



## Annual Report 2017

presented to the St. Mary's Annual Meeting  
April 15th 2018

St. Mary's Church

c/o The Vicarage | Church Rd | Wootton | Bedford | MK43 9HF

01234 765375/768391 | [office@stmaryswootton.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryswootton.org.uk) | [www.stmaryswootton.org.uk](http://www.stmaryswootton.org.uk)

## Vision Statement (what we aim to become)

## St Mary's 2016-2020 will be:

One body of wholehearted worshipping disciples, ever more deeply rooted in the Bible & prayer, growing together in holiness and every-member ministry to become a family of:



- **loving welcome**, caring for one another with the love of Jesus Christ
- **passionate proclamation**, committed to reaching the people of Wootton, Stewartby and beyond, with the vital good news of Jesus Christ for a lost world
- **glad service**, dedicated to being salt and light for Jesus Christ in the world
- **global heart**, BOTH prayerfully and practically engaged in the worldwide mission of the church, AND training and sending men and women into gospel ministry within and beyond the parish
- **sacrificial change**, giving generously of ourselves, our money, and our talents to realise this vision

## Values Statement (what matters to us)

We believe that we are reconciled to God the Father through faith in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit, and therefore we value:

<b>The Bible</b>	as the written word of God and our supreme authority in following Jesus in the whole of life.
<b>Prayer</b>	as the prime expression of faith in Jesus and of our dependence on God's loving grace and sovereign power in all things.
<b>Church</b>	as a family of wholehearted worshippers and disciples of Jesus Christ committed to mutual encouragement, care, and accountability.
<b>Evangelism</b>	as the proclamation of the good news of God's salvation in Christ for all people
<b>Service</b>	as a family of God's people caring for people in Wootton and Stewartby and beyond with the love of Christ.

## Identity Statement (who we are)



## We are...

<b>Christ's church:</b>	the church is the bride and body of Jesus Christ; it is through him alone, revealed to us by the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures, that we know God; it is through the power of the Holy Spirit that we worship and serve Christ; and it is Christ's future return which is our hope and motivation for life.
<b>A local church:</b>	a full and authentic expression of the universal church, called into being and sustained by God's word. We have a specific responsibility to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God in Christ among the people of the parish of Wootton. We are also called to involvement with the world-wide mission of the whole church.
<b>An Anglican church:</b>	while we welcome Christians of all backgrounds, our permanent and most visible connection is with the Church of England. We accept and uphold its founding documents (The Thirty-Nine Articles of Religion, the Book of Common Prayer, and the Ordinal) as authentic expressions of orthodox Christian belief. We are committed to supporting and encouraging biblical faith and practice in the Anglican Communion, both within and beyond the diocese of St Albans.
<b>An evangelical church:</b>	we recognise the convictions of historic evangelicalism as crystallising and expressing the kernel of orthodox Christianity, including: the supreme authority of Scripture; the universal nature of human sin; the grace of God, seen above all in the substitutionary atoning death of Jesus Christ; and the gift of justification and new life in Christ, received and enjoyed only through repentance and faith. We value the examples, among others, of the sixteenth-century reformers, the eighteenth-century evangelists, and the nineteenth-century social reformers. We are committed to gospel partnership with evangelical mission agencies, as well as with our patron, the Martyrs' Memorial and Church of England Trust, and the Church Pastoral Aid Society.

# Introduction

*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

Hebrews 13 v8

On Sunday 15th April we hold our church Annual Meeting – reviewing 2017, looking forward in 2018. This report from the Church Council is the basis for the review.

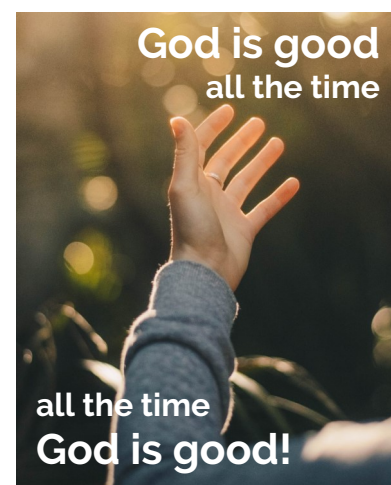
Every year brings change. In fact, change is at the heart of the Christian life. According to the Bible, Jesus Christ is unchanging and unchangeable. And the calling of every Christian is to 'grow up into Him', as members of his body. The mission of every church is to promote this growth.

The pages of this report outline this disciple-making, disciple-shaping ministry at St Mary's in 2017. I am full of gratitude and wonder for all the Lord enabled us to accomplish. Here is devoted service, generous giving, courageous outreach, and loving care. And much more. Rejoice!

And do not be dismayed that there are also shortcomings, changes that have been hard to bear, challenges we have not met. The growth process is not yet complete in any of us – but Jesus really is 'the same yesterday and today and forever'. Our confidence as we look to the future is not in ourselves or the record of our achievements, but only in Him.

Yours in his service

Peter Ackroyd  
Vicar  
27th March 2018



## PCC Members

Peter Ackroyd (chair), Emma Hearn (co-opted as secretary), Steve Rowse (treasurer), Anthony Hall (warden), Hazel Sanders (warden), Lucas Durant (curate), Pauline Kendall (Deanery Synod rep), Jim Hignett (Reader and Deanery Synod rep), Tim Dillistone (Deanery Synod rep), Kirsten Knight, Dorothy Teh, Maria Richardson, Derrick Lowe, Allyson Cable, Josh Kendall (resigned Sept 2017).

**Voted onto PCC April 2017:** Allyson Cable, Derrick Lowe.

**Those whose PCC term ended in April 2017:** Emma Hearn, Sally Snelson.

**Structure, governance and management:** The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll.

**This report has been adopted by the PCC at its final meeting before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.**



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## PCC Aims and Ministry

Wootton PCC is responsible in partnership with the vicar for promoting the whole mission of the church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - in the ecclesiastical parish of Wootton (which includes Stewartby).

In planning and overseeing the mission of the church, the incumbent and PCC consider the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and especially the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We aim to equip Christians to live out their faith in Christ through:

- church services and prayer
- bible study groups and training
- young people's activity and educational involvement
- pastoral care for parishioners
- evangelism
- partnership in world mission

Our Mission Action Plan, adopted in 2016, calls on us to become over 2016-20:

One body of wholehearted worshipping disciples, ever more deeply rooted in the Bible & prayer, growing together in holiness and every-member ministry to become a family of:

- **loving welcome**, caring for one another with the love of Jesus Christ
- **passionate proclamation**, committed to reaching the people of Wootton, Stewartby, and beyond, with the vital good news of Jesus Christ for a lost world
- **glad service**, dedicated to being salt and light for Jesus Christ in the world
- **global heart**, both prayerfully and practically engaged in the worldwide mission of the church, and training and sending men and women into gospel ministry within and beyond the parish
- **sacrificial change**, giving generously of ourselves, our money, and our talents to realise this vision

To this end the PCC has adopted a detailed plan of action with priority goals in the following areas: corporate prayer; making new disciples; equipping leaders and disciple-makers; and ministry to children and young people. Progress towards realising the plan goals is reviewed at each PCC meeting.

The vicar and PCC are supported in the church's mission by PCC committees, by a part-time employed administrator, and by teams of volunteer helpers, appointed by the PCC and vicar. Jim Hignett served as a licensed Reader, supervised in his post-licensing training (IME2) by the Vicar, and attending regular diocesan training events. We continued to have responsibility within the diocese of St Albans as a training parish for first-post curates, and during the year Lucas Durant, supported by his wife Catherine, assumed responsibility for the church's evangelistic ministry, as well as leading the monthly 'messy church' Encompass meeting.

