

# **ST MARY'S NORTHCHURCH**

REGISTERED CHARITY 1130418



## **ANNUAL REPORTS 2015/2016**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

On behalf of the Churchwardens and PCC, I warmly thank everyone for their contributions to the annual reports that give a sense of the variety of things that make up the life of St Mary's. In my ten years here as Rector I really appreciate the time and energy that people give to the life of the church and I hope that anyone who comes along will find it to be a place where they grow in faith, find encouragement and friendship.

The last few years have seen a number of fundraising campaigns for the organ and now the roof. The care of the fabric is an important part of the life of the church as St Mary's, as we periodically remind visitors at baptisms and weddings, is one of the oldest churches in Hertfordshire. We are also committed to supporting Phakamisa, Mission Direct and Streetkids and the prayer life of the church has been enriched by hearing their stories of faith.

I hope you enjoy reading the reports and please do feel free to contact me if you have any questions or ideas on how to develop the life of the church community.

*Jonathan Gordon*

## **CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT**

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me to my new role as churchwarden this year. It has been an interesting year, full of new opportunities and challenges, which I suppose I must have enjoyed, as I have volunteered to stand for election again this year.

Apparently churchwardens are responsible for so much more than gutters and rainwater goods. We have the power of arrest to anyone making a nuisance of themselves in the churchyard during a service, and we are trustees of the alms houses too. What an honour to have responsibility for such ancient buildings!

Socially this has been a good year for St Mary's. The church fête started earlier this year, which was a great success, especially as lunch was served in the guise of burgers and hot dogs with a lemonade and Pimms or glass of beer. It seemed that the whole village came along to join in the great church fête tradition. The band and teas were very much enjoyed by all, as well as the bottle stall, lucky dips, children's activities, plants, books and gifts, many of which were donated by Woods Garden Centre via their save a receipt scheme. Many thanks go to Heather, Jonathan and Rachel for all their hard work in organising and planning the fête and to all the stallholders and attendees in making it such a success. This year the fête will be held on July 2nd, so please make a note in your diary and be sure to come along.

We had over 40 visitors to the church during the Bike and Hike for the Historic Churches Trust on the second Saturday in September. The Harvest supper attracted over 50 people of all ages to enjoy a convivial evening of supper and chat. Many thanks go to Charlotte Pritchard and her team for their hard work in organising this event.

We had a "meet the team" event in November with the intention of finding out who does what behind the scenes. We heard from bellringers, flower arrangers, we found out who winds the church clock, and met our new Youth and Families Worker, Connie. Nick Laing told us about the church giving and Christian Aid, and we heard about the work of school governors, Mothers' Union and many others. Thank you to everyone

who came along to learn more about our activities. A buffet supper and chat was enjoyed by all. I have a list of who is who and contact details, so if you have a yearning to join in with anything, including tidying the churchyard (perhaps you have just moved to the area and miss your garden), please make contact with me and I will put you in touch. There is always room for more team players to join the life of St Marys.

Following on from the organ repair work last year it has been noted that the roof is in need of substantial repair. To this end I attended a meeting about applying for a grant as we sadly did not succeed in our grant application last year. One of the recommendations from our feedback was that we should provide evidence of a committee to raise funds, and so the "Raise the Roof" Committee was born.

There will be a series of fun events over the next couple of years to raise the money that is needed for the roof, the first of which was the Burns night in January. This was attended by 64 people, who were royally entertained under the leadership of Laird Cuthbertson, who planned and led the evening with great aplomb. Folk were fed the traditional haggis, neaps and tatties and tipsy laird trifle, wine and beer flowed. We were entertained by poetry, dance, and community singing, truly something for everyone. Thanks go to all who worked so hard, especially to the magnificent mashers in the kitchen.

Andrew Dobbie has designed a model of the church, to which everyone can contribute by buying a brick for £3.00. Each person who buys bricks will be given a certificate and by the time the church model is built there will be another £9,000 in the fund. There will be stained glass windows and lights and it will be something spectacular to behold when it is finished, so please consider buying some bricks, perhaps in honour of a family member who has departed, or for your grandchildren to know that they have helped to "save the past for the future."

The religious side of life continues apace, of course, with a wonderful gingerbread house evening in December. This was a precursor to the Alpha course run by Linda Slim and Penny Coase. You are very welcome to join them on a Wednesday evening, where they share a meal before discovering and sharing more thoughts about our Christian faith. Following on from previous Alpha courses we have house groups that you are welcome to join. Please see the pew leaflets or Jonathan for more information.

You will always be made welcome at any service that suits your preference so please do come and join us. St Marys is a church that is moving forward and reaching out to the whole community. We welcome all ages, whether nearly nine or nearly ninety so come along and join the family of the church.

*Evelyn Hodgson*

### **PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT**

St Mary's Northchurch continues as focal point for the local community. The Sunday morning services are well attended, as are the special services during the Easter and Christmas periods and on Remembrance Day, attended this year by the Bishop of Hertford.

Rev. Michael Eggleton continues to take services at St Mary's, normally alternating with the Rector, Rev. Jonathan Gordon, with 6our Readers preaching on other occasions. Connie Barrett has now joined us as our new joint Youth and Families Worker with All Saints, Berkhamsted.

The PCC met on four occasions during 2015 with the Rector chairing all the meetings. Additionally, the Standing Committee met on one occasion. The subjects discussed included the appointment of a new Youth and Families Worker, finance and fabric matters, particularly relating to the church roof in terms of the work required and how to raise the funds necessary to effect them.

At the Annual Church Meeting in April 2015 Nick Bugg stood down as churchwarden and Evelyn Hodgson was elected in his place. We thank Nick for his valuable service as churchwarden over the last few years and are pleased that he continued as a member of the PCC. Emma McCann was formally appointed to the role of Church Treasurer. At this year's meeting Andrew Dobbie, Sara Fox, Mary Clarke and Gareth Pritchard come to the end of their terms. Andrew, Sara and Gareth are standing for re-election.

During the year, there were 19 baptisms, 8 weddings/blessings and 13 funeral/memorial services. The church was also used by a number of local schools to hold Easter, Harvest and Carol services.

Our outreach to the local community via the Newsletter and wider afield via our website continues. During the year Bert Hosier, writing under the name 'Hedgehog', ended his long series of local history articles in the Newsletter. We are immensely grateful to Bert for the many years he produced his articles; even Bert cannot actually remember how long he had been writing them. I have now taken on the role of producing new local history articles under the heading "This Month in ...".

Our Facebook and Twitter pages continue to provide valuable communication channels keeping people informed of our church services and events. Where possible photographs are included and this tends to raise the number of people who read the posts. Facebook and Twitter will be used heavily over the coming months to promote the events and activities associated with the "Raise the Roof" appeal.

*Richard North*

## **ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT**

At the time of writing, there are 133 members on the electoral roll, the same as last year.

*Rosemary North*

## **CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**

During term-time, the two Sunday School groups continue to meet every Sunday except for the week when we have the All Age Service. This is for children who aged 3 to 11. We use Scripture Union resources and have a great team of volunteers who run the sessions, although we are always looking for new volunteers.

The number of children attending each week ranges from 5 – 20. At the end of term, we usually have a fun morning when all the groups meet together to sing, praise God and do crafts. During school holidays, there is a combined group most weeks – similar to term-time Sunday School, subject to volunteers being available to run these sessions.

*Sunday School Team*

## **YOUTH & FAMILIES WORK**

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome to St Mary's. As you know I was appointed as the Youth and Families Worker last summer, being shared between All Saints Berkhamsted and St Mary's Northchurch. I commenced this role in September of last year and the past few months have been a busy and productive time. Working between two churches is challenging, but I feel that I am making progress. It takes a considerable time to really become embedded in a new church.

