



St John the Evangelist

Meads, Eastbourne

Accounts and Reports

2016

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

AGENDAS

For meetings to be held in the Jubilee Hall
on Tuesday, 4 April 2017, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting (See page 4)
2. Election of Churchwardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parochial Church Meeting (See page 4)
2. Matters arising therefrom
3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report
4. Trustees Annual Report (See page 9)
5. Annual Financial Report for the year
ended 31 December 2016 and the report of the
Independent Examiner (See page 16)
6. Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church (See page 28)
7. Report on the Deanery Synod proceedings (see page 29)
8. Elections and appointments
 - i) Parochial Church Council members
 - ii) Sidesmen and women
 - iii) Independent Examiner/Auditor
9. Reports from Church Organisations & Representatives (See page 30)
10. Vicar's comments:
11. Any other business

Closing Prayers

*(The meetings will follow an informal gathering from 7.00 p.m. when
refreshments will be provided.)*

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS HELD ON 19th APRIL 2016

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

The Vicar the Revd. Giles Carpenter opened the meeting with a prayer and asked for those present to reflect on those not able to be with us.

Mr. Jeremy Daniels and Mrs. Margaret Kowszun (Churchwardens) were present together with 83 parishioners. Apologies were received from 11 parishioners.

1. Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting

It was proposed by Mr. David Oakenfold and seconded by Mr. Dennis Thompson that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2015 be taken as read and a true record. This was agreed unanimously. There were no matters arising.

2. Election of Churchwardens

The Vicar expressed his sadness that Jeremy Daniels had decided to retire as from their first meeting he had felt he was a person of great integrity and knew he would be missed and asked all present to give Jeremy a great thank-you for all his work for the church for many years. Margaret Kowszun added her heartfelt thanks to Jeremy for all his support and dedication as a fellow Churchwarden and gave him a picture and book token as appreciation of all he had done over the years.

In reply Jeremy said that he felt he had always had the love and prayers of the church congregation and hoped the church would go forward with love and thoughtfulness to the glory of God. He hoped to remain part of St John's and will come back when time allows.

Nominations have been received from Mrs Margaret Kowszun and Mr Tony Mottram who had been proposed and seconded as churchwardens for the coming year. There being no other nominations they were duly elected.

The Chairman then closed the Annual Parish Meeting

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

The Chair for this meeting was taken by Mrs Margaret Kowszun (Churchwarden)

1. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st April 2015 had been displayed in the Church.

It was pointed out that under item 11 Any Other Business it should read Revd Canon Michael Cole. This amendment being made it was proposed by Mr Keith Adams seconded by Mr Dick Thwaites and agreed unanimously that these minutes be accepted as correct.

2. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising

3. Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Mr Jeremy Daniels read the report compiled by the Electoral Roll Officer. On the 21st April 2016 the electoral roll stood at 291 people of whom 185 (63.6%) are women, 106 (36.3%) are men 190 (65.7%) live within the Parish, 101 (34.2%) live outside the Parish. 21 people's names had been removed since the last APCM mainly through leaving St John's or moving out of the area. 5 of which were due to death. 13 have been added. The electoral roll was accepted on a proposal by Miss Pam Lade, seconded by Mr Frank Kelley and agreed unanimously.

4. **Annual Report of the Trustees**

The report was taken as read being accepted on a proposal by Mr Robert Millett, seconded by Mr. Dick Thwaites and agreed by those present.

5. **Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2015 and Reports of the Treasurer and Independent Examiner thereon**

The Treasurer said as it was his first year he did not propose going through the Accounts line by line which were well documented and if there were any queries he would be happy to discuss them and would thank everyone for their time, talents and financial support over the year.

However there were four important questions he wished to put before those present

1. Did our Income Exceed Expenditure last Year

Last year income on our unrestricted fund exceeded expenditure by over £170k. We did however received generous legacies totalling £114k without which we would have seen a shortfall This is a worry for the stability of church funds.

2. Do we have a structural Deficit?

Yes we do have a structural deficit which is not a worry in the short term but we would not want to see this continue indefinitely as this would not only eat away at our reserves, but inhibit future plans and impact adversely on our ability to grow the church and make a difference within our community. However, there are some encouraging signs. We have seen a small increase in 2015 giving and the review which we carried out at the end of the year gives us cause to be optimistic for 2016. We must not take the congregation's generosity for granted as circumstances can and do change and it can be appropriate for giving to go down as well as up.

3. How are we spending the church money?

Are we spending it wisely and there will be many different opinions. Our biggest expense is our Parish share which was £70368 in 2015 and will be £72k this year. This with salaries accounts for 2/3 of our regular expenditure. All our energy supplies are under fixed term contracts and whenever these fall due we look at the market for the best deals

4. What are our reserves and do we have enough?

At the end of last year there was £238k in unrestricted funds – this includes designated funds such as the Organ fund and the Parish Hall. The Charity Commission does not like to see money being hoarded and the rule of thumb that you should only keep enough for 3/6 months of annual commitments in our case £45/90k and I would like to work to the top end of that scale. The completion of the organ restoration is taking place and Vison Sunday will outline other projects that are being considered and when the congregation's views will be sought. The implementation of the Mission Action Plan does require investment.

Finally the Treasurer thanked John Driver our Gift Aid Secretary, the Monday Club who count the collections, the Office Administrator who looks after the payroll and the Parish Hall and also Michael Ridge who had encouraged and guided him through his first year.

The Rev Vic Lawrence said he was concerned that we were not giving 10% of our monies to charity. The Treasurer assured him that 10% of our regular giving was going to charity and that the Mission team were looking into increasing this in 2016.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his hard work throughout the year.

It was proposed by Mrs. Rowena Adams, seconded by Prof Trevor Salmon that the financial statement be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

6. **Churchwardens' Report and Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church**

The Chairman referred to the report on p26 and said she would especially like to thank Mr. Dick Thwaites for all his hard work during the year in keeping the church safe. Vision Sunday would give everyone information on future plans.

Mr. Roy Orchard proposed, seconded by Mr. John Caroe that the report be accepted. This was agreed unanimously.

7. **Report of the Deanery Synod Proceedings**

Mr. Keith Adams reported that there had been 3 meetings of the Deanery Synod during the Year and the newly elected Rural Dean was the Revd. David Gillard. The first meeting included a presentation on global mission. The second a talk on the church in Iraq suggesting we reach towards the Iraqi Christians in the UK and those coming as refugees. The last meeting included a presentation of the work of our local Chaplains and highlighted the challenges they face.

The report was accepted on a proposal by Miss Sheila O'Hanlon, seconded by Mr. Frank Kelley and agreed unanimously.

8. **Elections and Appointments**

i) **Parochial Church Council Members**

1 nomination for re-election and 3 new nominations had been received and seconded. There being no other nominations they were duly elected. The Chairman asked that the new members stand to make themselves known to all present.

The Chairman thanked Mrs. Zoe Evans, Mrs. Rachel Grimes and Mr. Dennis Thompson who were retiring for all they had done during their term of office. Mrs. Gilly Moore was also retiring from the role of Safeguarding Officer and as Gilly was not present her husband accepted a present for her in recognition and thanks for the difficult task she had been performing.

ii) **Sidesmen and women**

All sidesmen and women had been contacted and a list of people wishing to serve for the coming year was read out by the PCC Secretary, The list was accepted by the meeting on a proposal by Mrs. Catherine Butcher, seconded by Mr. Frank Kelley. The Chairman thanked all those who had served last year.

iii) **Independent Examiner/Auditor**

The Treasurer said because of a possible conflict of interest a new independent auditor was proposed for the coming year. Mr. Michael Neilan.

This was seconded by Mr. Keith Adams. All were in agreement.

9. **Reports from Church Organisations and Representatives**

The Chairman said she hoped that everyone would read the reports on the many activities that had taken place in the past year and thanked all those who helped with the various groups.

10. **Vicar's Comments**

The Vicar said that as part of the global worldwide church the Diocese of Chichester was asking every parish church to expand their vision of church life in several ways. Planned growth of 25% over 5 years. Re-imagining Ministry and Contributing to the Common Good.

Planned Growth

A visual presentation of a chart showed that St John's was already in the top 5% of churches as far as congregation size was concerned and the Vicar explained that in order to grow further many enabling structures had to be in place. This was already happening at St John's with CAMEO, Coffeepot, Mens' Breakfasts. START courses, Connexions, Home Groups. He asked for Home Group Leaders to stand to make themselves known and said he was grateful for the leadership over the groups by Revd. Peter

Pickett and Nick Pendry. He also thanked Sheila 'Hanlon for all she had done for CONNEXIONS in the past and Rowena Adams and his wife, Rachel, for the new arrangements for newcomers to visit the vicarage.

He also wished to thank the Revd. Jill Preece our Assistant Minister for her work as Pastoral Care Coordinator and Tristram Peattie, our Children and Families Minister for his work with our children. His work for St Johns CE Primary School was reported by the Executive Head Teacher, Alison Flynn, in the Annual Report.

The Vicar said he had a debt of gratitude to all the retired Ministry team and the huge band of volunteers who lead and supported the various church groups.

The Vicar also mentioned the many opportunities for corporate prayer and hoped many more of the congregation would take part in the future as prayer was so important in underpinning all that we do.