In September at the beginning of his second-year as a part-time student on the Cornhill Training Course in London, Joshua Kendall began a one-year appointment as part time children's and youth worker.

To support the church's ministry the PCC maintains the fabric of St Mary's church, the church hall and grounds, and the curate's house. No major works were undertaken on the church or hall beyond routine maintenance. However, following the collapse into the churchyard of a large ash tree from a neighbouring property on Christmas Eve 2016, major repairs to the south porch were required. These were completed during the year with the support of the PCC's insurers, the Ecclesiastical Insurance Company. The PCC took the opportunity to renew the roof of the south porch, which was discovered to be deteriorating.

2018 also brought the quinquennial inspection of the fabric by the church architect. Items for urgent attention are principally the roofs above the vestry and crèche, and the stonework of some parapets. The PCC has reviewed the architect's report and commissioned action on matters requiring urgent attention.

The PCC is a charitable corporate body established in law and operating under the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956, as amended, and the Church Representation Rules 2011. It is registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

During the year the PCC agreed revised Safeguarding policies for both young people and vulnerable adults. Appropriate training, guidance, and checks are received by all who have regular contact with young people and vulnerable adults. The PCC has reviewed its policies in light of guidance from the Church of England. The PCC is accordingly happy to confirm that it has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).



## Public Worship and Prayer

A range of Sunday services were offered. At 9am a weekly service according to the Book of Common Prayer alternated between The Lord's Supper and Morning Prayer and attracted 15-20 people. Adult attendance at the 10.30am service, including children's groups and a crèche facility, was normally 75-85, with around 15 children. The Lord's Supper was celebrated once per month. A Prayer Service was held on the second Sunday monthly. Once a month a Sunday Plus meeting was held, with the aim of equipping church members to think biblically about contemporary issues; however, this meeting, held in the vicarage, became progressively less well-attended and was discontinued at the end of the year.

Morning sermon series during the year included the book of Jonah, forgiveness, the Sermon on the Mount, 1 Corinthians 1-4 and Isaiah 1-12, as well as short series on key Reformation truths and the Second Coming of Christ.

A monthly mid-week 'messy church' held in the church hall - Encompass - served younger families in Wootton and attracts a regular attendance of 60-70 adults and children. A large team of helpers sustained this venture and as well as building links with many families in the local community. During the year, Hazel Sanders stepped down from overall leadership of Encompass after five years, and was succeeded by Lucas Durant. Families attending now receive a booklet containing family bible studies following the monthly Encompass theme, to encourage continued engagement and discipleship.

A service of confirmation was held on a Sunday evening in January. By permission of the bishop of St Albans, four candidates from St Mary's were confirmed in a service full of his characteristic passion and encouragement by longstanding St Mary's mission partner Alf Cooper, recently consecrated an assistant bishop in the diocese of Chile.

Connections with the wider church in both diocese and worldwide were maintained by church members and visiting preachers. In 2017 these included: Tom Woolford, an ordinand in his final year at Oak Hill College, who had previously spoken on our Pathfinder residential and was a team member in the Oak Hill 2014 Love Wootton team; Revd Glen Scrivener, Director of UK evangelistic mission agency SpeakLife, who led STORY, a four-day parish mission in June, and also spoke at a Sunday of preparation in March; and Revd Shaun Atkins, Chaplain at Bedford School.

Baptisms were held during the main morning service and were often attended by significant numbers from the community. In 2017 there were three weddings at St Mary's. The clergy officiated at a number of funerals at St Mary's, at Stewartby United Church, and at Bedford Crematorium.

On Remembrance Sunday, St Mary's hosted as usual the village's annual Service of Remembrance. At Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest and Christmas a range of services enable all ages to celebrate major festivals.

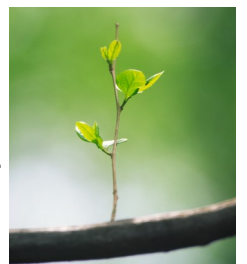
Where there is a fifth Sunday in the month, a team from St Mary's led by Clem Lewin leads the weekly Sunday morning service of Christian worship at Bedford Hospital.

A weekly prayer ministry team supports those attending our morning service. Members of the congregation support the vicar and curate in their pastoral ministry in the parish. A visiting team ensures that a number of church members who are unable to attend services on account of infirmity or illness are regularly visited.

Members of St Mary's also support the ministry of Stewartby United Church, a Local Ecumenical Project. The Church of England is a member of a Sharing Agreement with the Methodist, United Reformed, and Roman Catholic Churches to provide pastoral ministry in the LEP.

## Discipleship and Learning

The PCC provides many opportunities for people to grow as Christians. During 2017 six regular Growth Groups met for bible study weekly or fortnightly. Growth Group leaders met regularly for review and training, and during the year were: Angela Stephens and Allyson Cable, Clem Lewin and Ivy Peacock, Anthony and Jane Hall, Lucas Durant, Peter Stephens and John Robertson, Peter and JoJo Ackroyd and Diane Murray and Jim Hignett. A further two groups – including one providing bible study for Lunch Club members – met monthly. Early in the year, three BUILD training evenings were held, and from the autumn a Knowing God growth group met in the vicarage, gaining an overview of the Bible through studying God's Big Picture by Vaughan Roberts, and training in principles and practice of Christian ministry.



Church members are encouraged to attend events for training encouragement and fellowship in the Deanery and wider church. A small group once more enjoyed the May Bank Holiday 'Bible by the Beach' conference in Eastbourne.

In October, around forty five adults and twenty children attended a church weekend away held at Letton Hall, near Dereham, Norfolk. The speaker was Richard Newman, associate minister at Christ Church Cambridge, who gave four talks from the letter to the Philippians; Josh Kendall led a programme for children and young people, supported by a number of volunteers. Catering was in the hands of JoJo Ackroyd and Frances Wainwright.

2017 marked the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. In addition to a Reformation bookstall in church and a short sermon series, St Mary's marked this anniversary by hosting a travelling production of Zadok Media's A Monk's Tale. Staged in the theatre hall of Wootton Upper School, this dynamic three-person show of sketches and music highlighted the issues which provoked Martin Luther's Ninety-Five Theses, and attracted a near-capacity audience from local churches and beyond.

As described in more detail later in this report, groups for young people are held on Sunday mornings and evenings, and midweek. Young people attended a range of residential events, including summer camps run by CPAS Ventures (Woolhampton I Pathfinder; Foremarke I CYFA ventures), and Lymington Rushmore Holidays, as well as our own Easter holidays Pathfinder residential at the Chellington Centre in Carlton. Church members including the vicar and curate served as leaders, cooks, and assistant leaders on a range of these residentials for young people.



Clergy, staff and volunteers attended a number of training events, including the Diocesan Clergy and Readers residential conferences in June and October, the Evangelical Ministry Assembly and Younger Ministers Conference run by Proclamation Trust, IME2 training events,

## Deanery and Diocesan Synod

St Mary's is part of the Bedford Deanery comprising 23 different churches (stretching from Elstow to Cranfield and including the town centre Bedford Churches) that all fall under the care of the Bishop of Bedford. St Mary's sends 3 representatives to the Deanery - Tim Dillistone, Jim Hignett and Pauline Kendall - who is the present Lay-Chair of the Deanery. Meetings are held 4 times a year rotating around the churches and are an opportunity to get to know other Christians, to work together on outreach for example through Mission Action Plans and hear about Diocesan initiatives. At the moment there are 5 churches in the Bedford Deanery who are in vacancy - awaiting the appointment of a vicar and it has been good to hold these fellow churches in our prayers at a time of change.