At my interview I sensed a real connection and felt that I could very easily feel 'at home' in both church communities. It said a lot about both churches when they welcomed the suggestion of changing the title and role from Youth Worker, to Youth and Families Worker. This change broadens my remit, and reflects where we are as churches. A significant part of my role is working with children, their parents, and the wider family. If I were to sum up my job, I would broadly categorise things into three groups: Children's Ministry in All Saints, Youth Ministry in St Mary's Northchurch, and Schools Work in the local community. However, it's not possible to neatly slot into any one of these categories every activity in which I have been involved - that's the nature of youth work.

In the past few months some of the activities in which I have been involved include: leading youth team meetings, visiting scout and guide groups, taking assemblies in primary schools, running The Lighthouse, organising social events for the teenagers, contributing to special school services, and attending town-wide church youth worker meetings. I organised a Youth Christmas Ball and the Youth Weekend Away in March. I love the variety and pace of church work; I don't sit around with nothing to do! The theme of the Youth Weekend Away this year was Hearing God's Voice. We looked at the life of Samuel, across four different Bible studies. A lot of preparation has gone into the weekend, including the following activities: a quiz night, a games session, a bowling trip, and a movie night. We are always looking for more leaders in The Lighthouse, if you would like to know more about how you can help please do get in touch.

One of my greatest joys is welcoming people into my new home. Being gifted a house with this job has been a real blessing. Early on I decided that I wanted to share my home with others, so, since with the gift of a dining room table and chairs I have had various groups and families around for a meal. This is a really special time to invest in our families and church members, as so often there isn't time for a proper chat on a Sunday morning. I see this as being a key part of my job.

Once a term I take an assembly in three of the local primary schools. I set up a lunch-time Christian Union in St Mary's Primary in October, and co-lead it with a local children's worker. We have a small, but committed, group of Year 5 and 6 students who really seem to enjoy our time together. I am hoping to be involved in the set-up of a Christian Union in a local secondary school – currently this is a work in progress.

Once a month I produce a newsletter - Youth and Families News. This is a resource that aims to keep people informed about what we offer to our children, teenagers, and families in church, as well as being a tool to use in prayer. If you would like to support me in any way, prayer is the first place to start, and you can turn to the newsletter to find out practical ways in which you can help.

If you want to find out more about how I can support you in the area of children's, youth and families work, please don't hesitate to contact me.

*Connie Barratt*

## **CHURCH MUSIC**

After the highly successful fundraising of 2014, Andrew Stevens completed the organ repairs early in 2015. He had discovered evidence of water ingress which would have swelled the 19<sup>th</sup> century soundboard timbers so causing the jamming of the slider and subsequent burning out of the motor which moves this part. Andrew has erected a 'temporary' canopy over the north case to deflect dripping water away from sensitive timbers and electrical components while plans are made, funds raised and a permanent solution effected.

Two organ recitals took place this year on the newly repaired organ. Former parishioner John Featherstone introduced me to his nephew, organist Mark Brafield. Mark was delighted to come from Guildford to play for us and gave a charming recital, but sadly John was unable to attend owing to recent ill health. Craig Nathan from Aylesbury gave a Saturday morning concert with an ambitious 'all Bach' programme. This was a 'Coffee and Cake' concert with a performance of exceptional quality and a most convivial morning including delicious homemade cake was enjoyed by a large audience. Craig is completing the performance of the Bach's Trio sonatas at St Mary's in 2016.

The choir said farewell to Matthew Foskett in October - he is now studying in Durham but has joined a local church choir and is making use of the gifts the choir sent him away with! We were delighted to welcome him back at Christmas! We are also delighted that Jackie Jones has joined us in the soprano section. Sadly, Monica Marshall died this year. She sang with the choir for many years, though infrequently over the last 4-5 years, but a number of the choir were pleased to be able to sing at her funeral at St Mary's. Rhona Preston also died this year. Rhona had taken organ lessons with Hilary Norris and she and Bill enjoyed the organ immensely. She would often play quietly to herself prior to my arrival at evensong before her health failed.

In July we welcomed Geraldine Latty to lead a gospel singing workshop. 'Sing Gospel' received financial support from Waitrose allowing us to provide places for children free of charge and many also enjoyed exploring the large percussion instruments on offer. Geraldine's boundless energy and joy, coupled with a great voice, made this a hugely enjoyable event. Singers came from a wide geographical area. They had a great day out and were thrilled at the welcome they received at St Mary's.

The choir continues to rehearse on Friday evenings and to lead the Sunday morning singing with an appropriate mix of enthusiasm and sensitivity. Choir members worked particularly hard preparing anthems for Lent and Easter, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, All Souls, Advent and Christmas. We have also sung at a number of weddings and other special services at St Mary's, as well as at All Saints and St Bartholomew's, Wigginton. I am very grateful for the help of Valerie Clark and Clare Wille, who help locate, distribute and store our various bits of sheet music, anthem and hymn books. As a spin-off from the Hymnathon we introduced 'Request Sunday' this year. On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month the hymns sung are all by prior request. This has been very popular and we have all enjoyed singing some very rousing choices! Requests can be made in person to me or any members of the choir, by e-mail or via the paper slips at the back of church. For more details, please see me or refer to the music notice board.

I am grateful to the PCC, the Rector and the choir for help and support running the music at St Mary's. I am also fortunate to have the expertise of a small team of pianists and organists who help by playing for services on Sunday mornings and evenings and also in the week; thank you Rachel Gordon, Alastair Cuthbertson, Roger Bowley and especially Gareth Pritchard.

*Jenny Hoare*

### **MUSIC GROUP**

The music group leads the worship for our family services about 8 or 9 times/year. There is a good range of instruments including a cello, violins, clarinets, trumpets and the piano. We do not have a regular rehearsal time due to members leading busy lives, but sometimes we meet to go through parts on a Saturday evening.

We now have a very comprehensive repertoire of hymns/choruses that we can play well. It is lovely to have the young people in church for the family worship and the music group also provides variety in our worship in St Mary's. New members are always welcome - some flautists in particular would be a great addition to the sound the group makes.

*Rachel Gordon*

### **STEWARDSHIP SCHEME**

I help run the stewardship scheme, for St Mary's. This scheme allows you to give, gift-aided or not, without having to fill in envelopes every time you visit church.

1. There is the box scheme for those that make a commitment on value and in return receive a years' worth of envelopes.
2. There are the loose white envelopes for gift aid donations of whatever value you wish to give, which can be available, in return for signing a Gift Aid Form.
3. There is paying by standing order, so you never have to fish around for cash during the service.

We have plenty of spare box sets available if you want to get involved.

Whichever way you would like to make your commitment and donations easy for you, please contact Nick Laing or the Church Wardens for more information.

*Nick Laing*

### **WEDNESDAY HOME GROUP**

The Wednesday home group continues to meet at the home of one of the members in Chiltern Park. We have six regular members and have completed two Bible studies this year on Galatians and a Bible Overview.

*Linda Slim*

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING FELLOWSHIP GROUP**

The Thursday evening home group has now moved to a Wednesday evening. We are usually about seven to eight in number and we meet to share in a time of fellowship, prayer and Bible study. We now meet at the home of Clare Price, on alternate Wednesday evenings from 8pm onwards. It has been a blessing to share and support one another in our Christian journeys.

Over the last year, we have used Bible study material that has focused upon the Sermon on the Mount. This proved to be both challenging and a blessing. We have just moved on to new material that focuses on the book 'The Reason for God' by Tim Keller. We have used this author before and he has always been a welcome challenge.