Re-imagining Ministry

All are called to serve and there must be opportunities to invest in people. Training courses were planned for the prayer ministry and leaders of home groups It was good that Martha Weatherill, who had left us to train for the ministry, was flourishing, we had two trainee Readers, Catherine Butcher due to be licensed in September and Nick Pendry The loss of the Revd. Katie England had been keenly felt and also to be missed by moving from the area were John and Patricia Snowden, Sally and John White, and Jeremy Daniels. Amanda Trowhill had stepped back from her work with the children and Hannah Peattie had now taken over the role of leading the Mothers and Toddlers Group.

Contribute to the Common Good

The Diocese had asked for each Parish to undertake one additional thing, quoting Psalm 71:18 and St John's contribution was a vision to expand our pastoral care by taking the lead role in the new Eastbourne visiting scheme, Linking Lives Eastbourne (LLE) which was aimed at volunteers befriending and supporting anyone who is lonely. Byron Stevens who was involved in the planning explained that funding had been obtained for the first year and an advertisement for a Coordinator had been posted. Trustees for this new charity and a management team were still needed and the Vicar said he would be glad to hear from anyone interested in getting involved as a befriender, trustee or by giving toward this new endeavor.

A street party to recognize the Queen's 90th birthday was being organized with the Meads community and the booklet "The Servant Queen and the King she Serves" was now available for members of the congregation to share with families and friends. Catherine Butcher was organizing a work-shop to explain how the booklet could be used. The Vicar ended by thanking Ken and Pam Mayhew for the refreshments and Pam Lade for preparing the room.

11

Any Other Business

There was no Any Other Business. The meeting closed in prayer by the Vicar asking for God's blessing on all that we do in the future.

Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St John the Evangelist

St John's Church, St John's Road, Eastbourne BN20 7ND

Registered Charity no. 1131574

For the year ended 31 December 2016

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Website:	www.stjm.org.uk
Incumbent:	The Revd Giles Carpenter
Independent examiner:	Mr Michael Neilan Price & Company, Chartered Accountants
Bankers:	CAF Bank Ltd., Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

Trustees Annual Report for 2016

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Giles Carpenter, in:

- The promotion of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England;
- Promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, social, evangelistic and ecumenical.
- To know Jesus better and make Him better known;
- Providing practical support and care for people in the parish, from the youngest to the eldest, irrespective of level of need or ability to pay;
- Providing financial support to those in need and, to other organisations with similar objectives.

The PCC also has responsibility for the financial affairs of the parish and for the repair and maintenance of the Church fabric and the Parish Hall.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

When planning our activities for the year, our incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on 'charities for the advancement of religion'.

For 2016 we discussed and planned the following objectives and activities to fulfil our aims:

- Enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church;
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community;
- Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers;
- Maintaining an overview of worship throughout the parish;
- Considering how services can involve the many groups that live within the parish;
- Putting faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament;
- Offering worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, in small group situations;
- Assisting people from all walks of life to develop their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Providing assistance to the poor and needy of the parish;
- Giving away approximately 10% of voluntary income to missionary organisations and other charitable causes;
- Reaching out to the unchurched through provision of an annual fete and playing a lead role in a 'street party' to celebrate the 90th birthday of HM the Queen.
- Planning the reordering of the church building to better facilitate a wider variety of services and enable its use for community activities.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Attendance at worship

The church family welcomes visitors from within as well as outside the parish boundary. Visitors attend by personal choice and it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church. We contend that voluntary attendance to worship the Lord Jesus Christ is a major demonstration of the public benefit of our activities.

There are 289 persons on the church electoral roll. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 248 adults and 39 children, but this number increased at festivals with 494 attending on Easter Eve and Easter Day and 585 attending on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. These numbers are broadly similar to 2015.

St John's meets to worship both on Sundays and during the week. Members meet regularly to pray for the life of the parish and mission of the church, on Monday and Wednesday mornings and at the monthly 'Prayer Plus' gathering.

The St John's congregation represents a broad range of traditions and there is an ongoing process to ensure that the services we offer not only meet the needs of the existing congregation but enable us to reach out to the unchurched.

A key element of our Mission Action Plan is ***Bridging the Gap*** – reaching the age groups who are missing from St Johns.

Building on the work of the Children and Families Minister appointed in 2015 a new part time post of Early Years worker has been created. We run three Sunday Children's Groups – Rising Stars (0-5), The Big God Space (5-10) and Streetwise (11+). Streetwise also have mid-week events and there is a Thursday morning Parent and Toddler group which is growing in popularity to the extent that we need to create additional space to facilitate further growth.

Teaching, baptising and nurturing new and existing believers

We were pleased to celebrate the baptism of 5 infants during the year.

We have seen more members of the church family involved in leading and participating in aspects of worship which gives encouragement both to them and the whole congregation. We continue to seek to extend the opportunities for the exercise of ministry and gifts within the life of our community. We obtained 'Permission to Preach' for a further two members of the congregation bringing the total to four with a further member in his final year of training.

A key element in the area of nurturing faith and discipleship is home groups which meet regularly on a fortnightly basis. Two new groups were formed during the year bringing the total to 13 and 140 people now belong to our home groups including some from other churches/traditions.

We see the above aspects of church life as part of the Diocesan strategy for reimagining ministry, explained by Bishop Richard at the launch in 2015. This, together with the following, also contributes towards another of our key Mission Action Plan elements – ***Building Belonging*** – making sure that neither newcomers nor long-standing members of the church go un-noticed or unwelcomed; and helping people find their niche in the church family.

We shared food and fellowship together at various times and in various places including Men's Breakfasts at the Holywell Tea Chalet, Lunch Club and Coffee-Pot/Paperback library at the Parish Hall, Cameo, Movement to Music and Scrabble in the Jubilee Hall and Connexions teas at the Vicarage, the latter specifically for those new to the church and/or faith.

Provision of church buildings for people to enjoy

We celebrated 5 baptisms, 3 weddings and 8 funerals during the year. Our church continues to be appreciated by our parishioners and many others as a space where life events are celebrated with joy and thanksgiving.

We have continued with our plans started last year to re-order the church building (see below) to create, inter-alia, more opportunities for it to be used for events other than services. Two free 'Organ coffee concerts' were held during the year attended by over 200 people.

The Parish Hall, with its more central location in Meads Street, is an important component in our outreach to the local community – our third Mission Action element, ***Hospitality to the Fringe*** - building stronger relationships with our local community and people on the fringe of the church.

The Parish Hall has this year been listed by Eastbourne Borough Council as 'an asset of Community value'. As well as generating income through hiring, the Hall is used for community activities led by church members namely, Lunch Club, Coffee-Pot and Paperback library. It is also used by the church to provide refreshments at community street events such as the annual 'Meads Magic' at Christmas. During the year the church took a lead role in organising and financing a free street party for the Meads community in celebration of HM the Queen's 90th birthday.

A new Scouts group is being formed in Meads and will start early in 2017. We have been pleased to make the Jubilee Hall available for two evenings a week for use by the new group.

Spatial reordering of the church building and future projects

Permission will be sought in early 2017 to implement the plans developed over the last 18 months. There are essentially three elements to these plans;

1. Re-ordering of the Chancel area which includes replacing the Baldachin and Dossal curtain with the copper cross which fell from the roof last year, renewing wiring and upgrading lighting.
2. Removal of remaining pews and replacing with chairs.
3. Installing TV screens and upgrading audio, including acoustic improvements.

These improvements will address some health and safety issues, particularly with regard to fire exits. The replacement of the pews will improve access and choice for those with disabilities and allied to a new ramped access to the Chancel enable them to play a fuller part in services. The flexibility of the chairs allows for different configurations to meet the needs of traditional and contemporary services and also to create a large open space which could be attractive for both church and community use. The audio visual upgrades will facilitate the more modern approach required for some services and allow greater use of the church by St John's C of E School who currently have to use another church for some of their events.

These are significant changes which it is felt will enable the church to fulfil its mission but will require our continued spiritual and financial commitment.

Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish

Pastoral care is headed Revd Jill Preece and undertakes hospital visits and home communion. We also have teams who, on a monthly basis, visit 4 care homes locally. Communion services are held on occasions for those too frail to attend the church.

During the last year we have together with other local churches assisted in the formation of a new charity Linking Lives Eastbourne which will provide a befriending service to the lonely. It is hoped this will extend throughout Eastbourne and is open to all regardless of faith. The new charity has its own trustees and is independent of any church.

Provision of tangible support to the poor and needy

The church family at St John's continues to be a high contributor among the local churches donating to the Eastbourne Foodbank. We were encouraged to see our children's groups play a lead role in presenting the Harvest gifts and the produce was shared between Eastbourne Foodbank and the Matthew 25 Mission. We were also pleased to see many of our parishioners respond to our request and support the Mustard seed Mission 'Love in a box' appeal and provide toys and gifts at Christmas for underprivileged children in Eastern Europe.

Other charitable giving

The income from the Duplex Bequest amounting to £661 is included in the sums given by the PCC. A total of £16495 was given to 18 charities as detailed in note 4 to the accounts. In addition a total of £6536 was raised in special collections for 11 charities including British Legion (£725), Voices in exile (£464), Children's Society (£273) and Breast Cancer care (£320).