The next level up the Anglican hierarchy is the Diocesan Synod which also meets 4 times a year and at present Revd. Peter Ackroyd and Pauline Kendall serve on this body. Peter also chairs the Diocesan Evangelical fellowship. Reports of both of these bodies are received at PCC and remind us of the wider organisation to which we belong.

Pauline Kendall

## Ecumenical

The PCC aims to strengthen Christian witness and service in the community through membership of Wootton and Stewartby Churches. All congregations meeting in the parish are actively involved: St Marys, New Life Methodist, Wootton Baptist, and Stewartby United Church.

As usual, a United Service was held in January, a Pancake Party on Shrove Tuesday, and a Senior Citizens Tea in May. During Lent WSC arranged a succession of prayer meetings for church members, one hosted by each member church. An Open Air service was held on 9 July in the grounds of Wootton Lower School's Harris Way site. The speaker was Revd Caroline Weaver. Members of all the churches came together to sing carols in the new housing development on Hall End Road, and ended the evening with carols and refreshments for the residents of Jenkyn Road.

Joint publicity was prepared and distributed to every household at Easter, and at Christmas.

Clergy attend bi-monthly prayer meetings for leaders of Bedford churches in sympathy with the doctrinal basis of the Evangelical Alliance, of which St Marys is a corporate member.

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## Evangelistic:

St Mary's aims to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ through its regular public services, through supporting the witness of Christians in their homes, neighbourhoods and workplaces, and through offering regular events and courses to enable people to explore Christian faith and practice.

The principal evangelistic focus of 2017 was a four-day parish mission, STORY, organised by a hard-working group led by Lucas Durant, and enthusiastically supported by church members. Preceded by six weeks of weekly prayer meetings, 22-25 June saw a range of occasions for all ages, at which Revd Glen Scrivener (SpeakLife) or his assistant Tom Schmidt presented the gospel to church members and their guests. The main events were Befriending a Brighton Bomber and Transformed through Tragedy - chat-show style evenings with Harvey Thomas and Jude Gayet - plus a Saturday evening family Midsummer Barbecue at Wood End Farm, Kempston, and Guest Services on Sunday morning. Outreach also took place to Upper School students through offering pastries and smoothies at the beginning of two school days and to families at Encompass and A Teddy Bear Picnic and Parachute Drop. The programme additionally include a pub outreach event, garden tea party, afternoon ramble, men's breakfast and a session on mental health and hope. A small group - 3-2-1 The Story Continues - met weekly after the mission to enable people to pursue questions it had raised for them.

Other ventures held to serve the community and reach out with the gospel included: a Burns Night supper and ceilidh in the Village Hall, an Easter Quiz night held at the Blue Cross social club, a parenting course held at the Lower School, and Wreath Making workshops before Christmas.

A Christianity Explored course was held in the autumn. In November, Lucas Durant began a weekly Wednesday evening pub drop-in, Curate's Corner, at the Cock Inn on Bedford Road.

## Mega Makers - Summer Holiday Club for children aged 4 to 13

Our Summer Holiday Club in August 2017 was called Mega Makers. We ran the club for 4 mornings, Tuesday to Friday, with games and crafts on Wednesday afternoon. The Scripture Union material shared the Good News of Jesus using stories from Matthews Gospel. We heard about Jesus calling Matthew the tax collector to be a disciple, The Calming of the Storm, Jesus' Crucifixion, and his resurrection. Over the 4 days 127 children attended and had lots of fun and approximately 60 volunteers were involved in some way. We also held a BBQ on Friday night. Then we had a service at the Church Hall site on the grass on Sunday morning. Our memory verse which we pray children and adults will still know in their hearts was "We pray that you will have the power to know how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ".

The logo for 'Mega Makers!' features the word 'mega' in a large, bold, orange font with a dotted pattern, and 'makers!' in a smaller, bold, orange font with a dotted pattern.

Hazel Sanders

## Mission Beyond the Parish

The PCC tithes its income from regular giving to support Christian mission beyond the parish.

Longstanding mission partners in Belgium (YP & Jude Gayet) and Chile (Alf & Hilary Cooper) were supported directly and through the Church Mission Society. PCC continued to support the training of a Church of Uganda ordinand at Uganda Christian University through the UK Friends of Masindi-Kitara Diocese. In the autumn, the church council agreed to support the ministry of UK evangelistic charity SpeakLife (Director: Revd Glen Scrivener) as a further mission partner.

St Mary's also supports prayerfully and financially: the ministry of IMPACT, a Scripture Union affiliated charity, which employs Christian schools workers in the Bedford area; the local ministry of Karen Jones, local sixth-form & FE college worker with the UK charity Festive (a joint venture of UCCF and Scripture Union); and the Church Pastoral Aid Society.

Harvest collections were donated to Tearfund, while at Christmas collections of clothing and other items supported the ministry to the homeless of SMART (formerly BeChar). In November, church members contributed generously to the ministry of Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse). Church members also support the work of the Bedford Foodbank through a collection point in church; the church is a referral agent for the Foodbank.

The logo for 'St Mary's Wootton' features a stylized cross above the text 'st mary's' in a lowercase, serif font, with 'wootton' in a lowercase, serif font below it.

# Staff and Church Officers

## Churchwardens' Report on Fabric

The Churchwardens role is very varied. We are responsible for ensuring the buildings and money are cared for, we look after the sidespeople, and we liaise between the congregation and the vicar, and we also keep an eye on the clergy and make sure they are OK. So 2017 has been a busy year. Prayerfully and practically supporting our clergy, talking to the congregation and sharing in their highs and lows, trying to keep on top of rotas, and then ensuring our buildings are maintained. We have ensured the fallen tree was removed from the back of the church, and repaired the porch and window it damaged. Replaced some carpets in church, and begun negotiating the renewal of the ground lease with the Scouts for their Scout Hut, amongst many other things. This would not have been possible without the support of many people, we are both very thankful for your help, support and prayers.

Hazel Sanders and Ant Hall

## Electoral Roll Officer's Report

Over the last year (January – December 2017), 6 names were removed (deceased, moved away from the parish, attending other churches etc.) and 9 names were added. As of the 31st December 2017, the Electoral Roll totalled 132.



Allyson Cable

## PCC Secretary's Report

As ever in the life of the PCC it was a busy year with lots to discuss and many decisions to make however the meetings always start with a bible passage and a short time of reflection and prayers and for much of 2017 we were also looking at chapters of Christ and His People by Mark Ashton. We held the STORY mission during the summer and lots of other evangelistic events before and afterwards that involved many PCC members. Several members of the PCC spent a lot of time responding to the damage from a fallen tree in December 2016 and that work was all finally completed nearly a year on. The PCC were very pleased to be able to appoint a part-time Youth and Children's Worker in September after many years of prayer and the benefits to our young people's ministry and relationships with families are already being seen.

Emma Hearn

## Cornhill Ministry Placement Trainee

Alongside my role as Youth and Children's Worker I also attend the Cornhill Training Course which runs alongside, and is complimentary to, my work here at St Marys. On Thursdays and Fridays, I attend lectures and seminars on Acts, Hebrews, and Exodus as well as topics such as Biblical Counselling and All Age Services. In this, the PCC supports me, for which I am very grateful. Thank you for the prayers and support I have received.