So a typical Wednesday evening will start with refreshments, cheerful banter, Bible study, discussions, with the evening ending in a time of reflection, prayer and worship.

*Peach Berry & Rachel Gordon*

### **BERKHAMSTED DEANERY SYNOD**

The deanery lecture took place on 24 June at St Mary's. Dr Michael Parsons, Executive Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion at the University of Oxford spoke on 'Why is there something rather than nothing?'. Sara Fox reported that students from Ashlyns and Berkhamsted School had enjoyed attending it.

On 14 September David Nye from the Diocesan Board of Finance met representatives from churches within the Berkhamsted Deanery to discuss the parish share and stated that St Albans Diocese based its budget on giving of 3.1% of post-tax income (more northerly dioceses reckoned on 5%). The St Mary's representatives thought that he did not give enough allowance for the demographic of the churches. Mr Nye also explained the parish giving scheme that had been adopted by some dioceses, whereby giving goes directly to the diocese and it collected the Gift Aid and then passed on the relevant sum to the churches on a regular basis. He said that St Albans would be adopting the scheme next year and parishes could choose whether to join. The St Mary's representatives disliked the impersonal nature of the scheme as it removed the sense of giving to the local church.

At the meeting in Little Gaddesden Church on 21 September the diocesan Ministry Development Officer, Rev Canon Dr Tim Bull, spoke about encouraging lay people into the ministry. Rev Michael Eggleton gave a talk on his trips to Zimbabwe.

*Rosemary North*

### **NEWSLETTER**

The Newsletter continues to act as a source of local information, forthcoming events and outreach for St Mary's Northchurch. Don't forget that local charitable events will be advertised free of charge. Let the Editor know what is going on by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month before you want it to appear, and she will put it in the newsletter.

We were sad to lose Hedgehog's articles during 2015. He felt that he had said everything he wanted to, and it was time to bring his column to an end. We wish him all the best. He was the only contributor to the Newsletter ever to get fan mail. People wrote to and emailed the Editor asking for messages to be passed to Hedgehog. He also received poems from an anonymous source. He was a Local Treasure, a true legend, and it felt like the end of an era when his articles ceased.

The Newsletter currently has 30 advertisers, many of which have been advertising with us for some years. This brought in the not insubstantial sum of £4,123.00 during 2015.

The distribution of the Newsletter is possibly the largest enterprise associated with St Mary's. 'Bundlers' convert the contents of boxes into labelled heaps which then are collected from church by 'deliverers' who post Newsletters through letterboxes. 'Couriers' pick up multiple bundles to take to others who will make the individual deliveries. Over 70 people are involved, many of them people not otherwise associated with the church, but who like to do something useful in the community.

Any queries about distribution should be addressed to Valerie Clark. The Editor is more than happy to be contacted by email, Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn. You can also write to Jill Hipson at her home address. Don't telephone because the Editor is profoundly deaf. All contact details are on the back page of the Newsletter.

*Jill Hipson*

## **ANNUAL FÊTE**

Our fête was blessed with beautifully sunny weather this year and we raised £3,400 in total, which was divided between our Church Roof Fund, Hertfordshire Air Ambulance and Phakamisa. We decided to extend our opening times to 12.30 – 4pm and this worked well. The fête was opened by the new Head of St Mary's Primary School, followed by the school country dancers. A magic show for the children was then provided for the children by Dizzy Lizzy, whilst many people enjoyed the food provided by the BBQ.

The Hemel Brass Band were in attendance from 1.30 pm and were enjoyed by many as they ate and drank their refreshments in the rectory garden. We had many stalls and games run by members of the congregation and there were the usual games on the school field. The Way Inn ran their own stall and we were also delighted to have Mary Murray, local artist, in our midst.

Whilst the Band had their tea-break, we were entertained by the local Scottish Dancing club and at the end of the afternoon there was much cheering at the Duck Race and drawing of the raffle. Many thanks to everyone for their support.

*Rachel Gordon*

## **NORTHCHURCH CHURCH HOUSES**

The Alms House is doing very well; all the flats are occupied. All our finances are in good shape and all our costs are covered. The repairs and ongoing maintenance of the Almshouse flats are up to date and all are in good condition being maintained regularly.

The quinquennial inspection this year may tie in with the works that need doing to the roof above flat 86, as the builder may have to use scaffolding due to the inaccessible part of the roof that has the damp.

The gardens continue to be nicely maintained by a local gardener and the courtyard is neat and tidy.

*Kathy Ridges (on behalf of the Trustees)*

## **FLOWER GUILD**

The Flower Guild have continued to organise floral arrangements throughout the year. Easter, Harvest and Christmas services have had a number of floral and candle decorations and posies have been provided for Mothering Sunday. Weddings and other events have also been marked with floral arrangements where requested.

Our "gardening themed" stall at the Summer Fête did well with various items for sale and competitions including "name the Flower Pot Man"!

Donations from parishioners are much appreciated, as are contributions of greenery for our decorations for the major festivals through the year. We have been joined by some new members this year and are all looking forward to continuing our contribution.

*Denise Rouse*

## **BELLRINGERS**

The ringing room is well-filled on Monday practice nights. There are now 17 ringers from Northchurch listed as members of the 'local bell club'. How fortunes have changed: ten years ago there were only six. Happily, five 'old faithfuls' are still in the list (the sixth now lives many miles away). We have been pleased to welcome Ian, Ivor and Sally, people who learned to ring some years ago (we won't say how many!) at other towers and have discovered that they hadn't forgotten how to ring despite their period of rest. In the summer, Roger and Simone told Revd Michael that they fancied 'having a go' – they are now ringing on Sundays. We don't often see Hannah (at university) and Helen (working in York), but it is good that they still 'belong' and ring with us when they can.

We strive to ring our best on Sundays, and for other special occasions. One of our regular listeners, Jenny Hoare, herself a bellringer, paid us an encouraging compliment when she said our standard of ringing had improved greatly during the time she has been Organist and Choirmaster. Practice nights are when the novice ringers – nearly half our number – are practising their skills and learning new ones so you will understand that the music of the bells will not sound quite so good on Mondays. But it will get better!

On the second Monday of each month, you can expect to hear some smart ringing from the visitors who come regularly to attempt a quarter peal. Ringers don't need an excuse to ring a quarter peal (about 50 minutes non-stop) but they do enjoy ringing for special events. Two QPs this year had been 'bought at auction' when funds were being raised for the Organ Repair Appeal. In April, Lena Woldemariam and the bells celebrated the arrival of a grandson: thanks to Giles Batchelor, Lena was able to send a recording to Buenos Aires! A ladies' band rang on THE day to mark Jennie Budd's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. Helen and Valerie scored a century between them by ringing a QP for their birthdays in September. This quarter was also a landmark for Valerie who has now rung a QP on each of the bells, an achievement which is known as 'circling the tower'.

As Tower Captain, I thank all Northchurch ringers for their commitment throughout the year, their spirit of mutual co-operation, and their great good humour. Each week they demonstrate that the serious business of ringing is also fun!

*Valerie Clark, Tower Captain*

## **KNEELER PROJECT**

2015 is the first year since 2002 in which I must report that no new kneelers have been placed in the pews. This does not mean that the project is closed, but that production is continuing at a slower pace!!

We lost one of our long serving stitchers during the year when Lena Woldemariam moved away from Northchurch to be nearer her sister. She had just completed her third kneeler which represents Christian Aid. Thank you, Lena.

In the last annual report I wrote that wax from some of the hand-held candles had dripped on to kneelers at the Advent Carol Service, and that we would need to consider how best to protect the kneelers in 2015. Although it was unfortunate to deprive the congregation of the pleasure of seeing the candlelight flickering on the colourful kneelers, we had to conclude that the risk candles posed to the kneelers was too great and it was decided to remove them from the pews over the Christmas period.