The parish magazine is published twice each year and is distributed free to all households in the parish. This helps to maintain links between the church family and those who have not yet felt the need to take part in what we do.

Financial Review

Incoming and outgoing resources

The total receipts on general unrestricted funds were £211877 and are detailed in the Financial Report. Planned giving through envelopes and banker's orders increased by almost 5% including tax recovered but overall voluntary income, excluding legacies, showed a decrease of 1%. There was no gift day or special appeals and as we encourage more of the church family to participate in planned giving there has been a further reduction in cash collections. The PCC was grateful to receive further legacies totalling £17090.

There was an overall net deficit of some £58000 on unrestricted funds but over 80% of this was attributable to major work expenditure, most notably the completion of the repairs to the church organ.

Sharing the ministry costs of the Diocese of Chichester

The largest expenditure of the PCC was the sum of £72360 paid to the diocese for our share of all churches' Parish Ministry Costs and church insurance incurred by the diocese. This amount covers the housing, stipend and pension costs of the clergy, the church insurance and, also a standard sum for diocesan central costs, clergy training and a contribution to national church funds. This year the contribution from St John's increased by 2.8% on the previous year.

Currently, the church is meeting 100% of the costs allocated to this church. It is important to note that approximately 80% of the total paid relates directly to the clergy costs of this parish, the remainder being the shared costs of the Christian family throughout the whole Church of England, including assistance towards the upkeep of churches less able to manage than ourselves.

Staff costs

Staff costs have increased by 17% largely due to the employment on a part-time basis of an Early year's worker/administrative assistant. We have also arranged through NEST a pension scheme to meet our auto-enrolment obligations and two employees are participating in this scheme. Further details are provided in the notes to the accounts.

Trustee payments and expenses

The PCC supported the clergy by paying Council Tax of £2850, water and environmental charges amounting to £826 for the Vicarage plus other annual costs towards travel, hospitality, telephone, broadband and accommodation amounting to £2586.

Five trustees received refund of expenses totalling £1742 in respect of travel, stationery, postage and accommodation.

Mr Tristram Peattie, a trustee, received £25220 in his role as Children's & Families Minister but the cost to the PCC was offset by a 40% contribution from St John's C of E School.

Mrs Hannah Peattie, wife of Mr Tristram Peattie received £3650 in her part time role as an Early years worker/administrative assistant.

Repairs to the fabric of the church building

We continue to address the issues raised in the last quinquennial report. A replacement flagpole has been erected on the Tower and damp proofing carried out to the South wall. The report highlighted the likelihood of problems with two flat roof areas at an indeterminable future time and recommended a sinking fund be established. The PCC has agreed to set aside £5000 per annum in a designated Roof Repair fund as provision for this potential liability. The area of the church roof where the cross used to stand has now been effectively repaired to prevent water ingress.

Why we hold some money in reserve

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to approximately three months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. The closing balance of £97533 exceeds this requirement but we are mindful of the re-ordering plans the cost of which will exceed existing resources and require additional fund raising.

It is PCC policy to invest temporarily surplus general funds with the CBF Church of England deposit fund, returning proportionately these funds to our current account, as they are needed, to pay day-to-day bills.

Structure, governance and management of the charity

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is registered with the Charity Commission as required by the Charities Act 2011. Its governing document is the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

Ex Officio members

Incumbent:	The Revd Giles Carpenter	Chairman
Assistant Priest:	The Revd Jill Preece	
Readers:	Mr Jorj Kowszun Mrs Jill Maddock Mrs Sarah Hassell (from June 2016) Mrs Catherine Butcher (from September 2016)	
Wardens:	Mrs Margaret Kowszun Mr Tony Mottram	Vice Chairman
Deputy Wardens:	Miss Sheila MacNicol Prof Trevor Salmon Mr Robert Orchard (from April 2016)	
Deanery Synod:	Mr Keith Adams Dr Clive Dilloway Mr Jorj Kowszun Prof Trevor Salmon	

Elected Members

Mrs Debbie Canning
Mrs Zoe Evans (to April 2016)
Mrs Rachel Grimes (to April 2016)
Mrs Phyllis Hall
Mr Frank Kelley Treasurer
Mr Francis Kimberley
Mrs Carolyn Lacy Secretary
Mrs Sarah Bull (from April 2016)
Dr John Caroe (from April 2016)
Mr Derek Peterson (from April 2016)
Mr Byron Stevens
Mr Dennis Thompson (to April 2016)

Co-opted members:

Mrs Catherine Butcher (to September 2016)
Mr Tristram Peattie

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of certain ex-officio members (the incumbent/priest-in-charge, curate, lay readers licensed to officiate in the church), the churchwardens and members of the Deanery, Diocesan or General Synods and members of the church who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and we try to ensure a balance of skills and experience where possible.

The PCC operates through two committees to oversee various aspects of the Church's corporate life, which are –

Standing Committee:

This is the only committee required by law. It has the power to transact any business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the full PCC.

The Standing Committee also undertakes the function of a Finance Committee by monitoring the Church's finances and proposing action to be taken to preserve the funds.

Parish Hall Committee:

The committee has responsibility for hiring out the Parish Hall and maintaining the property.

Various teams exist, comprising members of the PCC and others, to further the work of the Church and report their efforts and proposals to the PCC where decisions are taken.

This Trustees' Annual Report was **approved** by the PCC and signed on their behalf by The Revd. Giles Carpenter, PCC Chairman

..... *Giles Carpenter*.....

Date..... *14 February 2017*.....

Annual Financial Report

of

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, MEADS, EASTBOURNE

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, ST JOHN'S ROAD, EASTBOURNE BN20 7ND

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1131574

For the year ended 31 December 2016

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Annual Financial Report

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS 2016	2015
INCOME from:						
Voluntary income	2a	185199	135	-	185334	283789
Activities for generating funds	2b	20790	-	-	20790	21818
Investments	2c	322	2037	-	2359	2762
Church activities	2d	5566	-	-	5566	4988
Other receipts		-	-	-	-	822
TOTAL INCOME		211877	2172	-	214049	314179
EXPENDITURE on:						
Church activities	3a	269921	2731	-	272652	200581
Raising funds	3b	593	-	-	593	5573
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		270514	2731	-	273245	206154
Net gains(losses) on investments		-	-	-	-	-
NET INCOME or(Net Expenditure)		(58637)	(559)	-	(59196)	108025
Transfers between funds:						
Gross transfers in		23909	-	-	23909	25782
Gross transfers out		(23100)	(809)	-	(23909)	(25872)
Other recognised gains/(losses):		-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation of investment assets		-	-	6986	6986	845
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS		(57828)	(1368)	6986	(52210)	108870
<i>Reconciliation of funds</i>						
Total funds brought forward		238681	6423	62932	308036	199166
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD		180853	5055	69918	255826	308036

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne Registered charity no. 1131574
Annual Financial Report
BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2016

	Note	Total Funds 2016	Total Funds 2015
FIXED ASSETS			
Tangible assets	9a	1436	2873
Endowed investments	9b	69918	62932
Total fixed assets		71354	65805
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	11	30158	54257
Short term deposits		67665	66689
Cash at bank and in hand		96423	129068
Total current assets		194246	250014
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	12	9774	7783
Net current assets or (liabilities)		184472	242231
Total assets less current liabilities		255826	308036
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		-	-
Provisions for liabilities		-	-
Total net assets or (liabilities)		255826	308036
The funds of the charity:			
Unrestricted		180853	238681
Restricted		5055	6423
Endowment		69918	62932
TOTAL CHARITY FUNDS	13	255826	308036

This Financial Report for the year ended 31 December 2016, including the notes following, was approved by the PCC and signed on its behalf by The Revd. Giles Carpenter, PCC Chairman:

.....*Giles Carpenter*.....

Date.....*14 February 2017*.....

1 Accounting policies

a. Accounting convention

The PCC is a public benefit entity within the meaning of FRS102. The financial statements have been prepared under the Charities Act 2011 and in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 governing the individual accounts of PCC's, and with the Regulations' "true and fair view" provisions, together with FRS102 (2016) as the applicable accounting standards and the 2016 version of the Statement of Recommended Practice, Accounting and Reporting by Charities (SORP(FRS102)).

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except for the valuation of investment assets, which are shown at fair value. The financial statements include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their affiliation to another body, nor those which are informal gatherings of church members.

These accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 are the first accounts of St John's Church prepared in accordance with FRS102, The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland. The date of transition to FRS102 was 1 January 2015. The reported financial position and financial performance for the previous period are not affected by the transition to FRS102.

b. Funds accounting

Funds held by the PCC are:

Unrestricted funds - general funds which can be used for PCC ordinary purposes

Designated funds - monies set aside by the PCC out of unrestricted funds for specific future purposes or projects.

Restricted funds - a) income from trusts or endowments which may be expended only on those restricted objects provided in the terms of the trust or bequest; b) donations or grants received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of the year is carried forward as a balance on that fund.

Endowment funds - funds the capital of which must be maintained; only income arising from the investment of the endowment may be used, either as restricted or unrestricted funds, depending on the purpose set out in the terms of the original endowment.

c. Income and endowments

All income and endowments, which are accounted for without deduction for any costs of receivability, are recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, receipt is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income

Planned giving, collections and donations are recognised when received.