Josh Kendall

## Safeguarding

The Government has stated that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and at St Mary's we recognise that Safeguarding is of vital importance in the ministry we all do. Safeguarding is now a regular item at; Staff meetings, Staff Warden meetings, Youth and Children's Meetings, Growth Group Leader Meetings and Youth Council. Many of our DBS applicable volunteers have attended Deanery Safeguarding training. Our policy, which is approved and support by the PCC, is available for all to view on our website.

Emma Hearn and Josh Kendall





## Parish Administrator's Report

It has been a busy yet joyful year in the Church Office. Lots of extra admin caused by our various outreach events such as the Burn's Night, STORY events, Letton Hall, Christmas, A Monk's Tale and so on, as well as the usual day to day tasks, have meant another year has flown! Our online followers on Facebook have increased by around 100 to 316 people on Facebook offering huge potential (only 60 are congregation members). I am thankful to Sara Butler Jones for admin support and keeping the church generally tidy!

The staff team meets twice weekly, on Tuesdays for our staff meeting and on Thursday mornings for half an hour to pray in more depth, for the people, vision and work of St. Mary's and our village.

We have recently begun using a Church Management system called ChurchSuite, which will help us to manage rotas, groups, communications in a more coherent way.

It is a privilege to provide admin support as St. Mary's works hard at 'Knowing Jesus; Making Jesus Known to All'

Diane Murray

## Church Hall Warden's Report

The Hall continues to be used daily in term time by St Mary's Playgroup. Whereas the Pathfinders and Rainbows meet weekly. Explorers and Pathfinders also use the hall on Sunday mornings for teaching. Monday Lunch Club and Encompass meet monthly in the hall. "Take-a-Break" two day event is planned for April 9th and 10th. The Committee Room accommodates the Church Office, Church Council meetings and some storage.

The boiler room doors have deteriorated to the point where they will now need replacement in the spring. Also some repainting of the wooden hall ends is now needed. The new heating cupboard and tables in the kitchen has proved a great success and improved health and safety in the kitchen. The grounds receive regular attention to keep them tidy. Volunteers are always welcome to assist me keeping the Hall and grounds in good repair.

Richard Hull

## Treasurer's Report

**2017 summary.** The finances are again healthy, with reserves PCC are free to spend at £4k, having paid all bills and parish share. We have approx. £200k in the restricted buildings fund, and whilst we have not increased our £4k reserves from this time last year, we have done great things in 2017: Story outreach programme, contributed to Josh's Cornhill training fees, paid some legacy Parish Share arrears, and had to pay £2k more in Parish Share contribution in 2017. These costs have totalled approx. £10k. Cautious spending remains key to increasing our surplus further in 2018. Thank you for your generous support in financing a Youth & Children's worker.



**2018 outlook.** Giving predictions remains similar to 2017, and no large forecast expenditure is planned. It is likely the PCC will wish to extend and/or enhance the Youth & Children's Worker employment in 2018, which may require your support.

Steve Rowse

## Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to set, in the October budget, a working capital reserve balance on unrestricted funds for the following year. For 2018, the amount anticipated to be held in reserve at year end is £5,000. This working capital reserve is to smooth cash flow fluctuations and to meet unforeseen expenditure and emergencies

Steve Rowse

## St. Mary's Book Club

St Mary's Book Club continues to be an encouragement to read Christian books and give an opportunity to think through what we have read, to avoid the danger of reading and then instantly forgetting! We meet about twice a term at someone's house. We have decided to alternate reading a biography of a famous Christian from a different era, with a book on Christian doctrine or what it means to live and grow as a Christian. Last term we read a couple of books remembering the Reformation, including Clare Heath-Whyte's brilliant book 'First Wives'. Thanks to Anna Collis who has been writing the book reviews for Focus. Anyone is welcome to join!

We meet from 8.30-9.30 on a Wednesday.

Claire Brice, Catherine Durant, Emma Hearn

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# Support for Services



## Singing Group

Unfortunately, this year Andy Snelson, a long standing and reliable member of Singing Group moved away leaving us without a keyboard player. However, Matt Hearn filled the gap and then Tim Dillistone joined the group as a keyboard player so we are now back to full strength with Matt and Tim both able to play keyboard and percussion (but not at the same time!)

There have been no other changes so our number is still ten and our weekly routine is unchanged playing weekly at the 10:30 service and practising on Wednesday evenings. We look forward to learning some new songs during the coming year.

It is a privilege to be part of the worship life at St Marys, whilst enjoying each other's company week by week. My thanks to all loyal members of Singing Group for turning up weekly and especially on cold wet Wednesday evenings.

Tony Winterson

## Choir

Twelve months ago in my report I wrote – "Unfortunately in my view it is only a short time before the long tradition of singing choral music at St Mary's will end." This year I sadly report this has now happened with the choir singing for the last time at the 9 o'clock service on January 28th 2018. This brings to an end a long history of choral singing at St. Mary's Wootton. I have no idea when the choir first sang at Wootton but it is probably more than 100 years. Turning out some old music I came across a copy marked with the date of 1934!

In conclusion I wish to thank the six members of the choir who have loyally sung at the gam service through the year. The choir consists of 3 Soprano, 2 Alto and a Tenor. We have managed to sing simple anthems, psalms and canticles up to the end of January.

The singing of Anglican Chants and choral music does require particular skill and the loss to Wootton and throughout the country will be regretted in future years.

Fortunately we at Wootton are blessed with a very fine Organ (possibly one of the ten best in the county) that is the most suitable instrument for singing hymns so I wish to encourage younger members of the congregation to learn to play this instrument. Otherwise we shall see the loss of this to enhance our worship.

John Robertson.

## Church Flowers

We have a team of 13 ladies who make up the St Mary's 'Flower Ladies', they often provide and arrange the flowers for Sunday services. They also help in making floral arrangements on behalf of parishioners who donate funds to remember a loved one or anniversary and would like to share this with the congregation in church.



The Flower Ladies excelled with many new and innovative displays for Christmas, Easter and Harvest services, plus outreach events like Burns night and the Barn Dance and several weddings. The December Wreath workshop was very well attended – it's now very much an enjoyable annual event!

Thank you to all of the 'Flower Ladies' for their hard work and support this past year.

If you would like to join the 'Flower Ladies' or have an arrangement done for you in church, please contact Alison Thompson for further details.

Alison Thompson

## Church Bells

There is currently no bell ringing team. In the past a team of ringers from Cranfield have been able to assist at weddings. However in 2017 they were unable to offer that help, so the bells were silent at weddings. Though it looks as though we may be able to have support for 2018. It would be wonderful if we had our own bell ringing team again. If you would like to be part of that team - contact the Church Office.

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# Young People's Groups

## Youth and Children's Worker

In September 2017 I began my role as Youth and Children's Worker at St Mary's taking on the role after a year as St Mary's Cornhill Placement Trainee. I work within the Staff team, managing the Youth and Children's Work at St Mary's. This includes having oversight of the spiritual programme in each ministry, training the volunteers, and leading and supporting outreach into our local schools and colleges. The number of young people and children attending St Mary's run children's work has grown over the last 12 months and I am very grateful to all the volunteers who serve in the various ministries. Thanks also to Martin Sanders, JoJo Ackroyd, Annette Hart and Emma Hearn, who head up these ministries. I am thankful for their support and wisdom and we look to tell more children about the saving gospel of Jesus Christ.