At this point I would gently remind users of the Church that many of the kneelers are dedicated to loved ones and all of them have been crafted over many hours with great care. Stitchers and sponsors are understandably upset when they see them taken for stage props and other inappropriate uses.

Should anyone wish to take on the challenge of working a kneeler in 2016 I would love to hear from you.

*Marilyn Pryor*

### **SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE**

Most Sunday mornings, after the 10 am service, a pair of volunteers supply refreshments in the parish rooms. I am grateful for the two new volunteers that have joined the team, so that each pair is on the rota for three or four sessions per year.

*Sue Jukes*

### **2<sup>ND</sup> NORTHCHURCH BROWNIES**

Its been another busy year for us. Last summer we visited Tesco in Hemel Hempstead for their Farm to Fork Trail. This was an educational trip designed by Tesco to show the Brownies where food comes from. We were shown around the store and behind the scenes.

We have done various badges including Science Investigator, Brownie Skills and Hostess. Sooty Owl led us through our Dancers badge. We looked at three different countries and their national dances. In our Sixes made a Chinese dragon and made up our own Chinese Dragon dance.

We took part in the Smartie Challenge in which we had to eat a tube of Smarties, then fill the tube up with coins. This was then split between The Hospice of St Francis and East Anglian Air Ambulance.

We have lots of things planned for the coming year.

If you would like to know about volunteering with Girlguiding please email us at [northchurchbrownies@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:northchurchbrownies@yahoo.co.uk).

*Susan Reynolds*

## **MONDAY CLUB**

We have had a very enjoyable year. The programme for our meetings in the Parish Room has included talks, card and board games, quizzes and, for the first time, a film. The latter proved to be very popular and we plan to include another one soon. Harvest, Christmas and Easter were celebrated with traditional fare and music.

We had a summer outing to a large Garden Centre, lunch at a village restaurant and tea at the Ashridge Visitor Centre at bluebell time, where those who wished to use them could make use of the mobility vehicles.

Events have been well attended, though over this past year, numbers have declined slightly as illness has taken its toll. We would be delighted to welcome new members, both men and ladies, who live on their own. We are also always keen to hear of people who would be willing to give a short talk or demonstration on a subject of their interest. The support given to the club by Northchurch United Charities is very much appreciated as a contribution to the cost of transport for those who need it to attend meetings, as well as for our outings.

Joan Cox and Jennie Budd are invaluable in helping with catering, as is Tony Lockhart who willingly provides transport. We thank them for their kind support, for which all in the club are very grateful.

*Joan Downhill and Barbara Lloyd*

## **MOTHERS' UNION**

Another lively and busy year has been shared with Mothers Union members and friends. We still have our three branches at Leverstock Green, Berkhamsted and Tring. Our first event was our Lady Day service held in Trinity Church, Leverstock Green attended by all members. Fundraising events provided suitcases for women held in the Yarl's Wood Immigration Removal Centre. Baby clothes and knitted garments for premature babies and a luncheon fundraiser provided for overseas needs.

Our fête sales of donated gifts soon sold with as did Jennie Budd's marmalade. We have also helped with other fundraising events for St Mary's and Crisis for Christmas. The Happy Wanderers enjoyed their annual Harvest Service in church followed by tea and biscuits.

We thank all who have helped us to achieve our goals, not forgetting our brass team keeping the church bright and shiny.

Many thanks to Jonathan and Rachel's guidance in all we do.

*Joan Cox*

## **TIME OUT 2**

The Time Out 2 group has continued to meet on a regular monthly basis over the last year, mostly at members' homes, where we have enjoyed times of prayer, lively discussion and lovely food. However, when weather and suchlike have permitted, we have also ventured out on a few local trips. Last July we had a pleasant amble around College Lake, Tring followed by refreshment at the café.

In November we visited Tring Museum, which for some of us brought back happy memories of long ago visits with our young children. After our visit, we discovered an excellent teashop in Frogmore Street, which finished the afternoon off perfectly.

In December we held our annual coffee morning and lunch in aid of Crisis at Christmas, at which we raised £550, our highest total so far, thanks to the generosity of the congregation and local people. We followed this with a splendid Christmas lunch at The Greyhound, Wigginton, which set the tone for the festive season.

At the time of writing, our last meeting took place on Shrove Tuesday, when we had pancakes and poetry at Karen's house. Our next planned outing is a Springtime walk around College lake before the Easter holidays. This will give us the chance to plan outings for the warmer weather to come, and also to finalise plans for our next craft project.

*Karen Baldwin*

## **MISSIONS & CHARITIES**

We have a very ad-hoc Missions and Charities system at St Mary's which, arguably, could benefit from somebody to volunteer and develop our activities.

We have several 'main' charities we support, including Mission Direct, Phakamisa, The Children's Society, Crisis, Christian Aid and others that are regularly supported.

One of the core aims of a church is to reach out to those we can help; if somebody would like to coordinate these efforts more specifically, then the PCC would be glad to hear from you.

*Nick Laing*

## **CHRISTIAN AID**

For Christian Aid Week 2015, 15 roads were collected from by the St Mary's team. In the past we have had as many as 26 people collecting and I would love to see our numbers moving back in that direction again. It is a great responsibility, but a greater joy to be able to contribute into the lives of people in desperate need. Our total including our 15 door-to-door collections and soup lunch was £1,478.

When you realise that each collector gained enough money for 30 mosquito nets – in other words 30 life saving opportunities; it really is very important to continue our efforts.

Thank you to all those that joined me on the streets of Northchurch and to all those that made donations. The money we raise is so vital and I implore you to continue supporting Christian Aid, this year.

*Nick Laing*

## **THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

Thank you so much to our faithful box holders. This year we have added five more box holders to our list, which is pleasing, to replace former donors who have passed on or moved away over the last couple of years, so we are back to 43 boxes on our list for counting. Gareth and I do the count in December each year and by early January 2016 we had paid in £830.36 which is fantastic! A lot of the boxes contain very small change; people apologise that they are heavy or don't contain very much, but it all adds up and every penny counts, so thank you so very much.

I know from personal accounts from a church member and from my own extended family, that The Children's Society does fantastic work in this country for children who

are disadvantaged or at risk. Family Centres around the country are open at weekends for access visits for parents after divorce. A Dad, it often is a Dad, can take his children to somewhere warm and welcoming, with toys and play area, somewhere where a hot drink is provided and a picnic can be eaten and support given – an absolute lifeline, especially in the winter or on a wet weekend. Children coming out of Fostering or Care are supported by Children's Society outreach workers, helped with accommodation, interviews, form filling, or supported as they move to further education, perhaps in an unfamiliar area. That card with a name and contact number is so vital for a young person setting out on life alone – such a big step for all children as they leave for adult life, whatever their background.

Children's Society volunteers watch out for runaways in our big cities; any under age person picked up by the police or perhaps the Salvation Army, will be referred straight to The Children's Society.

This is vital work, which probably is not needed so much in affluent and comfortable Northchurch, but we must do our little bit to make sure every child has the chance to fulfil their potential and to be safe. Your small change really makes a difference.

If any one feels they would like to have a box, then please talk to Charlotte or Gareth Pritchard and we will get one to you. Thank you so much on behalf of The Children's Society – and from all those children you will have helped.