Gift aid recovered is recognised when the income to which it is attached is received.

Grants and legacies are recognised when the formal offer in writing of the funding, is received by the PCC.

Church activities

Statutory fees for weddings and funerals are recognised when the events have occurred. Fees received in advance of the event are recognised as deferred income until the event occurs. The statutory proportion of fees held as agent for and due to the Diocese of Chichester, are not recognised as income and are included in creditors until paid.

c. Income and endowments

Where income is receivable in return for selling goods or providing services, income is recognised either: a - when received, or b - in the case of concerts: for the year in question, irrespective of date of receipt. Advance bookings are included in creditors until the concert has taken place.

Sales of magazines and study notes are recognised when received.

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Investment income

Dividends are accounted for when due and payable. Interest entitlements are accounted for as they accrue.

All other income

All other income is recognised in accordance with the above overall policy.

Gains and losses on investments

Realised gains are recognised when the investments are sold

Unrealised gains and losses are accounted for on revaluation at 31 December.

d. Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised when there is evidence of entitlement, payment is probable, and the amount can be measured reliably.

Grants

Grants and donations are accounted for when paid over or, when awarded, where the award creates a binding obligation on the PCC.

Church Activities

The diocesan parish contribution is accounted for on an annual basis, reflecting the allocation set by our Deanery. Any parish contribution unpaid at 31 December is provided for in these accounts as an operational (though not a legal) liability and is shown as a creditor in the balance sheet.

e. Fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets

Consecrated and beneficed property of any kind is excluded from the accounts by s.10(2) of the Charities Act 2011.

Movable church furnishing held by the Vicar and Churchwardens on special trust for the PCC and which require a faculty for disposal, are accounted as inalienable property unless consecrated. They are listed in the church's inventory which can be inspected but are not included in the financial statements. For other property acquired prior to 1 January 2000 there is insufficient cost information available and therefore the cost of such assets is not stated in the financial statements.

All expenditure on consecrated or beneficed buildings and individual items costing under £1000 are written off in the year they were incurred.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to write down the cost of tangible fixed assets, excluding freehold properties, over their expected useful lives. Furniture and equipment used within the church premises is depreciated on a straight line basis over 4 years. Individual items with a purchase price of £1000 or less are written off when the asset is acquired.

Investments

Investments are stated at mid- market value at the balance sheet date.

f. Current Assets

Amounts owing to the PCC at 31 December in respect of fees, rents or other income are recognised as debtors less provision for amounts that may prove uncollectible.

Short-term deposits include cash held on deposit either with the CBF Church of England Funds, or at the bank.

2 Analysis of income and endowments

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	TOTAL FUNDS	
				2016 £	2015 £
(a) Voluntary income					
Planned giving					
Gift Aid donations	99550	135	-	99685	94032
Tax recoverable	26294	-	-	26294	24890
Other	29129	-	-	29129	29299
Cash Collections at services	9150	-	-	9150	11533
Gift Weekend	-	-	-	-	3020
Donations, appeals, etc	3986	-	-	3986	7011
Grant	-	-	-	-	-
Legacies	17090	-	-	17090	114004
	185199	135		185334	283789
(b) Activities for generating funds					
Fund-raising events	5727	-	-	5727	7771
Parish Hall lettings	15063	-	-	15063	14047
	20790	-	-	20790	21818
(c) Income from investments					
Dividends and interest (gross)	322	2037	-	2359	2762
	322	2037	-	2359	2762
(d) Income from Church activities					
Magazines, books and cards	1756	-	-	1756	1470
Fees	2793	-	-	2793	2667
Clubs	1017	-	-	1017	851
	5566	-	-	5566	4988
Other receipts					
Insurance claim	-	-	-	-	822
TOTAL INCOME & ENDOWMENTS	£211877	£2172	—	£214049	£314179

3 Analysis of expenditure

		Unrestricted	Restricted	Endowment	TOTAL FUNDS	
		Funds	Funds	Funds	2016	2015
		£	£	£	£	£
(a) Church activities						
Missionary and charitable giving						
Church overseas						
Missionary societies		5028	-	-	5028	3395
Relief and development agencies		1360	-	-	1360	4470
Home mission		10107	-	-	10107	6486
Note 4		16495	-	-	16495	14351
Ministry:						
Parish contribution		72360	-	-	72360	70368
Vicarage expenses		3928	-	-	3928	4628
Clergy expenses		2831	-	-	2831	2680
Church running expenses		13729	-	-	13729	14137
Church maintenance		13898	-	-	13898	11793
Upkeep of services		13751	199	-	13950	10627
Upkeep of church garden		-	2304	-	2304	2170
Expenditure on parish magazine, books and cards		2808	-	-	2808	2196
Mission outreach & training		2427	-	-	2427	873
Parish hall running costs		10921	-	-	10921	12850
Salaries		44305	-	-	44305	36537
Children's activities		1826	228	-	2054	-
Printing, office supplies & telephone		9534	-	-	9534	5275
Other administration costs		5978	-	-	5978	5889
New & replacement furniture and equipment		3778	-	-	3778	3210
Depreciation of furniture and equipment		1437	-	-	1437	1437
Major works		48355	-	-	48355	-
Governance		1560	-	-	1560	1560
Note 8		269921	2731	-	272652	200581
(b) Raising funds						
Stewardship expenses		148	-	-	148	298
Cost of events		445	-	-	445	5275
		593	-	-	593	5573
TOTAL EXPENDED		270514	2731		273245	£206154

4 Missionary and Charitable Giving

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2016	Total Funds 2015
Overseas:					
CMS	900	100	-	1000	1000
Revive	1000	-	-	1000	1000
Tearfund	900	100	-	1000	1000
Open Doors	1047	131	-	1178	-
Malawi Assoc. Christian Support	750	-	-	750	750
Mission Aviation F'ship	600	-	-	600	600
Mission to Seafarers	500	-	-	500	500
Toilet twinning	360	-	-	360	-
<i>Other charities</i>	-	-	-	-	3015
Overseas total	6057	331	-	6388	7865
Home:					
Linking Lives Eastbourne	3270	130	-	3400	-
St Wilfrid's Hospice	900	100	-	1000	750
Beachy Head Chaplaincy	900	100	-	1000	750
CDAFSW	750	-	-	750	750
Eastbourne Winter Night Shelter	800	-	-	800	700
Matthew 25	1000	-	-	1000	700
Eastbourne Foodbank	1000	-	-	1000	-
Church Army	500	-	-	500	500
St Luke's Healthcare for Clergy	100	-	-	100	100
Meads community	557	-	-	557	-
<i>Other charities</i>	-	-	-	-	2236
Home total	9777	330	-	10107	6486
Total Giving	15834	661	-	16495	14351

5 Staff Costs

Unrestricted Fund	Wages & salaries	Social security costs	Pension contributions	2016 Total	2015 Total
Administration and Verger	25129	590	1745	27464	25806
Working with Children & Families	15942	704	195	16841	10730
Maintenance of Church and Parish Hall	10000	83	67	10150	10000
Total	51071	1377	2007	54455	46536

During the year the PCC employed people in the following posts: an administrator, a Children's and Families Minister, an Early Year's / administrative assistant (part time), a verger (part time) and a cleaner. There are no employees who received total emoluments of more than £60,000.

6 Payments to PCC Members

Mr Tristram Peattie received £25220 in his role as Children's & Families Minister but the cost to the PCC was offset by a 40% contribution from St John's C of E School.

Other payments were made to PCC members in reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC:

a) Clergy support: Council tax £2850, Environmental charges £826, Travel, hospitality, telephone, stationery, accommodation £2586.

b) 5 members received reimbursement for travel, stationery, postage and accommodation totalling £1742.

7 Transactions with persons related to PCC Members

Mrs Hannah Peattie, wife of Mr Tristram Peattie received £3650 in her part time role as an Early year's worker/administrative assistant.

8 Governance Costs

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2016	Total Funds 2015
Independent examination	1560	-	-	1560	1560
	1560	-	-	1560	1560

9 Fixed assets

a. Tangible fixed assets

	Equipment £	Furniture £	Total fixed assets £
Cost or valuation			
At 1 January 2016	2268	3479	5747
Additions			
Disposals			
At 31 December 2016	2268	3479	5747
Charge for impairment			
At 1 January 2016	(1134)	(1740)	(2874)
Additions	(567)	(870)	(1437)
Disposals	-	-	-
At 31 December 2016	(1701)	(2610)	(4311)
Net book amounts			
31 December 2016	£567	£869	£1436

b. Investments

	Endowment Fund £
Market value at 1 January 2016	62932
Surplus on revaluation	6986
Market value at 31 December 2016	£69918

10 Analysis of Net Assets by Fund

	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total funds 2016 £	Total funds 2015 £
Fixed Assets	1436	-	-	1436	2873
Investment fixed assets	-	-	69918	69918	62932
Current Assets (except cash)	30158	-	-	30158	54257
Cash at bank & on deposit	159033	5055	-	164088	195757
Current Liabilities	-9774	-	-	-9774	-7783
Fund balance	£180853	£5055	£69918	£255826	308036

11 Debtors

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total funds 2016	Total funds 2015
Income tax recoverable	6000	-	-	6000	6057
Prepayments	10529	-	-	10259	934
Other debtors	13899	-	-	13899	47266
	30158	-	-	30158	54257

12 Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total funds 2016	Total funds 2015
Accruals and deferred income	2960	-	-	2960	1954
Creditors for goods & services	6814	-	-	6814	5829
	9774	-	-	9774	7783

13 Statement of Funds

Endowed funds are required by the donors to be invested and the income spent on specific objectives.