## Wrigglers (weekly baby and toddler group)



Wrigglers continues to be busy with between 20-35 children each week along with their parents/grandparents/childminders. We are regularly meeting new children and their families and are often the first contact with St Mary's. We have lots of toys, crafts and song time which always starts with Sleeping Bunnies and often finishes with a somewhat chaotic Hokey Cokey! After noticing that lots of our families were leaving at 11am to pick up children from Wootton Lower Pre-School we changed our time to 9:30-11:00 from January which seems to be working well as it means all can be involved in song time and hear any notices. After many years of faithful service Jan Butcher stepped down from Wrigglers but Jenny Young and Kirsty Sarney joined our team. We are extremely grateful to our volunteers who help but are always looking for more, particularly to help with refreshments once every few weeks.

Emma Hearn

## Men Behaving Dadly (monthly for dad's and their children)

Men Behaving Dadly (or MBD for short) is a group that grew out of Wrigglers. It caters to fathers with their kids, and usually happens on the last Saturday of the month at the Maypole Farm restaurant - giving Mums a well deserved morning off!



We have had between 5 and 10 Dads attending and bringing their little ones to the sessions. Kids enjoy the play facilities and Dads enjoy the reasonably priced breakfasts (with bottomless tea, coffee and toast!) as well as the opportunity to meet and chat with other Dads. MBD is a firm fixture, and we all look forward to it each month! You can follow us on Facebook (MBD Wootton) to find out more, and to be informed of the next MBD meeting!

**A group for Dads**

Matt Hearn

## Sunday Crèche

Our crèche has been running for many years and although some weeks we don't have lots of babies or toddlers attending, we always have at least one, usually two volunteers on duty who can step in and help any parents who would like to take advantage of the creche or the changing room/loo that is adjacent. Parents can leave their children with us if they would like, or alternatively stay and play until they gain confidence. Baptisms are our busy time and we are so glad we can offer this service to our visitors and regulars. We have invested in some good modern storage units for all the toys and games and this makes set up and clear up easier.

We have a very efficient rota system which sends automatic reminder emails a few days beforehand. This is a valuable reminder, as we may have arranged previous 'swops' so it helps to ensure the creche is always manned. It is been a blessing and great opportunity to get to know the children and their parents. We want to make it as easy as possible for parents and their young children to attend St Mary's, and for the parents to remain in the service.

Marje Williams

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## Climbers (Sundays for 2-5 year olds)

Climbers has between 2 to 8 children, with an age range of 2-5 years. We completed the Lion children's bible at the end of 2017. The children are generally very happy to come along and join in.

We are now using materials from Mustard Seeds, looking at creation, over nine weeks. The key themes are much smaller and seem to suit the Climbers well, with ideas for activities and crafts.

There have been changes to the Climbers team. Sally Snelson moved to the seaside and Anna Collis is on maternity leave. Fortunately Nicola Drinkwater and Ruth Rowse have joined the team. The group is lead by Annette Hart

We continue to be very grateful for the team of teenagers who help each week on a rota system.

Pray for the Climber leaders that we would have both wisdom and skill to open up key bible themes to these little ones.

Annette Hart

## Explorers (Sundays for school years 1-4)

This past year we have been looking at Jesus' authority over all aspects of life and we learnt how we can trust Him to deal with our sin. We looked at the Christmas story and how Jesus really is the greatest gift. In January, Explorers began to use the Mustard Seed material and have gone right back to the beginning of the Bible going through highlights of Genesis! We have looked at the consequences of sin and the children are beginning to see why Jesus is so important and why we need Him. It has been a wonderful year with our growing number of Explorers. As always, I am so grateful for Helena Cooper, James Drinkwater and Dorothy Teh who serve alongside me in Explorers. We as a team are also grateful for the support of parents and their discipleship to the Explorer children.

Josh Kendall



## Pathfinders (Sunday & midweek for school years 5-8)

Sunday Pathfinders

Frances Wainwright, JoJo Ackroyd and I have continued to enjoy using the Mustard Seeds material which is very clear, faithful to the Bible, and has excellent simple and engaging activities to teach the Bible passage. After looking at the life of Abraham in Genesis, and John's gospel, we added a little variety with two sessions in January based on the Reformation, focussing on Martin Luther and William Tyndale. The children responded really well to these and we were encouraged by how much they remembered and grasped about the rediscovery of God's grace and the truths of the Bible. We have between 3 to 8 children each time. Please pray for greater consistency in children being able to come week by week and not miss out on the wonderful life changing truth of the gospel.

Claire Brice

This past year **Midweek Pathfinders** has continued as the main midweek outreach from St Mary's for school aged children. We have been looking at the Lord's Prayer line by line and this term we are looking at Jesus' parables. It is great to see the children grow in spiritual maturity, especially our older children, as they engage with the Bible and begin to understand what it means to be a follower of Christ Jesus and how they can stand up for him at school, with family and with friends.

Pathfinders wouldn't be able to run without the hard work of the whole team. Amanda Newton, Georgia Murray, Tom Ackroyd and Holly Sanders work tirelessly each week to ensure that the Lord Jesus is praised.

Josh Kendall

## J@M (Sunday evening for school years 9-13)

Our meetings are now in the church hall due to increased numbers, and we meet weekly during term time on Sunday evenings 7:15-9pm. On the leadership front, myself and Catherine have been joined by Josh, a very welcome addition, and a great source for new teaching material, and fun (active) games! We manage a fairly in-depth Bible study each week, as well as snacks, chats and games. In addition, we have attended "Equip" – a joint group with other Christian youth groups from the local area, and "Sorted" – a large, fun, day youth event at Westminster Chapel, London. Last term we studied "God's Big Picture" – a Bible Overview course, and currently we are working through new material from Mustard Seed, studying various doctrines e.g. Who is God?, What is the Trinity?

Martin Sanders

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# Outreach and Community



## Lunch Club

We have enjoyed another successful year in lunch club. Numbers continue to grow, and we are nearing the maximum number we can accommodate –without a larger hall and kitchen! We have had talks on the Donkey Sanctuary, the London Marathon, the Waterways Trust and the work of Release International. A popular trip on the John Bunyan boat was an outing enjoyed by all, wheelchair users included. My thanks to all who help in so many ways - cooking, shopping, putting tables up, transport and being there as a welcome and encourager to those who attend. We have two afternoon groups, who meet to look at the Bible and have a cup of tea together. Our Take-a-Break two day event was once again a success, and is a great opportunity to share in craft activities and chat. Please continue to support with your prayers.

Norma Smith

## Encompass

After many years of very capable leadership, Hazel Sanders passed on overall responsibility for Encompass to me so that she could focus her efforts elsewhere. Encompass is the successful outreach it is, due to her persistent faithfulness over many years, and on behalf of the many children and families who benefit from it - Thank you Hazel! This year the leadership team (Emma Hearn, Allyson Cable, Gill Ireland & Marion Lowe - Thank You!) and I have only made a few tweaks to Encompass, designed to make sure that the Bible stories are (even more) central to all that we do. Our teaching program has been creatively telling the stories of various Old Testament figures - so far Noah, Joseph, Rahab, Samson, Deborah & Elijah - whose lives teach us about God's care for his people and ultimately point us to our need for Jesus. We have also begun to produce 7-day devotional booklets based on the story of the month, for parents and children to take away and use together.

Monthly attendance figures for Encompass are consistently between ~60-70 people (children & adults).

