike and Rosemary both represented St Mary's as deanery synod members for many years, their loyalty and support was greatly appreciated, and we miss them.

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