The Garden Maintenance Fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (2961.0 shares), which requires income to be spent on maintenance of the church garden.

The Duplex Bequest is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (1509.7 shares), which requires the income to be given to charitable causes.

The Flower Fund is a permanent endowment, invested in CBF Investment Fund shares (179.0 shares), which requires the income to be spent on floral decoration of the church.

The CBF Investment Fund shares were valued at £15.0370 per share at 31 December 2016 (2015: £13.5346 per share).

Restricted funds are not invested permanently but are to be spent within reasonable timescales.

The restricted funds comprise;

The Garden Fund which holds income for the upkeep of the church garden.

The Flower Fund which holds income to provide for the floral decoration of the church.

The Charities Fund which holds income from the Duplex Bequest pending payment to charities.

13 Statement of Funds (continued)

St John School Governor's Fund which holds monies allocated by the PCC to meet costs incurred by governors in carrying out their roles.

Unrestricted funds are not subject to any donor restrictions and can be spent as the PCC decides.

The PCC has designated certain funds for administrative purposes and to set aside monies for future anticipated expenditure.

The designated funds comprise;

Parish Hall Fund to provide for the running costs and upkeep of the Parish Hall

Parish Hall Maintenance Fund to provide for maintaining the fabric of the Parish Hall

Reserve Fund to provide funds as a contingency and for the further development of the church.

Organ Fund to provide for future repairs to the organ

Repair Fund to provide for repairs and decoration of the church and replacement of equipment.

Roof Repair Fund to provide for future repairs to flat roofs as recommended in latest quinquennial report.

Summary of all Funds

Fund income and expenditure and final balances are as follows:

	Balances b/fwd 1 Jan 2016	Income	Expenditure	Transfers, other gains & losses	Balances c/fwd 31 Dec 2016
Garden Maintenance	40076	-	-	4449	44525
Duplex Bequest	20433	-	-	2268	22701
Flower Fund	2423	-	-	269	2692
Total of Endowed Funds	62932	-	-	6986	69918
Garden Fund	3530	1307	(2313)	(10)	2514
Charities Fund	-	661	-	(661)	-
Flower Fund	961	204	(189)	(138)	838
St John's School Governors	1932	-	(229)	-	1703
Total of Restricted Funds	6423	2172	(2731)	(809)	5055
General Fund	137904	193856	(211936)	(22291)	97533
<i>Designated Funds</i>					
Parish Hall Fund	10806	16058	(10921)	-	15943
Parish Hall Maintenance	10000	-	-	-	10000
Reserve Fund	50000	--	-	-	50000
Organ Fund	20151	1963	(33677)	13100	1537
Repair Fund	9820	-	(13980)	5000	840
Roof Repair Fund	-	-	-	5000	5000
Total of Unrestricted Funds	238681	211877	(270514)	809	180853
TOTAL FUNDS	308036	214049	(273245)	6986	255826

Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC of St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne for the Year Ended 31st December 2016

Section A

This is my report to the Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish (PCC) of St John Meads on the annual report for the year ended 31st December 2016 set out on pages 16 to 26

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner The PCC members are responsible for the preparation of the annual reports. The PCC members consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Charities Act") and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

1. examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act,
2. to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Charities Act, and
3. to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in, any material respect, the requirements:
 - a. to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - b. to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Examiner's signature *M J Neilan*

Examiner's name CAPITALS MICHAEL NEILAN

Date *24 March 2017*

Relevant professional qualification(s) or body if any Chartered Accountant

Examiner's address Price & Company, 30-32 Gildredge Road, Eastbourne

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

REPORT ON THE FABRIC, GOODS AND ORNAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The year began with the appointment of our new Inspecting Architect. The selection process had begun some months before but Phil Winch was formally appointed in April 2016. Phil works for CPL Architects and had been involved with the Jubilee Hall and investigating the damp on the south wall of the Church before his appointment.

One of the recommendations of the last quinquennial inspection was to replace the unusable and rotting wooden flagpole on the top of the tower. This was finally done in June 2016 in time for us to fly the flag for our own Church Fete and for the national celebrations around that time. The new pole is lightweight fibreglass; it will not require painting and is capable of being lowered, maintained and re-roped by members of the church, without involving specialists. (At the time of writing this has yet to be tested!). The south wall of the church has been treated with a substance having the trade name Prosoco which forms a breathable waterproof layer to repel heavy rain and hopefully to stop the damp, which was so obvious in the winter of a few years ago. So far it seems successful. In the tower, the stonework of the mullion window, which had been deteriorating rapidly, has been treated and restored.

In July PCC took the difficult decision not to replace immediately the cross on the roof. The temporary covering, which had been in place for over 12 months, was removed and the structure made good to stop water penetration for an indefinite period. The best form of replacement of the cross is under consideration by the PCC.

A damp patch in the Jubilee Hall was investigated and found to be due to poor workmanship in the original building. This was corrected, repaired and repainted at no cost to ourselves. A similar problem has now appeared in the access toilet and is likely to be of the same type.

At the time of writing we are planning to improve the security for personnel working inside the church and, in particular, the office. Work should be complete just after Easter. Additional minor work has been undertaken to provide more work area for the increasing work load of the office.

Following the catastrophic failure, of a number of the blue chairs, they were subsequently removed. These will be replaced once the DAC approve the replacement option.

Our Gardens continue to be a blessing to those in our church and surrounding community. A number of the benches having been refurbished; our thanks go to the Garden team for all their hard work.

Our application for church refurbishment continues to proceed. Once the DAC has finally agreed our plans we shall move on to the next stage of detailed costings and fund raising. We can also confirm that the Church inventory and terrier have been checked with all goods and ornaments accounted for, being present and correct, along with the completion of the logbook.

The quickening of the spirit is bringing with it the fact that more people and groups are using our buildings. This is a great blessing, but comes with the issue for all folk to consider the needs of others as we move around and use the facilities that we have, and share together. It also increases the amount of wear and tear on both the structure and fittings of these facilities. A key part of ensuring these are kept in good order often falls to a few committed members of the church. Her Majesty the Queen set out in her Coronation speech that the corner stones of her reign would be duty and service, and it is this sense of duty and service, through thick and thin, through all seasons of life, that I would encourage members of all of our community to step up to in whatever way they can and have been blessed with, to see that the harvest that God has for our church is brought in on our watch. Our Church community transcends individual allegiances and encompasses a vibrant thriving body and way of life for all to take part in.

Outstanding tasks for 2017 are to investigate and, hopefully, to cure the damp on the west window and in the tower. To redecorate the tower in this our Jubilee year.

Margaret Kowszun and Tony Mottram

REPORT ON THE DEANERY SYNOD PROCEEDINGS

Eastbourne and district Deanery Synod

The Deanery Synod for Eastbourne and district met 3 times over the past year.

The meetings are held at different Anglican churches around the deanery, with the October meeting at St John's Church, Meads.

The host Vicar always gives a brief introduction to their church. Giles focused on 2017 when we would be celebrating our diamond jubilee rededication of St John's, on completion of rebuilding after wartime bombing.

The meetings usually have a guest speaker. This year they included Revd. Rob Dillingham, Parish Development Officer; Canon Ann Holt, Diocesan Director of Education and the Ven. Edward Dowler, Archdeacon of Hastings.

Whilst these meetings are good for church representatives to get together and to hear interesting news and events around the diocese and beyond, it continues to be a disappointment to us as representatives of St John's Church that, as a Deanery, we fail to concern ourselves with the practicalities and support of one another as fellow workers within the Anglican Communion.

Keith Adams on behalf of our Deanery Synod Representatives.

St John the Evangelist, Meads, Eastbourne

Registered Charity no. 1131574

REPORTS FROM CHURCH ORGANISATIONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Growing in relationship with God and each other - *building belonging*

Prayer Ministry

Jesus stopped and called them. **‘What do you want me to do for you?’** he asked. Matthew 20.32

Sometimes we get so focused on what we can do for God that we forget that He wants to do things for us. We build up a model that says we have to cope by ourselves, and lose sight of God’s longing to restore us and make us whole. In prayer ministry we have the opportunity to come before God and to lay down before Him the things which are on our hearts. Of course, we can do this by ourselves in our own prayer time, but there is something powerful about coming to God supported by the prayer of others.

There are many opportunities for prayer: on Sundays in the Gregory Chapel during Communion or following other services, on the last Thursday of the month after the 11.00 am service of Holy Communion, and you may see people praying for one another during coffee time. Please make use of these opportunities to ask for prayer for yourself or a friend, or to come and give thanks for answered prayer.

When you come for prayer you can share as much or as little as you like and you can be assured that whatever you say will be kept in confidence. Those praying will invite Jesus to come, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and will then wait on God, listening for whatever He might want to say into this situation. We pray with confidence that God always answers our prayers, although not always immediately or in the way we might expect! The first result of committing a problem to God is often a sense of peace and an increased awareness of his presence with us.