Lucas Durant

## Associate Ministry

### Stewartby United Church

2017 saw the church continue to do the work which it believes it is commissioned for; to reach out into the community with the gospel message. This is done mainly through the weekly Sunday services, including the monthly t@3, and through contact with the local community. Unfortunately lack of active members does not allow us to run anything specifically for families, but we have good communication with the lower school and the local Mums and Toddlers. We are extremely grateful for the practical and other support offered by St Mary's, particularly by Peter Ackroyd, Jim and Liz Hignett.

We would welcome prayers for the church, especially for the new developments, other proposed changes in the village and guidance for the future. We ask that we will be open for what God has in mind for us, as individuals, as part of the parish of Wootton and also for the church family and building.

Elaine Sullivan

### Holywell Governors'

**Holywell Governors – JoJo Ackroyd, Pauline Kendall, Martin Sanders and Isabel Turner.**

Those of us who are privileged to play a part in the life of Holywell, our local Academy middle school in Cranfield, continue to enjoy the challenge of this role. We all play a part in the meetings of the full governing board as well as serving on the subcommittees including Ethics, Strategy and Curriculum. This year we have appointed a new head - Mike Simpson - and we continue to face the challenge of educational reorganisation in Central Beds and Bedford Borough. We anticipate an Ofsted visit in the near future which requires careful preparation but above all we want to ensure, as a Church of England school, that the Christian faith plays a key part in the values and life of Holywell.

It is both a joy and a responsibility to hold this role and we ask for your prayers and support.

Pauline Kendall

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wootton

# St. Mary's Playgroup

We had an Easter service in the Church during the spring. Playgroup was 50 years old in 2017, and we celebrated this by a trip to Mead Open Farm. A lovely day enjoyed by all.

We held our Annual sports day; and the weather was kind. We prepared our children for School, the reception teachers visited, and we visited the School. We were invited to dance at the School Summer Fayre. We had an end of term party, everyone was invited; and this was enjoyed by all.

At the end of the autumn term we had a Church Christmas service. Our Playgroup nativity was popular. The term ended with Christmas parties, and a visit from Santa.

Peter visits regularly to tell the children a bible story; we sing and pray. We would like to thank Peter for his support.



Established 1967

*St Mary's Playgroup operates from the main room within the Church Hall. Children have access to a fully enclosed, grassed outdoor play area.*

*St Mary's Playgroup supports children with special educational needs and/or disabilities and children who speak English as an additional language. The Playgroup is a member of the Pre-School Learning Alliance and is registered by Ofsted. St Mary's Playgroup has six members of staff, three of whom have been at the playgroup for over twenty years. All members of staff regularly attend training courses, are police checked and all hold current First Aid certificates.*

*St Mary's Playgroup receives funding for early years education. It is open each weekday during term-time only. The playgroup is registered on the Early Years Register to provide 32 places a session. The setting serves the local and neighbouring community.*



# St. Mary's Playgroup Income and Expenditure January to December 2017

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2017

<b>EXPENDITURE January - December 2017</b>		
Salaries January - December 2017		61443.78
Pension		2400.00
Employers National Insurance/TAX		6485.06
Church Hall Rent		4158.40
Pre-school Learning Alliance Membership Fee		105.00
Photoscene		448.20
Equipment and supplies		3338.43
<b>Miscellaneous</b>		
Auditing fees	100.00	
Children In Need	44.00	
Milkbar/lunch provisions	464.98	
Christmas Gifts	134.10	
Fee refund	139.00	
PATS testing	94.80	
<b>Miscellaneous Total</b>	<b>976.88</b>	<b>976.88</b>
Staff Training		535.40
Petty Cash		799.10
Ofsted Annual Registration Fee		50.00
Open Mead Farm Trip		978.05
Cash in Hand - 31 December 2017		41.23
Balance in Bank - 31 December 2017		33430.47
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>115190.00</b>
<b>INCOME January - December 2017</b>		
Cash in Hand - 1 January 2017		10.33
Balance at Bank - 1 January 2017		29451.29
Received from Fees (Cash & Cheques)		12620.00
Received from Lunch Club		38.50
Received for Photoscene		498.00
Mead Open Farm Trip		585.00
Received from Early Years Funding LEA		69894.90
SEN Funding		1919.40
Refunded Card Payments		172.58
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>115190.00</b>

Treasurer: Tracey Kerins ..... Date: 21 0

Manager: Mary Bell ..... Date: a-t-fik kt

*Handwritten signature*



# St. Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council Independent Examiner's Report of accounts for January to December 2017

## Independent Examiner's report to the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Wootton, Bedford Charity Commission no. 1150817

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended **31 December 2017**, which are set out on pages 1 to 4 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and **s.145 of the Charities Act 2011** ('the Act').

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and **s.144(2)** of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

### Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under **s.145(5)(b)** of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

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

Signed Lynnden Richardson Independent Examiner – L. Richardson FCCA

Date 12-03-2018

Signed on behalf of PCC [Signature]

Date 19 March 2018



# St Mary's Church, Wootton

## Analysis of receipts and payments

Selected period: 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
<b>Incoming resources</b>						
<b><i>Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources</i></b>						
101 - Gift Aided	70,431.10	—	—	—	70,431.10	71,096.40
102 - Tax recovered	19,270.11	—	2,160.00	—	21,430.11	29,940.51
103 - Other giving	8,230.00	—	—	—	8,230.00	7,968.00
104 - Loose Collections	3,131.13	—	—	—	3,131.13	3,804.64
105 - Gift days- Sundry giving	1,929.09	—	—	—	1,929.09	1,145.76
201 - Given for specific projects	3,269.04	282.70	20,867.93	—	24,419.67	238,933.51
<b><i>Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources Totals</i></b>	<b>106,260.47</b>	<b>282.70</b>	<b>23,027.93</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>129,571.10</b>	<b>352,888.82</b>
<b><i>Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects</i></b>						
302 - Rent for hall	4,555.40	—	—	—	4,555.40	4,130.60
401 - Monies for books	1,086.61	—	—	—	1,086.61	968.87
404 - PCC fees Weddings/ Funerals	2,126.00	—	—	—	2,126.00	4,201.00
<b><i>Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects Totals</i></b>	<b>7,768.01</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7,768.01</b>	<b>9,300.47</b>
<b><i>Investment income</i></b>						
301 - Interest	—	—	918.16	—	918.16	646.18
<b><i>Investment income Totals</i></b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>918.16</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>918.16</b>	<b>646.18</b>
<b><i>Other incoming resources</i></b>						
106 - Wootton Charities	—	—	1,750.00	—	1,750.00	2,250.00
405 - Assigned fees	—	—	3,407.50	—	3,407.50	6,162.00
601 - Insurance claims	—	—	14,307.10	—	14,307.10	—
602 - Sundry claims	—	—	—	—	—	117.85
<b><i>Other incoming resources Totals</i></b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>19,464.60</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>19,464.60</b>	<b>8,529.85</b>
<b>Incoming resources Grand totals</b>	<b>114,028.48</b>	<b>282.70</b>	<b>43,410.69</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>157,721.87</b>	<b>371,365.32</b>

## Resources used

<b><i>Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects</i></b>						
1001 - Overseas Mission	4,700.00	—	250.00	—	4,950.00	4,292.50
1003 - Home Mission	3,300.00	100.00	—	—	3,400.00	2,850.00
<b><i>Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects Totals</i></b>	<b>8,000.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>250.00</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8,350.00</b>	<b>7,142.50</b>
<b><i>Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects</i></b>						
2001 - Diocesan Quota	63,043.00	—	—	—	63,043.00	58,594.00
2002 - Working Expenses of Incumbent	3,807.38	—	—	—	3,807.38	3,285.45
2004 - Assistant Staff	13,715.82	—	4,599.28	—	18,315.10	11,102.06
2005 - Church Running expense	5,780.21	—	—	—	5,780.21	6,111.46
2006 - Church Maintenance	654.31	—	111.10	—	765.41	697.99
2007 - Upkeep of Services	1,464.07	—	—	—	1,464.07	1,472.40