*Charlotte & Gareth Pritchard*

## **TRAIDCRAFT**

Last year I wrote:-

*"the message is the same as it ever was - buying fairly traded products should be routine for us all. Charlotte has often said, we hope our stall becomes 'redundant' as people now have the chance to buy their regular items from all the supermarkets."*

We are now effectively redundant, in terms of needing a regular stall. However, we remain open to supplying by order and in particular will maintain supply to church of fairly traded coffee and tea for all our social activities, as is our responsibility as a Fairtrade Church.

Traidcraft itself, has a website from which you can order their products direct. If you have a chance to look at the website, you will not only find the considerable number of products we don't stock but frequently you will find items being sold at special prices!

*Nick Laing*

## **BEDS & HERTS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST - SPONSORED BIKE 'N HIKE**

This year we were deeply saddened by the sudden death of our area organiser Patrick Lepper, and we vowed to do our best to raise money to celebrate his passion for historic churches. Our fundraising got off to a slightly delayed start as the members of the historic churches trust team worked hard to send sponsor forms out to their regular church contributors.

I am proud and delighted to report that a huge effort was made by eight riders and walkers from our church, some new and some old hands, and with your help we managed to raise the princely sum of £1,872.00, before gift aid. As usual half of this money will go to St Mary's for the repair of our own historic village church. As always, with a building of this age, there is a lot of work to be done for a relatively small congregation, so the injection of almost £1,000 will come in very useful. The remainder

of the money and the gift aid goes direct to the Historic Churches Trust who are then able to use it to make grants for the repair of churches in our area, sometimes even including ours.

It is very interesting to note that the youngest and oldest cyclists raised the most money, by using both the internet "Just Giving" pages and the good old fashioned personal, face to face approach to request sponsorship.

Thank you so much to everyone who sponsored so willingly, and to our lovely team of welcomers who made 41 people from near and as far away as Markyate and Bishops Stortford so very welcome. Thank you, too, to Jennie Budd for supplying the provisions and to her sister Elizabeth for helping to set up the welcome table.

The date for your diary this year is Saturday September 10<sup>th</sup>. Please get your bikes out now, and put some practice in, then see how far you can get for the 2016 event. Brian and I decided to have a go about 11 years ago and we got completely hooked on enjoying the freedom of the road to ride and chat, enjoy the view and get fitter. It has changed our lives, so, take a sponsor form, and persuade your parents / youth / scout / brownie leaders to go with you to show them all the beautiful places of worship in our area. If you have never been inside Berkhamsted School Chapel, now is your chance! You do not have to ride a bike, you can walk and just do Berkhamsted, or even drive to another town and walk to the churches when you get there.

*Evelyn Hodgson*

#### **NORTHCHURCH UNITED CHARITIES**

The Trustees are comprised of representatives from Berkhamsted Town Council, Northchurch Parish Council, Sunnyside church and St Mary's Church and Rev Jonathan Gordon was elected a Chair again this year. The Trustees met in November to make their annual distribution of funds to individuals and clubs helping the elderly and young children requiring extra support, in Berkhamsted and Northchurch. NUC looks forward to receiving funds from the fête this year to continue its work.

*Rosemary North*

#### **THE CHARITY OF DR SMOULT**

For more than 300 years this Charity has administered money left under the will of a former Rector of St Mary's. Since the Benefice was enlarged to include Wigginton, the Trustees widened the residential area of benefit which is now defined as:

"the Ecclesiastical Parish of Northchurch St Mary, the Civil Parish of Northchurch, the area known as the Chiltern Park Estate in the Civil Parish of Berkhamsted or the Ecclesiastical Parish of Wigginton, all in the County of Hertfordshire".

Young people up to the age of 25 living in these areas, or who are active members of St Mary's or St Bartholomew's churches, may apply for grants to further their education. During the year, some grants were made to individual students, either for their studies or for educational trips at home or abroad. Local schools and youth groups also received grants for resources or for training activities.

*Valerie Clark*



## ST MARY'S SCHOOL

The past year at St. Mary's has been an exciting and rewarding time and it is lovely to be able to reflect on the how we have settled into our first year as a Primary School, with many things to celebrate.

The introduction of the new National Curriculum (NC) was a statutory requirement for Years 1, 3, 4 and 5 in September 2014. It was introduced for Years 2 and 6 in September 2015. The aim of the new curriculum is to equip children with the essential knowledge and skills every child should have, whilst giving teachers the freedom to decide how best to teach. In some of the subjects, children will be expected to learn more at an earlier age, e.g. in maths, to know their 12 times table by the age of nine. In English, pupils will learn more Shakespeare and there will be more importance placed on spelling and in the new computing curriculum, pupils will learn how to write code. Children also now have to learn a modern foreign language at Key Stage 2, which in our school is French. We have been able to teach to the new curriculum, whilst continuing to adopt a "Creative Curriculum" approach, with topic-based learning for most subjects, which means that the children cover the curriculum in an engaging and exciting way.

Year 1 children undertook the statutory phonics screening check in June, assessing the child's ability to decode words using only their phonic knowledge. 77% of children achieved the qualifying mark.

We are pleased with our continuing high attainment at the end of Key Stage 1 (Year 2), with results significantly above those achieved nationally last year.

The School Development Plan (SDP) enables us to achieve our School Aims and Vision by setting objectives for improving teaching and learning, and considering standards of achievement and pupil well-being.

Each of these priorities is supported by a number of SMART objectives. Priorities of the SDP 2015/16 are:

- Quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment: **To raise attainment across the curriculum**
- Outcomes for Pupils at the School: To strengthen achievement and accelerate progress
- Quality of Leadership & Management: To continue to develop the quality of leadership and management across the school
- Church School Focus: Continue to receive outstanding learning experiences in RE
- Develop a flexible sustainable financial model: **to meet future financial challenges**

These areas for school development have been selected for the following reasons:

- A large number of observed lessons have been judged good with some outstanding features and some judged as outstanding lessons. This is clearly an improving picture. However, in line with recommendations from Ofsted, the School wants to continue to work towards a higher proportion of outstanding lessons across the School, ensuring that our pupils receive the best possible provision and reach their potential.

- The staff worked hard throughout 2014-2015 to continue to embed the new National Curriculum. They continue to work on ensuring that pupils continue to make expected and better than expected progress, so that they are ready for secondary school at the end of their primary education.
- Following an Ofsted judgement of 'good' for behaviour in May 2014, the School intends to move behaviour of pupils to an 'outstanding' judgment throughout 2015-2016.
- Following the SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) 'outstanding' judgement for RE, the School wants to focus on achieving the RE Quality Mark.

We have welcomed a new teacher to the school, Mrs. Regina Dobbs, who is teaching our first ever year 6 cohort. The children have enjoyed learning in their lovely new classroom and have also been taking on additional responsibilities as befits the eldest children in the school.

After over twenty years' service we said goodbye at the end of summer term 2015 to our cleaner Glenys Lee when she retired.

Our Christian values underpin our school culture and every half term we still focus on a different value. For the children this is mainly explored through Collective Worship, RE lessons and as part of the SEAL curriculum (Social and emotional aspects of learning). We inform the parents in the newsletter, encouraging the whole school community to focus on the value together. The staff think about how they can embody the value, when they discuss it at a staff meeting.

We are proud to be a church school, with a distinctive Christian ethos and were delighted to be recognised as an outstanding church school at our SIAMS inspection a year ago. In RE lessons, pupils learn about Christianity and the other principal world religions. Throughout its operation, the school promotes the fundamental British values including mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. To enrich the curriculum, Mrs Archbold organises many exciting trips and activities for the children. This year the children have enjoyed numerous trips and visits to enrich their understanding of Christianity and other world religions, in addition to the regular church services and assemblies run by Jonathan. and for the first time last year an outdoor Pentecost Service which was held on the school field. In addition to the RE-related visits, the children also enjoyed other trips and activities at school.