We try to meet as a team every few months, and would welcome new members so if you would like to be involved in this ministry please speak to me.

Jill Preece

Pastoral care

The opportunities for pastoral care within the church will never diminish, and while Linking Lives Eastbourne offers visitors to those outside the church, we have many within the church who also appreciate regular visitors. Much of this pastoral care within the church goes on ‘under the radar’, as people look out for one another: visiting and caring for others as part of their daily life. It is a natural working out of faith and daily discipleship – the ‘in’ element of our 3 dimensions of growth as disciples. Over the past year this care has continued to support many in our church family and we are immensely grateful to those who offer this care.

There are times however when a more formal structure to our pastoral care is helpful. It can help to spread the load for those supporting, and ensure that no-one slips through the net. It is also important to know when one who has been offering care to others is no longer able to offer that help, but perhaps needs support themselves. In the coming year we would like to develop this ministry to one another, putting a framework in place that will still allow the natural care we already offer, but ensures that loads are shared and no-one is missed. Please pray about how you might be involved in this and watch for more details.

Jill Preece

Church Music

Happily the last year has been a period of expansion in music for the liturgy and provision for a more diverse range of services. A regular pattern of Matins and Choral Evensong has been established, supported by our loyal and hardworking choir. In September we combined with St. Saviour's Church choir to sing Evensong there and a few weeks later they returned the compliment by joining us for a combined service of Evensong at St. John's, accompanied by members of their congregation. In addition to our regular services we established a new venture on the first Sunday of Advent, a service termed "From Darkness to Light". This was based on the very popular annual Advent service at Salisbury Cathedral, beginning in total darkness and as the service progresses with appropriate words and music, more illumination is added illustrating our journey through Advent to Christmas.

A few weeks later followed the Carol Service lead by the St. John's Singers who sang two solo carols and a group of young brass players adding an unusual rendering of Silent Night, certainly ensuring that all would be awake to greet the Happy Morn. Much appreciated by all.

Our Remembrance Day service was as usual a moving experience, with the notable contribution of Colin Ball playing the euphonium in the Last Post which sounds so well in our acoustic.

We have continued with a diverse range of concerts. A visiting German male voice choir, Di Alten Knaben, gave us a delightful evening in May with music ranging from German 17th century to Beatles. They were most interested in the history of the church and were pleased to sing as the first German choir here since the bombing and rebuilding, very much in a spirit of reconciliation through music. They were a thoroughly delightful group. The Renaissance Singers gave their customary Advent and Epiphany Meditations which were well supported, the former raising several hundred pounds for Bloodwise, the Lymphoma and Leukaemia research charity. Coffee Concerts continued with an August Bank Holiday organ recital by Brian Steer marking his retirement from the organist's position. He entitled it "Organ music you will never hear on a Sunday morning" and sure enough after various marching and dancing numbers including a "Church mouse on a spree" the audience found themselves singing along to our local 'hymn', Sussex by the Sea. This was the first time the organ had been heard in concert following completion of the restoration, and it showed its metal in an amazing variety of tone colour, even becoming a theatre organ at one point. Thanks are due again to Helen and John Roe for providing and installing the big screen video to display the organist's antics.

Following Brian's retirement in September, David Oakenfold assisted by Rachael Maddock have taken over the organ console and continue to maintain the high standard and develop music for the church. Our thanks also go to those that have helped us in special services, including George Oakenfold when on release from Salisbury Cathedral, Colin Ball for playing the baritone euphonium and many friends from outside St. John's who have swelled our numbers in the Choir Gallery for notable services.

David Oakenfold and Brian Steer.

Home Groups

There are currently around 140 members of our 13 Home Groups. These take place on Monday morning and Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons and evenings.

People value their Home Group highly for the friendship, the fellowship and the sheer enjoyment. Groups vary in size from around 8 to around 16: we get to know each other well and we look after each other. Meetings usually last around an hour and a half. Groups generally focus on a Bible passage for the main part of the meeting, which helps us as we seek to deepen our relationship with God. This in turn helps us as we look to love our neighbour and be an active Christian presence in the community. We also have times of prayer, when we think of those who are in need as well as praising God for his blessings.

Home Groups are also simply a lot of fun. Over refreshments we can chatter at length and put the world to rights. If you would like to consider joining a Home Group please contact Peter Pickett on 731709 or Nick Pendry on 737593.

Nick Pendry

Altar Flowers

Thank you to those who have helped to arrange the altar flowers over the past year. There has been a drop in the number of church members assisting with this important aspect of church life and new recruits are always welcome whether this be to arrange the altar pedestal on a regular basis or take on more complicated arrangements at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

During the year there have been a number of funerals and weddings when outside agencies have supplied the arrangements to decorate the church. These arrangements are often left for the benefit of the church and congregation but in these cases volunteer input is still necessary to facilitate access, organise use of stands and be responsible for the care, watering and disposal of the same.

Thanks should also go to those who have donated money for altar flower arrangements in memory of a loved one or to mark a special anniversary or occasion.

Jean Tucker

Catering and Hospitality

The first event following last year's AGM was the church BBQ lunch at the end of April, an opportunity for the church family to hear Giles' plans for the future. Then the fête in June when many helpers served tea and cakes, ice cream and cold drinks to a great many visitors. The Queen's 90th birthday was a great Meads event and many St John's people were involved in this. The next challenge was the Harvest Lunch, always an enjoyable event with the Jubilee Hall packed to capacity for a hot lunch of bangers and mash, apple pie and custard.

Throughout the year the catering team has been busy providing refreshments for, or assisting with, a variety of events including funerals, the Remembrance Day tea, Deanery meetings and special occasions such as the leaving party for our organist Brian Steer when we served Prosecco and an iced cake. The traditional mince pies and sherry at Christmas and hot cross buns at Easter continue and lots of cakes and tea at the Advent and Epiphany concerts is always appreciated.

The monthly lunch club at St John's Hall continues to be a great success and is open to anyone seeking fellowship and a hearty lunch. Several members of our catering team are involved with this venture and numbers have increased to over forty.

The weekly coffee, tea and refreshments served after the 9.30 service play a major role in providing an opportunity for fellowship among church members. Sally Scott Ralph has taken over this role and we wish her well. However, we can only continue providing this service to the congregation if we are able to recruit new helpers. If you are interested in helping please speak to Sally and she will give you details of what is involved.

We would not be able to provide for these events without the support of those members of the congregation who are willing to bake cakes and work so hard when required. We are thankful to have such an able and happy team and are always pleased to welcome any new people who would like to offer their services.

Pam and Ken Mayhew.

Connexions

During 2016 we had 53 adults and 16 children attend a 'Connexions' afternoon at the Vicarage. We all enjoy chatting to each other and drinking cups of tea and plenty of scones with jam and cream and fancy cakes on the table! The refreshments are supplied and hosted by Rachel for which we are very grateful. This is a great opportunity for newcomers to get together informally with other church members and spend time getting to know each other. Those attending always comment on how useful the afternoon has been and the opportunity to chat and ask questions. After refreshments the adults meet in the lounge and the children are looked after by Hannah, Jessie, Libby and Charlie when necessary.

The summer months were great fun as we were able to have tea in the garden and the children enjoyed playing outside, especially on Charlie's trampoline or football when appropriate! In the lounge Giles talks to the group about the Mission of St. John's showing a video displaying the various activities in which the church is involved. Tris also talks about the children's work and Rowena speaks about the social activities in the church. These gatherings are very important in following up new members and encouraging them to be involved in the life of St. John's.

Rowena Adams

Reaching out to the community around us – *hospitality to the fringe*

PaperBack Library/Coffee Pot

We are again thankful that the PBL and Coffee Pot continue to provide this 'St. John's Service to Meads' – books, computer help from our 'partners' CPC (Coffee Pot Computing) and Hearing Aid help from Don and Pam Brooksbank. This in spite of the sad and serious loss of the services so cheerfully provided by the Harris family.

For several decades Jack and May, ably supported by several members of their family (none of them active members of St. John's) on Friday mornings at about 06.00 in setting up and later packing up, commissariat supplies, flower arrangements, washing tea towels, running building repairs, etc. etc. – but both May and Jack now have very serious health problems, and have had to 'retire' from active service here. We are most grateful to them and their family for all the hard and sometimes skilled work unstintingly given over so many years.

The surviving 'staff' set up at 22.00 on Thursdays, ably helped by Clive, an excellent volunteer; Fridays are as popular as ever, with many offers of help at closing time. We serve about 100 coffees and teas, and there is a steady supply of 'new' paperbacks and jigsaws, and some DVD's etc. On the last Friday in every month, Don and Pam Brooksbank give much valued Hearing Aid help.

The 'Library' is very informal, with no booking in or out; a listening ear where someone can listen with sympathy and advice – but no pressure to take advice or make any commitment. We are pleased and thankful to be able to serve in this way.

John and Helen Roe

Links

The aim of a link is to be a volunteer member of the Church who looks after a small area of the parish where they live. A link will also welcome new neighbours to the Parish and to Meads with the latest Parish Magazine. Links are also asked to deliver Christmas, Easter and Harvest leaflets and also inform residents of special occasions at St. John's.