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	
					This year	Last year
2008 - Upkeep of Churchyard	—	—	—	—	—	59.93
2009 - Costs relating to books	1,310.14	—	—	—	1,310.14	1,172.82
2010 - Church hall	6,306.74	—	—	—	6,306.74	7,463.00
2012 - Major Works	—	—	22,419.07	—	22,419.07	69,152.89
2016 - Honoraria, Assigned fees	417.46	—	3,095.50	—	3,512.96	6,197.70
6000 - Studley Road	591.73	—	—	—	591.73	880.71
<b>Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects Totals</b>	97,090.86	—	30,224.95	—	127,315.81	166,190.41
<b>Support costs</b>						
2017 - Support Costs	9,279.31	161.02	7,266.54	—	16,706.87	6,741.82
<b>Support costs Totals</b>	9,279.31	161.02	7,266.54	—	16,706.87	6,741.82
<b>Expenditure on managing-administering the charity</b>						
4000 - Administration	2,663.28	—	—	—	2,663.28	1,895.79
<b>Expenditure on managing-administering the charity Totals</b>	2,663.28	—	—	—	2,663.28	1,895.79
<b>Resources used Grand totals</b>	117,033.45	261.02	37,741.49	—	155,035.96	181,970.52

# St Mary's Church, Wootton

## Statement of Financial Activities

For the period from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
<b>Incoming resources</b>					
Donations, Legacies and similar incoming resources	106,543.17	23,027.93	—	129,571.10	352,888.82
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	7,768.01	—	—	7,768.01	9,300.47
Activities for generating funds	—	—	—	—	—
Investment income	—	918.16	—	918.16	646.18
Other incoming resources	—	19,464.60	—	19,464.60	8,529.85
<b>Total income</b>	<b>114,311.18</b>	<b>43,410.69</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>157,721.87</b>	<b>371,365.32</b>
<b>Resources used</b>					
Grants payable in furtherance of charity's objects	8,100.00	250.00	—	8,350.00	7,142.50
Activities in furtherance of the charity's objects	97,090.86	30,224.95	—	127,315.81	166,190.41
Support costs	9,440.33	7,266.54	—	16,706.87	6,741.82
Expenditure on managing-administering the charity	2,663.28	—	—	2,663.28	1,895.79
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>117,294.47</b>	<b>37,741.49</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>155,035.96</b>	<b>181,970.52</b>
<b>Net income / (expenditure) resources before transfer</b>	<b>(2,983.29)</b>	<b>5,669.20</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2,685.91</b>	<b>189,394.80</b>
<b>Transfers</b>					
Gross transfers between funds - in	2,715.73	1,234.78	—	3,950.51	3,376.24
Gross transfers between funds - out	(1,506.91)	(2,443.60)	—	(3,950.51)	(3,376.24)
<b>Other recognised gains / losses</b>					
Gains / losses on investment assets	—	—	1,768.83	1,768.83	1,888.55
Gains on revaluation, fixed assets, charity's own use	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>(1,774.47)</b>	<b>4,460.38</b>	<b>1,768.83</b>	<b>4,454.74</b>	<b>191,283.35</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>					
<b>Total funds brought forward</b>	<b>13,366.41</b>	<b>212,240.43</b>	<b>18,902.24</b>	<b>244,509.08</b>	<b>53,225.73</b>
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>11,591.94</b>	<b>216,700.81</b>	<b>20,671.07</b>	<b>248,963.82</b>	<b>244,509.08</b>

# St Mary's Church, Wootton

## Balance Sheet detailed To the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017

		As at 31/12/2017	As at 31/12/2016
<b>Endowment assets</b>			
	1509: Wootton Armstrong Fund	1,210.17	1,106.62
	1510: Wootton Church Cottages	19,460.90	17,795.62
	<b>Total Fixed assets</b>	<b>20,671.07</b>	<b>18,902.24</b>
<b>Current assets</b>			
	1501: Current Account	141,226.79	145,214.23
	1503: CBF Capital Fund	87,173.65	80,540.83
	1504: CBF Studley Road	1.71	1.71
	1508: Cash Book	—	—
	<b>Total Current assets</b>	<b>228,402.15</b>	<b>225,756.77</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
	1650: Loans for Stonework	—	—
	6699: Agency collections	109.40	149.93
	<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>109.40</b>	<b>149.93</b>
	<b>Net Asset surplus (deficit)</b>	<b>248,963.82</b>	<b>244,509.08</b>
<b>Reserves</b>			
	Excess / (deficit) to date	2,685.91	189,394.80
	Z01: Starting balances	244,509.08	53,225.73
	Z02: Gains/(losses) on investment assets	1,768.83	1,888.55
	<b>Total Reserves</b>	<b>248,963.82</b>	<b>244,509.08</b>

Represented by Funds		
Unrestricted	11,591.94	13,366.41
Restricted	216,700.81	212,240.43
Endowment	20,671.07	18,902.24
<b>Total</b>	<b>248,963.82</b>	<b>244,509.08</b>



# Annual Meetings - 10am Sunday 15 April 2018

## Bible Reading & Address

### Meeting of Parishioners - Agenda

- 1 Minutes of the meeting of 24 April 2017
- 2 Election of churchwardens

### Annual Parochial Church Meeting - Agenda

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the meeting of 24 April 2017
- 3 Reports presented by the Parochial Church Council:
  - (a) Electoral Roll
  - (b) Proceedings of the PCC
  - (c) Financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 Dec 2017
  - (d) Fabric, goods and ornaments
  - (e) Proceedings of the Bedford Deanery Synod
- 4 Election of three lay representatives to the PCC
- 5 Appointment of Sidespeople
- 6 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 7 Any Other Business

## Closing Prayer

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## Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners Monday 24 April 2017 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church Hall

### Welcome and prayers

<b>Minutes of the previous Parishioners Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016</b>	<p>The minutes of meeting were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed: Andy Snelson Seconded: Steve Rowse</p> <p>All present agreed</p>
<b>Election of Churchwardens</b>	<p>Hazel Sanders</p> <p><b>Proposed:</b> Allyson Cable <b>Seconded:</b> Claire Brice <b>All:</b> voted in favour</p> <p>Anthony Hall</p> <p><b>Proposed:</b> Hazel Sanders <b>Seconded:</b> Allyson Cable <b>All:</b> voted in favour</p>

# Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

## Monday 24 April 2017 7.30pm at St. Mary's Church Hall

<b>Present</b>	Allyson Cable	Steve Rowse	Andy Cooper	JoJo Ackroyd
Norma Smith	Alison Thompson	Peter Ackroyd	Derrick Lowe	Pam Richardson
Hazel Sanders	Martin Sanders	Fiona Frossell	Tony Winterson	Jenny Hall
Hilary Hull	Maria Richardson	Emma Hearn	John Robertson	Claire Brice
Lucas Durant	Richard Hull	Jane Hall	Diane Sullivan	Margaret Greenhalgh
Anthony Hall	Richard Frossell	Diane Murray	Elaine Sullivan	Alison Reed-Thomsett
Pauline Kendall	David Kendall	Josh Kendall	Sally Snelson	Angela Stephens
Larry Teh	Phil Wainwright	Frances Wainwright	Andy Snelson	Peter Stephens
Clem Lewin	Jim Hignett	Liz Hignett	Audrey Beardshall	
<b>Apologies</b>	Gill Ireland	Tony Ireland	Dorothy Teh	Matt Hearn
Sara Butler-Jones	Tom Ackroyd	Marion Lowe	Ivy Peacock	Anne Worboys
Bill Hall	Felicity Hull	Adrian Hull	Lesley Waller	Gordon Waller
Catherine Durant	Georgia Murray	Jenny Roffey	Margaret Robertson	Ruth Rowse