St Mary's pupils were invited to take part in the making of the "Road Monster" safety video, which was a project co-ordinated between schools across the town, facilitated by professional filmmakers, who volunteered their time. The nine children who took part were invited to an advance screening of the film. It has since been shown on National Television and the school enjoyed watching it in October.

We have continued to work with Living Streets, on the WOW (Walk to school Once a Week) campaign. Children are encouraged to walk to school and those who do are rewarded with collectable badges. St Mary's continues to have one of the highest proportions of children who walk to school in the area.

Now that we have Upper Key Stage 2 classes we have enjoyed being able to take part in an increasing amount of sport and we have our first ever football team competing in the local league. St Mary's became District champions for Y3 and Y4. At the County

Cross Country run at St. Albans we came third and qualified for the national championships. We are very proud of what the children have achieved in sport and PE at St. Mary's and this will continue to be an area of focus and development for us. Last July Mr Macey won the Dacorum School Sports Network Trophy, for services to PE in schools.

We will continue to develop the range of extra-curricular activities. Some of the many activities that have run this year have included (\*free of charge);  
Sports – Running Club\*, Fitness is fun club\*, Netball Club\*, Boogaloo Boogie, Street Dance, Tennis Club, Cricket Club, Table-tennis\*, Speed-stacking\*  
Other – Sewing Club\*, Chess Club\*, Forest School\*, Green Team\*, Gardening Club\*, Mad Science, Collective Worship\*, Christian Union\*, Violin, Piano, Guitar and Recorder\* tuition and Choir\*.

As ever, the School Association has worked very hard, raising over £13,000 last year. They have funded Smartboards in five classrooms and are currently raising money to provide equipment in the playground for the older children in the school.

We encourage the whole school community to support local and national charities and this year we have raised money for Brain Tumour Research, Children in Need, The Bishop of St Albans Harvest Appeal, Homestart Dacorum, Rennie Grove Hospice, and Macmillan Cancer Support.

Ms Gore and Mrs O'Dell have continued to develop the use of the forest school area, which encourages children to become comfortable with an outdoor approach to education. The after-school Forest School Club has been rotated across the year groups, as we want all children to have the opportunity to enjoy these activities. Activities have included bush-craft skills (lighting fires and building shelters), arts and crafts using woodland materials, learning about the natural world (investigating habitats, creating homes for wildlife), as well as games.

Since April 2015 with the launch of our After School Club, we have been able to offer wraparound child care to our parents. This means that children can be looked after at Breakfast Club from 7.45 remain in school until collection at 6.00 p.m. Children who are not in full-time education are able to join our lunch club and then take part in Pre-School, before joining the older children after school for the club.

The Nursery and Reception and Year 1 and 2 Nativity performances in December were thoroughly enjoyed by the whole school and all the children in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 were given the opportunity to take part and perform in front of their families and friends. Years 3 and 4 then took centre stage in the Carol Concert at the end of the Autumn Term in St. Mary's Church. This was a lovely occasion too.

Over the summer, the quinquennial (five-yearly) building inspection took place. This report informs our maintenance and premises development plan for the next five years.

St Mary's is a voluntary-aided (VA) maintained school. Maintained schools receive their running costs from central government via the local authority. In contrast to other types of maintained schools, only 90% of the capital costs of a VA school are met by the state. The foundation (in our case, the Governing Body), has to contribute the

remaining 10% of the capital costs. Parents are usually encouraged to pay a voluntary contribution towards the school's maintenance funds in VA schools.

After some considerable consideration, we are asking parents to make a voluntary contribution of £5 per family, each term, towards the school capital maintenance fund. The maintenance contribution will be used for the upkeep of the school premises. We will report to parents at the end of the year on how the money donated has been spent, but our immediate wish is to upgrade the corridor doors in classrooms 1 to 4 and the cookery room to viewing panel/fire doors as recommended by our building survey and Safeguarding Governor.

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Governors who have left during the past year, for their dedication and contribution and are grateful to new Governors who have joined us recently:- Louisa Osmond, James Walker, John Canagasuriam, Stuart Goss

Our new Chair since September 2015 is Alan Kemp and Vice Chair is Louise Moorby.

Because we are a Church school the majority of the Governors are appointed by the PCC and the Diocese. Replacement governors are currently required and we would ask for consideration to be given by anyone who would be interested in this very rewarding position, which makes a real difference to the school and the local community.

The Governing body have worked extremely hard throughout the past year, providing support and challenge, for which the school is extremely grateful.

*Vanessa Hunt, Headteacher & Alan Kemp Chair of Governors*

## ACCOUNTS

### **St Mary's Church, Northchurch**

Charity No. 1130418

### **Annual Reports and Accounts**

**of the**

### **Parochial Church Council**

**for the year ended 31 December 2015**

to be held in church after morning service  
on Sunday, 24th April 2016

#### **Incumbent:**

*Revd Jonathan Gordon  
80 High Street  
Northchurch  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 3QW*

#### **Hon Treasurer:**

Emma McCann  
7 Tortoiseshell Way  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 1TB

#### **Independent Examiner:**

Steve Mitchell  
16 Oxfield Close  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 3NE

#### **Bankers:**

National Westminster Bank  
199 High Street  
Berkhamsted  
HP4 1BH

## **Treasurer's Report 2015**

### **Summary:**

Following the challenges my predecessor, Richard North – last year's acting treasurer, faced I am pleased to say 2015 has been a smoother financial year for St. Mary's. Our Parish Share was paid, in full and on time, a glorious summer weekend saw a hugely successful fete and fundraising for the roof has begun in earnest. At the end of 2015 overall income exceeded expenditure by £8096.

### **General Fund Income:**

Voluntary income during 2015 is shown in the accounts to be down by 17% but, a large portion of this is due to the fact that the reclaimed Gift Aid during the year is significantly down on the 2014 figure. This can be explained as follows: during 2014 we were playing catch-up on previously unclaimed Gift Aid and this means that the amount claimed is not a fair comparison figure. 2015 has seen us, due to the efforts of our new gift aid secretary, Christopher Talbot Ponsonby, make regular quarterly Gift Aid claims from HMRC, a trend that will continue.

Other noticeable income variances are reductions in income generated from parish room hire, youth worker/youth group funding and organ fund although these are not unexpected.

### **General Fund Expenditure:**

The largest expenditure for the year, as expected, was the £51853 paid to the Diocese in relation to the Parish share which covers clergy stipends, pensions and diocesan costs. This represents the full payment due for 2015.

Church running expenses fell for the second year running due, in part, to the milder weather during the year and also due to the fixed rate utilities deal we were able to sign up to.

Other significant variances were an increase in organ maintenance fees and a reduction in youth worker salary, both of which were predicted.

St Mary's has continued to donate to charities with the fete income being split between Pakimisa, Herts. Air Ambulance and the roof fund and other donations being made to Christian Aid and the Children's Society.

### **Going Forward:**

As we begin 2016 the biggest challenge this year will be raising funds for the roof but, the sub – committee set up by the PCC is already off to a flying start with this having begun the Sponsor a Brick Scheme and started holding fund-raising events, many more of which will follow during the year. The PCC has also made a grant application which we hope will be successful.

The reduction in parish room bookings is being addressed and bookings are already up significantly on last year to date. We have a new face responsible for managing the bookings, Emily Millar and she is keen to promote the parish room as an events venue.

With the improvement in cash flow seen since the regular Gift Aid claims began St Mary's will be able to make regular monthly payments towards the Parish share and have this settled in full and on time.

I am sure 2016 will not be without challenges but, I look forward to my second year and am grateful for the support I have had from the PCC and other members of the congregation during my first year as Treasurer.