We meet twice a year in April and October to think about our role in the Parish, share news and pray for the Parish. There are still some roads and blocks of flats without a Link member so if you think you could join the link scheme you would be very welcome. Our next meeting is on April 26 at 10.30 a.m. in the Pauling Room; come and join us for coffee to see if you could help.

Sylvia Pettingell

Outreach to the housebound including PARCHE (Pastoral Action in Residential Care Homes for the Elderly)

The witness and ministry of those who visit and support so many in our parish is a vital part of our commitment to love and serve our community, and we are grateful to all those who express God's love in this way.

Sarah Hassell now leads a team taking a service of Holy Communion in Elstree Court each month. This is greatly appreciated by the residents, some of whom join us at St John's on Sundays.

Unfortunately our involvement at Chaseley has ceased for the time being, although we hope to offer pastoral support whenever it might be needed.

Under the PARCHE umbrella we have responsibility for three care homes in the parish: Alma Lodge, Camelot and Meads House. Each month a team from St John's leads a service of familiar hymns, Bible readings and prayers, which again is greatly appreciated by residents and staff. Other care homes in the parish, including Elstree, are visited by PARCHE teams from other churches.

The services for the housebound on the Mondays following festivals such as Easter and Harvest have also ceased for the present, as, while those attending are happily living longer, they are generally becoming more frail and reluctant to venture out. It is hoped these services might start again soon.

St John's is one of the churches in Eastbourne that leads Sunday afternoon services at the DGH. The two services this year were well supported by 20 or so people from St John's. The number of patients from the Wards varies and others come and join in including members of the chaplaincy team. The service is broadcast on the hospital radio so hopefully many more join in on the wards. The service begins at 5.00 pm and lasts 30 minutes.

May I extend a heartfelt 'thank you' to all those who take part in these activities – these are important and much valued ministries, and they could not continue without your support. If anyone would like to join in any of these teams we would love to hear from you.

Jill Preece

MISSION

Note 4 to the Annual Financial Report gives details of the Missionary and Charitable giving by St John's during 2016 and other charitable giving is noted in the Trustees' Annual Report. A total of £23,031 was given via the church accounts whilst two other charities, Christian Aid and Caring and Sharing were supported directly through their own envelope collections. The total giving included a voluntary tithe on the church's income of £14,000 that the PCC allocated to a total of sixteen missions and charities, including six Eastbourne-based Christian charities. Harvest Festival gifts in kind were also distributed to local charities and weekly gifts of food were sent to the Food bank.

The mission charities receiving ongoing support from the church are grouped into three categories: international, local, and a group of four others that have been traditionally supported by St John's. The proposed international group includes two larger charities – **Church Mission Society** supporting the training and development of clergy in churches overseas, and **Tear Fund** for development and disaster relief wherever the need is greatest - plus two smaller charities – **Open Doors** actively working in support of persecuted churches and **Revive** aiding street children in Brazil. Support for these four charities will be given via the tithe and through appeals and donations from individuals. The four appeals will be based upon Lent, summer (St John's day?), harvest and Christmas.

The local group of charities to be supported will be reduced to seven charities: **St Wilfrid's Hospice, Beachy Head Chaplaincy Team, CDAFSW, Winter Night Shelter, Matthew 25, Eastbourne Foodbank and Linking Lives**. Donations will be invited via the weekly news sheet, the notice board and occasional special appeals. These charities will also receive a share of the tithe.

The final group of charities that will continue to be given ongoing support has been reduced to just four charities: **Malawi Association for Christian Support, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Church Army** and **Mission to Seafarers**. These four charities will be considered for ongoing support each year and will receive a share of the tithe.

Clive Dilloway

CAMEO

It was wonderful to see so many ladies from our congregation coming to our meetings during 2016. In January Julia Smith gave us an interesting talk on the work of the Shaftesbury Society in Eastbourne and in February we were delighted to welcome ladies from our Vicar's previous church to demonstrate their Prayer Quilt Ministry which gave us much food for thought. Ann Wilson, Secretary of the Friends of DGH spoke to us in April about their work in supporting our local hospital and the following month Jacqui Greenstreet came to show us how flowers could be arranged. Her five beautiful and differing arrangements were raffled, the lucky winners choosing one of the arrangements. A lovely July day saw us welcoming Ruth and Robin Foster who gave us a musical afternoon playing the harp and Q-chord which was followed by a traditional Strawberry and Cream tea. Following her interesting visit in 2015 Dr Helen Rufus- Ward joined

us in September to show us the wonders of Hagia Sophia: Constantinople's 6th century Church of Holy Wisdom, again her talk was much appreciated.

Our main charitable event was our Pink afternoon held in October when everyone was encouraged to wear something pink and bring something for the Bring and Buy Sale in aid of breast cancer and we were delighted to be able to send over £300 to Breast Cancer Care. We ended the year with the Seaford Bell Ringers leading us in a celebration of Christmas. The success of the programme is due to the hard work of the team consisting of Carolyn, Brenda, Patricia, Pauline, Rowena and Toni but we all feel that the Lord has blessed our work for this group whose aim is to provide enjoyment and fellowship to the ladies of St John's.

Carolyn Lacy

Summer Fete 2016

The Summer Fete held on Saturday 3 June, was organised and co-ordinated by Jo Naunton. It was a huge success and the weather was extremely kind to us. There was music by the Eastbourne Silver Band, a bouncy castle, face painting, bottle tombola, raffle and many lovely stalls plus our very popular cake stall, refreshments and what turned out to be an extremely popular burger & hot dog stand. Everyone worked really hard and the atmosphere throughout the whole afternoon was 'buzzing'. Everyone enjoyed themselves sitting listening to the band, eating burgers and ice cream and enjoying the sunshine.

We raised over £2000 that afternoon which is fantastic.

A massive thank you to everyone who helped in some way, large or small, to make the afternoon a complete success.

Joanne Naunton

Eastbourne Foodbank

The Eastbourne Foodbank continues to flourish, in name, what it offers and with an increasing number of clients being helped and all this is achieved with the generosity of churches such as St John's.

The foodbank has been living under a sword of Damocles for the past year with the closure of St Andrews Church in Blackwater Road and the site being put up for sale for redevelopment. This has put considerable pressure on the Operations Director to find a suitable alternative property located somewhere close to the centre of town and this has proved extremely difficult. A number of properties have been considered, but have not proved suitable due to the cost of making the property sound and appropriate for the foodbank use. As I write this report all is not totally lost as 2 properties are currently under consideration but time is not on the foodbank side. Planning permission has now been submitted to EBC for the partial demolition of St Andrews and Albury House where the foodbank is located; the clock is ticking.

The number of people seen continues to rise and 8271 were given food in 2016 and the Eastbourne ward with the highest demand is the Meads Ward 1826 requests, a statistic many people will find difficult to believe.

The foodbank continues to widen its horizons with increased Advocacy work, assisting people with benefit issues, financial problems and housing needs, it's not just food.

Clothing and bedding has become a major player in what the foodbank offers and this has proved to be a sought after service with quality items on offer. A new initiative which started last year is the provision of a Moses Basket filled with numerous items required for a mother with a new baby who has nothing and this is run in conjunction with Eastbourne Health Visitors and DGH Midwifery team.

All in all another very busy year for the foodbank, but none of this would be possible without YOUR help and the foodbank thanks you for your generosity.

Dennis Thompson

Trustee of the Eastbourne Foodbank

Men's Breakfasts

These bi-monthly meetings have now been running for four years and continue to attract regular and new members who appreciate not only the fellowship but a hearty (no pun intended) breakfast. We start with a prayer and a 'thought for the day' before getting to know each other better and putting the world to rights over breakfast. New members will always receive a warm welcome and if you are an existing member why not bring along a friend or neighbour – but don't forget to tell the organiser.

We are grateful to the team at the Holywell cafe who always do us proud but on a couple of occasions this year we were obliged to breakfast in the Jubilee Hall with bacon butties expertly produced by Dennis and Graham. We are all also pleased and thankful to see Vic back amongst us after his illness and again are appreciative to Dennis for keeping the show on the road in Vic's absence.

Anon.

St John's Scrabble Club

Our Scrabble Club meets twice a month in the Jubilee Hall at 2.30 pm. on the second Monday and last Wednesday of each month. Our members who come along have a really enjoyable time with refreshments during the afternoon. Beginners to experienced player most welcomed. Our club reaches out to everyone, men and ladies, whether they attend church or not. Any donations which are received go towards our Church funds.

Pam Lade

Parish Hall

During 2016 the hall has continued to be a very popular venue, with increased usage in a large variety of areas which has produced a steady rise in income. We have had many new hirers who have become regulars and have made long term bookings into 2017 (and some into 2018).

Some of these include:-

- Dog Training – once a week
- Art Class which meets twice a week and a Creative Writing Workshop once a week (both run by the same person)

We also have many children's parties which is a great source of income.

- The Brownies (who used to have the hall for free continue to make an annual donation of £80).
- We shall be undertaking works in 2017 to our toilet areas to give them a facelift and will also be creating more storage space by having some new cupboards built.