Ref	Item	Notes		
1	<b>Minutes of the meeting of 18 April 2016</b>	<p>The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed subject to a typographical error being corrected.</p> <p><b>Proposed:</b> Josh Kendall  <b>Seconded:</b> Margaret Greenhalgh</p>		
2	<b>Reports presented by the Parochial Church Council</b> <b>a) Electoral Roll</b> <b>b) Proceedings of the PCC</b> <b>c) Financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 Dec 2016</b> <b>d) Fabric, goods and ornaments</b> <b>e) Proceedings of the Bedford Deanery Synod</b>	<p><b>a)</b> The Electoral Roll stands at 133. There have been 6 removals and 13 additions: Removals-Frank Cook, Alec Head, Edna Pestell, Pat Whittome, John Whittome and Derek Williams.  Additions-Tom Ackroyd, Anna Collis, James Drinkwater, Nicola Drinkwater, Anthony Hall, Jane Hall, Przemyslaw Nawrocki, Tomira Satke, Leonie Perrone, Martin Teh, Frances Wainwright, Phil Wainwright and Gina Westerink.</p> <p><b>b)</b> Peter directed people to read the report on the proceedings of the PCC. No questions.</p> <p><b>c)</b> Steve summarised the financial report contained within the annual report. He reported that our surplus was £5,000 better than we originally projected. Regular giving was £79,000 split 51 households, this has increased by 3.1% for the forthcoming year split amongst 52 households. There were no questions.</p> <p><b>d)</b> Andy started by thanking everybody for their prayerful and practical support. He reported that due to the fallen tree, the annual spring clean has been postponed until after windows and porch are repaired. There are several parties involved and it is a lengthy process but it is hoped it will be resolved soon and the tree will be removed shortly. The window will be repaired imminently.</p> <p><b>e)</b> Peter referred people to the report within the annual report.</p>		
4	<b>Election of lay representatives to the Deanery Synod</b>	<b>Tim Dillistone</b> <b>James Hignett</b> <b>Pauline Kendall</b> All voted in favour of appointment	<b>Proposed:</b> JoJo Ackroyd <b>Proposed:</b> Linda Stewart <b>Proposed:</b> Di Murray	<b>Seconded:</b> Di Murray <b>Seconded:</b> Claire Brice <b>Seconded:</b> Claire Brice
5	<b>Election of lay representatives to the PCC</b>	<b>Allyson Cable</b> <b>Derrick Lowe</b> All voted in favour of appointment	<b>Proposed:</b> Emma Hearn <b>Proposed:</b> Andy Snelson	<b>Seconded:</b> Hazel Sanders <b>Seconded:</b> Tony Winterson

Ref	Item	Notes				
6	Appointment of Sidespeople	Anne Worboys	Pam Richardson	Jenny Waller	Clem Lewin	Richard Frossell
		Peter Stephens	Derrick Lowe	Diana Scott	Steve Rowse	Gordon Waller
		Marje Williams	Norma Smith	Ivy Peacock	Bill Hall	Marion Lowe
		Alison Reed-Thomsett	Phil Wainwright	Frances Wainwright	Pauline Kendall	
7	Appointment of Independent Examiner	Lyndon Richardson All voted in favour of appointment	Proposed: Di Murray		Seconded: Steve Rowse	
8	Any other Business	<p><b>Jenny Hall</b>-The new carpet is looking lovely but the doormats shed over the carpet and it is difficult to clean. Is it possible to purchase some smooth mats? Andy answered that it shouldn't be a problem.</p> <p><b>Alison Thompson</b>-asked if there were plans to replace the carpet in the chancel. Margaret reported that she was advised that it is difficult to get a company to make that type of carpet now and it would be expensive to replace. Now we are in a better position with the legacy so could re-look at it. Alison will pass on details of a company in Milton Keynes who can provide a carpet.</p> <p><b>Jenny Hall</b>-asked why we don't have the Peace at Communion service anymore? Peter replied that it had been a long time since we've practised it. Communion services are long services and in Peter's judgement it doesn't add a lot to what we are trying to doing and we don't lack opportunities to greet each other.</p> <p><b>John Robertson</b>-asked why we no longer sing the Gloria etc during communion. Josh responded that we need to be aware of newcomers, whilst not completely abandoning our principles, we need to be as inclusive as possible. Margaret said some people find it hard to sing if they have no background to it, we would exclude more than we include. Peter said it is the least inclusive service, it is culturally very different to other services and we should aim to have a similar culture across services that happen at the same time.</p> <p><b>David Kendall</b>-offered support for changing the word Catholic to universal in the creed. Catholic for most people signifies Roman Catholic so is very confusing and can be a barrier. Lots of other people were in agreement.</p> <p><b>Audrey Beardshall</b>-asked how many children are in church in Sundays and during the week and do we follow up baptisms. Peter said yes as far as possible to follow up. Andy reported between 15-20 at 10:30 service. Pathfinders has a usual attendance of low 20s, J@M around 9. Suggested reporting it in Focus so people could pray for the young people.</p> <p><b>Fiona Frossell</b>-offered a huge thank you to everyone behind the scene especially at the gam service particularly to Andy and Sally as they prepare to move, they have been a big encouragement with their grateful service.</p> <p><b>Norma Smith</b>-said that the warming cupboard is very appreciated by all who use the kitchen and asked if it a new system for heating water could be looked into as it takes a long time to heat up. Richard commented that part of the problem is that playgroup needs it at a lower temperature for hand washing. Alison Reed-Thomsett advised it needs to be checked that it is high enough to protect from legionnaires disease.</p> <p><b>Alison Reed Thomsett</b>-asked if the churchyard path could be repaired. Andy reported that it is the parish council's responsibility. We will talk to them again. Also asked if we could cut we cut the bushes at the front. Others commented that it would open up the entrance if they were cut back/removed.</p> <p><b>Alison Thompson</b>-asked can we photocopy the gam service books larger for some of the congregation. Peter believed we can get some large print copies.</p> <p><b>Claire Brice</b>-wanted to put on record how much we appreciate our vicar for teaching, caring and having a passion for the gospel. Margaret also thanked Lucas, Jim and Josh and said we were very blessed to have such sound biblical teaching.</p> <p><b>Liz Hignett</b>-stated that she was really enjoying serving at t@3 although they are a bit short of helpers. It would be good if we have 1 or 2 ad hoc helpers on a rota once per year.</p> <p><b>John Robertson</b>-commented that the age of people on the cleaning rota is quite senior. Agreed we will put a notice out for more volunteers.</p>				



'You are living stones'

1 Peter 2:5

## Administrative Information

St. Mary the Virgin is situated in Wootton, Bedford. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England. Registered charity number 1150817.

Bank: National Westminster Bank, C Branch, 81 High Street, Bedford, MK40 1YN

Independent Examiner: Mr Lynden Richardson

The correspondence address is: The Vicarage, Church Road, Wootton, Bedford, MK43 9HF

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