*Emma McCann*

**St Mary's Church, Northchurch.  
Charity No. 1130418**

**Annual report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year Ended  
31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

**Independent Examiners Report.**

The report on the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015, which are set out in the following pages 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 & Examiner.**

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of Regulation and the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of the Regulation.


**Basis of Independent Examiners Report.**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145 (5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance (2006 edition). The examination included a review of the accounting records maintained by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual item or disclosures in the accounts & seeking explanations from you as Trustees concerning 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 Examiners 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
  - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act and
  - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and Regulations have been met or have not been met
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

  
Steve Mitchell  
1<sup>st</sup> April 2016



| Receipts and Payments Account for Period to 31/12/2015 |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
|--|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|  | 2015             |                  |                   | 2014              | Variance          |
|  | Unrestricted     | Restricted       | Total             |                   |                   |
|  | £                | £                | £                 | £                 | £                 |
| <b>Receipts</b>  |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| <b>Voluntary Income</b>                                |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Planned Income   | 46,706.64        | 0.00             | 46,706.64         | 49,117.85         | -2,411.21         |
| Cash Collections                                       | 3,484.58         | 0.00             | 3,484.58          | 3,005.78          | 478.80            |
| Income Tax Recovered                                   | 12,409.97        | 0.00             | 12,409.97         | 23,399.36         | -10,989.39        |
|  | <b>62,601.19</b> | <b>0.00</b>      | <b>62,601.19</b>  | <b>75,522.99</b>  | <b>-12,921.80</b> |
| <b>Other Voluntary Income</b>                          |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Donations/Legacies (inc HRH Duke of Cornwall)          | 3,425.00         | 50.00            | 3,475.00          | 3,674.12          | -199.12           |
| Special Collections / Donations                        | 0.00             | 633.25           | 633.25            | 1,880.26          | -1,247.01         |
| Rector's fees  | 4,058.00         | 0.00             | 4,058.00          | 3,520.00          | 538.00            |
| PCC fees   | 2,689.00         | 0.00             | 2,689.00          | 2,684.00          | 5.00              |
| Organist's fees  | 970.00           | 0.00             | 970.00            | 1,140.00          | -170.00           |
| Bellringers' fees                                      | 540.00           | 0.00             | 540.00            | 540.00            | 0.00              |
| Verger's fees  | 520.00           | 0.00             | 520.00            | 1,040.00          | -520.00           |
| Grants Received  | 0.00             | 230.00           | 230.00            | 0.00              | 230.00            |
|  | <b>12,202.00</b> | <b>913.25</b>    | <b>13,115.25</b>  | <b>14,478.38</b>  | <b>-1,363.13</b>  |
| <b>Events and Activities</b>                           |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Summer Fete  | 0.00             | 4,292.85         | 4,292.85          | 2,859.18          | 1,433.67          |
| Magazine Advertising Income                            | 4,123.00         | 0.00             | 4,123.00          | 3,633.50          | 489.50            |
| Printing Income  | 0.00             | 0.00             | 0.00              | 5.00              | -5.00             |
| Parish Room Hire                                       | 2,954.22         | 0.00             | 2,954.22          | 4,772.58          | -1,818.36         |
| Church Lunches   | 0.00             | 0.00             | 0.00              | 0.00              | 0.00              |
| Historic Churches Cycle Ride                           | 0.00             | 936.00           | 936.00            | 690.00            | 246.00            |
| Social Activities                                      | 390.00           | 465.00           | 855.00            | 0.00              | 855.00            |
|  | <b>7,467.22</b>  | <b>5,693.85</b>  | <b>13,161.07</b>  | <b>11,960.26</b>  | <b>1,200.81</b>   |
| <b>Other Income</b>                                    |                  |                  |                   |                   |                   |
| Bank Interest  | 13.05            | 0.00             | 13.05             | 12.72             | 0.33              |
| Dividends  | 292.23           | 0.00             | 292.23            | 291.52            | 0.71              |
| C B F Interest   | 260.07           | 0.00             | 260.07            | 341.98            | -81.91            |
| Donald Lockhart Memorial Fund                          | 5,156.11         | 0.00             | 5,156.11          | 5,055.42          | 100.69            |
| Northchurch Development Fund                           | 103.73           | 0.00             | 103.73            | 0.00              | 103.73            |
| Miscellaneous Income                                   | 5.00             | 0.00             | 5.00              | 530.35            | -525.35           |
| Rent for 98 High Street                                | 0.00             | 7,304.40         | 7,304.40          | 6,695.70          | 608.70            |
| Insurance Reclaims                                     | 124.40           | 0.00             | 124.40            | 0.00              | 124.40            |
| Organ Restoration Fund                                 | 0.00             | 1,070.64         | 1,070.64          | 10,939.31         | -9,868.67         |
| Building Fund Income                                   | 0.00             | 3,778.89         | 3,778.89          | 1,025.00          | 2,753.89          |
| Youth Worker / Youth Group Funding                     | 0.00             | 2,045.00         | 2,045.00          | 7,178.82          | -5,133.82         |
| Traidcraft Sales                                       | 591.29           | 0.00             | 591.29            | 887.55            | -296.26           |
| Choir / Music  | 0.00             | 60.00            | 60.00             | 0.00              | 60.00             |
| Kneeler Funds  | 0.00             | 152.50           | 152.50            | 550.00            | -397.50           |
|  | <b>6,545.88</b>  | <b>14,411.43</b> | <b>20,957.31</b>  | <b>33,508.37</b>  | <b>-12,551.06</b> |
| <b>Total Receipts</b>                                  | <b>88,816.29</b> | <b>21,018.53</b> | <b>109,834.82</b> | <b>135,470.00</b> | <b>-25,635.18</b> |