Rosie Whittaker our cleaner/caretaker has continued to look after the flower beds and garden area of the Parish Hall. We have some new shrubs and flowers which have improved the look of the garden area. Thanks also to Rosie, as usual, for the work she does at the Hall. She's continued to care for the Hall and has also helped set up for the Lunch Club each month.

The Hall has continued to go from strength to strength during 2016 and the diary is full throughout 2017. Our Parish Hall is most definitely a much loved and well used facility which continues to be greatly appreciated throughout the Meads community.

Joanne Naunton

Church Garden

The gardens provide a beautiful tranquil space which is enjoyed by church goers, Meads dwellers walkers and even tourists who venture away from the promenade. The Memorial Garden on the south side of the church contains the scattered ashes of loved ones. Flowers or crosses are left there on special occasions or anniversaries and the benches are used by many for quiet contemplation or prayer.

The gardens are maintained by a small band of volunteers and only the lawns are mown professionally. Each volunteer takes on a section of the flower beds and another volunteer trims the shrubs and paints the benches. Sadly the group is gradually diminishing and we are always looking for more help but we manage to keep them looking good by just taking on a little more. The gardeners are co-ordinated by another volunteer and meet together over cake and coffee a couple of times a year to chat about their upkeep and any plants or equipment that is required. Like most gardens we have a shed where we keep our equipment and a diary of notes throughout the season.

The gardens provide a small but important part of church life and St John's contribution to the Meads' community.

Karen Fletcher-Wright

Lunch Club

In January 2015 we launched our new Lunch Club at the Parish Hall and since then we've held a Club every month. The idea was to target people who wanted to come along for a light lunch (soup, jacket potato, ploughman's etc.) and enjoy some companionship, especially those who may not have many people to talk to on a regular basis. It began with relatively small numbers (15 – 20 people) but has grown during the past year to a regular number of about 30 – 35 each month.

Everyone who comes to the Lunch Club really enjoys the food and has a really pleasant time chatting to others.

An enormous thank you goes to every single person on both lunch teams, who work so hard to ensure everyone is fed and happy. Thanks also to Rosie, as she sets up for the Lunch Club each month.

The Hall has continued to go from strength to strength during 2016. With the launch of the Lunch Club our Parish Hall is most definitely a much loved and well used facility which continues to be greatly appreciated throughout the Meads community.

Joanne Naunton

Children and Families

Sunday Club

A Families worker Tristram Peattie has been in place since April 2015. This post is shared between the Church and St John's C of E Primary School, this works out as 2 days with the school and 3 with the church on a weekly basis. Tris oversees the young people's work at St John's Church. We have also appointed an early year's worker- Hannah Peattie to support this work with a particular focus on the growing Parent and Toddler group and pre-school work. Tris and Hannah also run a Home group specifically aimed at supporting Parents and our Volunteers. Out of this we ran an Alpha Course. We will again be looking to continue running an Alpha course for those who would like to find out more about the Christian faith.

The children are split into age appropriate groups as follows, all of these take place during the 9.30 service. Currently Street wise is not running on a Sunday Morning but will be restarting soon as we are recruiting new leaders.

RISING STARS- This group is for all pre-school children. Parents are welcome to leave the children, or stay in with them. The group is held in the Pauling Room. There is a time of free play, a craft activity and a bible story. We finish with a time of singing.

We are aiming to increase our leaders on this team to enable adults to feel more comfortable leaving their children in the group on their own and this will give more space as less people are in the room.

BIG GOD SPACE- This group is for children aged Reception- Year 6 and is held in the Jubilee Hall. A variety of multimedia is used to teach and inspire the children. Every week lighting and decorations help create a warm and inviting atmosphere for the children. We have a focus on prayer and making the teaching visual for the children. We have weekly prizes and a game each week.

We aim to offer more chances for the children to engage in worship in this room.

STREET WISE- This group is for secondary school children aged year 7 upwards and the group is held in the Lodge. Streetwise also meet socially every fortnight on a Sunday evening during term time. The Lodge has been completely re-decorated and is now a bright fantastic venue for our youth to meet in.

We are aiming to have a weekly Sunday meeting in the evening for this group.

PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP- This group is run every week during term time on a Thursday Morning from 10:00-11:30. This is led by Hannah Peattie our early year's worker. This group is continuing to flourish and grow. We have parents who come early to help set up and great volunteers who serve tea, coffee snacks and make people feel really welcome. On average in 2017, 26 children attend each week. The group offers a nurturing friendly environment to build community and have fun. It has developed to offer a continuous snack time for children, well prepared activity stations, a time of singing, a short prayer and mini special events and celebrations throughout the year.

Teaching Material used-

Scripture Union material is still used as the basis for planning by the helpers in all groups to prepare for each Sunday. However the designated leaders also spend time adapting the material to make sure we teach more than just stories from the bible, but rather make it applicable to their daily lives. Further information can be found at

www.scriptureunion.org.uk/light

2016/17	Rising Stars	Big God Space	Street Wise	Total
February	8.5	10.5	3.5	22.5
March	11.5	7	4	22.5
April	13.6	9.6	6	29.2
May	13	8.6	4.4	26
June	11.5	8.5	3.8	23.8
July	Summer break	Summer break	Summer break	
August	Summer break	Summer break	Summer break	
September	13.3	11.3	5.7	30.3
October	9	7.3	6	22.3
November	14	7.5	4.3	25.8
December	14	12.5	5.5	30.8
January	11.6	10.6	5.2	27.4
February	12.3	6.7	4.7	23.7

This year we have enjoyed seeing the children from all the groups enrich some of our celebration services, through drama, worship and prayers. We have enjoyed Harvest and Nativity Services which they have lead well. We have also been privileged to host the St John's Primary School church choir.

At the beginning of our 9:30 church services we regularly start with a children's song to engage them with worship and create a sense of them belonging and being an important part of our church community.

We have continued to update our resources and storage to make the most of our facilities to serve these young people.

School Links

This year under our reader Sarah Hassell's leadership we have begun Open the Book assemblies at St John's Primary School and have two teams of volunteers going in regularly to present Bible stories to the children in an engaging way. We have continued to support St John's Primary School through Communion services, Big God Breakfasts, Prayer Spaces, and Assisting with RE lessons, visits to the church, hosting school church services, leading Assemblies and developing and implementing the Christian ethos of the school.

Tristram Peattie

St John's Meads Church of England Primary School

Following an Ofsted Inspection in June 2016 St John's Meads was rated Good. *Comments from the inspector were 'leadership team has maintained the good quality of education in the school since the last inspection.....high expectations of pupils and staff and aspirations are high.'*

The St John's Meads church and school links have developed further over the year.

Our links with Frant CE and Mark Cross CE have continued with All Saints' and St Richard's CE joining this partnership September 2016. As I move between the four schools I am constantly bringing the best practice from each school to the others. Individual schools can become entrenched in the ways things are done and forget there are other ways which may be better, refreshing and in the interests of the children.

All four schools in the current partnership are church schools and this has proven to be invaluable when bringing ideas and best practice in RE and worship across. Tris Peattie our Children and Families Worker, is active in supporting the Christian Ethos and SMSC implementation, developing RE, reflection, Collective Worship and building the relationship between St John's Church and St John's Meads CE Primary School.

We have opportunities to reflect on some of the huge events of the Bible through our Prayer Spaces. Looking at some of the things going on in this world in a safe environment and carrying out a fun reflective activity, which can then be turned to prayer in a meaningful way is an amazing asset to our children. We hold Prayer spaces in our library manned by volunteers from St John's Church and give every child in the school the opportunity to participate in these activities over two days.

Tris has contributed much to RE lessons throughout the school to all age groups. the school offering for example, real life links through his missionary friends in Malawi to Y6. The children have had contact with the missionaries to inspire them and enable them to experience how missionary work in Malawi can deepen their understanding of what faith looks like when it is impacting other cultures. We also continue to forge our own link with Chilwa 2 school in Malawi having visits regular from Starfish Malawi for assemblies and linking through our Facebook page with the school itself on a regular basis. We continue to support the school with resources, clothing, sports equipment which is sent via the Starfish Malawi container annually.

In December, KS2 children were given their own individual bibles for use in the classroom and also to take home. This was funded by St John's Church and Andy Best attended the 'Year of the Bible' service at St John's Church.

Through our Collective Worship we are privileged to receive Ministers from different churches who regularly input into our times of collective worship. Every week children will lead an act of worship and will lead in input, worship and prayer. We also encourage the children to feedback and reflect on the acts of Worship they have experienced throughout the week. Children are able to pray and write prayers at our reflective station, which always runs with a Christian theme. These prayers are then used in our acts of Collective Worship. All classes are now reflecting on collective Worship and these reflections are put together in a special book.

Communion: Adults and staff are given the opportunity to participate in Communion as part of the school community this is led by our local Vicar Rev Giles.

We have a rainbow vision which reflects the heart of how we would like to see our Christian values positively impacting the school. Each strand of our vision has a corresponding Scripture linked to it. School rules and routines are built around the rainbow vision to deepen children's understanding.

Our communication with parents and the community have been developed through our weekly newsletter, website, Facebook and Youtube. The website has been updated to ensure its Christian Distinctiveness has an even greater focus. We are grateful to the congregation of St John's Church for keeping us in their prayers.

Alison Flynn
Executive Headteacher