|   | 2015              |  |  | 2014              | Variance           |
|---|-------------------|--|--|-------------------|--------------------|
| Payments  | £                 |  |  | £                 | £                  |
| <b>Grants</b>                                     |                   |  |  |                   |                    |
| Overseas Missions and Relief Agencies             | 1,000.00          |  |  | 1,829.14          | -829.14            |
| UK Missions and Relief Agencies                   | 1,643.25          |  |  | 1,992.12          | -348.87            |
|   | <b>2,643.25</b>   |  |  | <b>3,821.26</b>   | <b>-1,178.01</b>   |
| <b>Relating to the Work of the Church</b>         |                   |  |  |                   |                    |
| Diocesan Quota                                    | 51,853.00         |  |  | 54,947.25         | -3,094.25          |
| Rector's fees paid to Diocese                     | 4,058.00          |  |  | 3,520.00          | 538.00             |
| Church Running Expenses                           | 12,415.56         |  |  | 13,835.73         | -1,420.17          |
| Clergy Expenses                                   | 2,925.85          |  |  | 2,798.06          | 127.79             |
| Service & License Costs                           | 904.23            |  |  | 1,547.79          | -643.56            |
| Youth Worker Salary                               | 474.56            |  |  | 4,476.54          | -4,001.98          |
| Honoraria   | 4,973.00          |  |  | 5,699.50          | -726.50            |
| Organist  | 1,805.00          |  |  | 1,710.00          | 95.00              |
| Churchyard  | 129.77            |  |  | 272.34            | -142.57            |
| Magazine  | 5,280.00          |  |  | 5,268.00          | 12.00              |
| Printing  | 732.64            |  |  | 387.86            | 344.78             |
| Organ Maintenance                                 | 2,864.00          |  |  | 178.00            | 2,686.00           |
| Verger Fees                                       | 1,665.00          |  |  | 1,040.00          | 625.00             |
| Bellringers' fees                                 | 0.00              |  |  | 540.00            | -540.00            |
| Organist's Service Fees                           | 450.00            |  |  | 1,140.00          | -690.00            |
| Other Expenditure                                 | 669.12            |  |  | 2,050.45          | -1,381.33          |
| Fundraising Costs (incl Fete & Social Activities) | 2,042.40          |  |  | 105.60            | 1,936.80           |
| Sunday School Expenses                            | 237.82            |  |  | 170.40            | 67.42              |
| Youth Work Expenses                               | 930.06            |  |  | 1,465.91          | -535.85            |
| Traidcraft Purchases                              | 590.58            |  |  | 885.03            | -294.45            |
| Kneeler Funds Expenses                            | 1,029.00          |  |  | 0.00              | 1,029.00           |
| C B F Interest Reinvested                         | 363.80            |  |  | 341.98            | 21.82              |
| Audit Costs                                       | 0.00              |  |  | 0.00              | 0.00               |
|   | <b>96,393.39</b>  |  |  | <b>102,380.44</b> | <b>-5,987.05</b>   |
| <b>Maintenance Costs</b>                          |                   |  |  |                   |                    |
| Major Capital Expenditure                         | 0.00              |  |  | 0.00              | 0.00               |
| 98 High Street                                    | 883.73            |  |  | 1,377.26          | -493.53            |
| Buildings Maintenance                             | 1,354.53          |  |  | 16,737.36         | -15,382.83         |
| Parish Room                                       | 464.10            |  |  | 479.90            | -15.80             |
|   | <b>2,702.36</b>   |  |  | <b>18,594.52</b>  | <b>-15,892.16</b>  |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                             | <b>101,739.00</b> |  |  | <b>124,796.22</b> | <b>(23,057.22)</b> |
| <b>Surplus for the Year</b>                       | <b>8,095.82</b>   |  |  | <b>10,558.78</b>  | <b>(2,462.96)</b>  |
|   |                   |  |  |                   |                    |
| Building Fund                                     | 2,896.26          |  |  | -15,502.26        | 18,398.52          |
| 98 High Street Fund                               | 6,420.67          |  |  | 4,709.74          | 1,710.93           |
| General Fund                                      | 572.25            |  |  | 11,699.84         | -11,127.59         |
| Organ Fund  | -1,793.36         |  |  | 9,651.46          | -11,444.82         |
|   | <b>8,095.82</b>   |  |  | <b>10,558.78</b>  | <b>-2,462.96</b>   |

| Charity/Fund Title  | Account No. | No.<br>Shares | Value per<br>Share | Dividend/<br>Interest | Value of Fund<br>at 31/12/15 |
|---|-------------|---------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| <u>National Westminster Bank</u>                              |             |               |                    |                       | £68,360.43                   |
| <u>With St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance</u>               |             |               |                    |                       |                              |
| Northchurch Development Fund                                  | 132001842D  |               |                    | £103.73<br>reinvested | £19,147.06                   |
| Donald Lockhart Memorial Fund                                 | 132001875S  |               |                    | £5,156.11             | £134,188.50                  |
| <u>With Central Board of Finance of the Church of England</u> |             |               |                    |                       |                              |
| Fixed Interest Securities Fund                                | 632008001F  |               |                    | £166.32<br>reinvested | £4,134.54                    |
| Deposit Fund  | 632008001D  |               | £260.07            | £93.75<br>reinvested  | £17,338.77                   |
| <u>COIF Charity Funds</u>                                     |             |               |                    |                       |                              |
| Wagstaff Trust  | C0000402616 |               |                    | £2.19                 | £145.98                      |
| Wagstaff Trust Income Fund                                    | C0000403186 |               |                    | £0.78                 | £54.02                       |
| Hadden Trust  | C0000402615 |               |                    | £2.40                 | £160.00                      |
| Hadden Trust Income Fund                                      | C0000403185 |               |                    | £0.60                 | £40.00                       |
| Malcolmson Bequest  | C0000402601 |               |                    | £2.22                 | £147.88                      |
| Bailey Charity  | 282190001T  | 18            | £12.23             | £8.48                 | £222.02                      |
| Ridley for Church Fabric Fund                                 | 282190002T  | 56            | £12.23             | £26.38                | £690.74                      |
| Ridley for Churchyard Fund                                    | 282190004T  | 56            | £12.23             | £26.38                | £690.74                      |
| Michael Memorial fabric Fund                                  | 282190003T  | 58            | £12.23             | £27.32                | £715.41                      |
| Gwynedd Charity   | 282190005T  | 89            | £12.23             | £41.92                | £1,097.79                    |
| Thelwall Trust for Churchyard Upkeep                          | 282190006T  | 89            | £12.23             | £41.92                | £1,097.79                    |
| A Ashley  | 282190007T  | 32            | £12.23             | £15.07                | £394.71                      |
| C B Kings Children for Churchyard                             | 282190008T  | 15            | £12.23             | £7.06                 | £185.02                      |
| Randall Memorial Foreign Mission                              | 268810000T  | 62            | £12.23             | £29.21                | £764.75                      |
| Browne Charity  | 332730001T  | 128           | £12.23             | £60.30<br>292.23      | £1,578.84<br>£7,985.69       |
|   |             |               |                    |                       | <b>£251,154.99</b>           |

**St Mary's Church, Northchurch**  
for the year ended 31st December 2014  
Charity No. 1130418

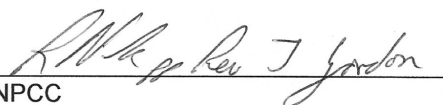
|                        | <b>2015</b>            | <b>2014</b>            | <b>+/- %</b> |
|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
|                        | £                      | £                      |              |
| <b>Income</b>          |                        |                        |              |
| Voluntary Income       | 62601                  | 75523                  | -17%         |
| Other Voluntary Income | 13115                  | 14478                  | -9%          |
| Other Income           | 34118                  | 45369                  | -25%         |
|                        | <u>109834</u>          | <u>135370</u>          | <u>-19%</u>  |
| <b>Expenditure</b>     |                        |                        |              |
| Grants Made            | 2644                   | 3821                   | -31%         |
| Work of Church         | 96393                  | 102380                 | -6%          |
| Maintenance            | 2702                   | 18595                  | -85%         |
|                        | <u>101739</u>          | <u>124796</u>          | <u>-18%</u>  |
| Surplus/(Deficit)      | 8095                   | 10574                  |              |
| B/Forward              | 241224                 | 222123                 |              |
| Adj to B/fwd bal       | 0                      | 850                    |              |
|                        | <u>249319</u>          | <u>233547</u>          |              |
| Gain on Investment     | 1836                   | 7677                   |              |
| Carried Forward        | <u><b>£251,155</b></u> | <u><b>£241,224</b></u> |              |

**Northchurch Parochial Church Council**  
as at 31st December 2015  
**Charity No. 1130418**  
**Balance Sheet**

|                       | 2015<br>£             | 2014<br>£             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Fixed Assets</b>   | <u>0</u>              | <u>0</u>              |
| <b>Current Assets</b> |                       |                       |
| Cash at Bank          | 68,360                | 44,200                |
| Investments           | 182,795               | 180,974               |
| Debtors               | <u>16,050</u>         | <u>16,050</u>         |
|                       | <u>251,155</u>        | <u>241,224</u>        |
|                       | <b><u>251,155</u></b> | <b><u>241,224</u></b> |
| <b>Represented By</b> |                       |                       |
| Funds carried forward | <u>251,155</u>        | <u>241,224</u>        |
|                       | <b><u>251,155</u></b> | <b><u>241,224</u></b> |

Signed

Chair - NPCC

 Rev J Gordon