

# *Plympton St. Mary Parochial Church Council*



*Annual Report and Financial Statements*

*For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013*

***Incumbent***

*Vacancy*

***Previous Incumbent***

*Reverend Prebendary M Cameron*

*(Retired November 2013)*

***Bank***

*NatWest,*

*74/76 Ridgeway,*

*Plympton,*

*Plymouth, PL7 2AF*

***Independent Examiner***

*Mr Graham Beeson*

*150 Dudley Road*

*Plympton*



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## **PLYMPTON ST. MARY - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2013**

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of promoting the whole mission of the Church: worship, evangelisation and service. We seek to work together pursuing our mission statement: "Serving Christ in the heart of Plympton and beyond".

### **The Parochial Church Council**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

#### **Clergy:** (ex officio on PCC)

The Revd. Prebendary Margaret Cameron (Retired November 2013), The Revd. Roger Beck and The Revd. Mark Brimicombe

#### **Wardens:** (ex officio on PCC)

Mr Kenneth Kingwell & Mr Peter Leigh vice Mr David Nicholls

#### **Elected to the Deanery Synod, for session ending 2014** (Ex officio on PCC)

Mrs Margaret Leigh, Mrs Enis Bowden, Mr Keith Escott

### **Elected Members**

#### **Elected to 2014**

Mrs. Mila Collier  
Mr. Julian Otto  
Mr. Keith Shepperd  
Miss Deborah Tozer

#### **Elected to 2015**

Mr. Jack Duckworth  
Mrs. Julia Escott  
Mr. Rodger Ruse  
Miss Lucy Skinner

#### **Elected to 2016**

Mrs. Gillian Anstey  
Mr. Mick Austin  
Mrs. Mary Nicholls  
Mr. Phil Smith

### **Co-opted Members:**

Mr. Peter Hayes, Head of St. Mary's Church of England Infants' School  
Mrs. Sue Higson, Assistant Head;  
The Revd. Ian Provost (as coordinator of the Growing the Church Group)

.The PCC currently consists of those Ex officio and co-opted members listed above, and 12 elected members, each for a period of 3 years. There should be 15 elected members. Mr Peter Leigh returned to the PCC as an elected member last year but later was elected as a Church Warden following the death of Mr. David Nicholls. The PCC may co-opt members in accordance with regulations. Of the elected members Mr Keith Shepperd has served as Hon. Treasurer and Miss Deborah Tozer as Hon. Secretary.

### **Committees & Working Groups:**

Standing Committee, Hall and social events, Planned Giving/world Church, Fabric & churchyard and "Growing the Church".

### **A Brief Overview of the Church Year**

In last year's report to the Annual Parochial Meeting the Vicar included a notice of her intention to retire from full-time ministry. This took place in November and a farewell lunch was held at Plympton Conservative Club attended by a capacity 100

people. Thanks for the ministry here of Prebendary Margaret Cameron were given by Mr Peter Leigh, churchwarden on behalf of the parish; the Revd. Simon Leigh, Superintendent Minister of the Plymouth Methodist Circuit on behalf of the other churches of Plympton; and Mr Gary Streeter MP on behalf of the wider community. During the year the Vicar was made an Honorary Stannator in recognition of her contribution to the Plympton community.

St Mary's also hosted the farewell Eucharist for the Bishop of Plymouth, the Right Revd. John Ford, who was to become a Diocesan Bishop in Australia. We were pleased to welcome Mr Bob Harrison as a Reader licenced to this parish. He has previously served in this ministry for many years at St Mark's, Ford and St Bartholomew's, Milehouse.

This year the three existing Plymouth Deaneries were merged into one with the Archdeacon of Plymouth as the new City Dean with three assistants covering the previous deaneries. Meetings of the new Synod and Chapter took place.

Following the death of Mr David Nicholls who gave great service to the parish over many years Mr Peter Leigh was elected as churchwarden.

Plympton Churches Together had an active year in which St Mary's played a part. We hosted the now annual service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with the new Methodist Minister at Ridgeway, the Revd. Andy Day, preaching. We also participated in the ecumenical Lent course and the Advent outreach "Follow the Star". Our commitment to study continued with Professor David Catchpole returning to lead another study day, this time on the Gospel according to St Luke, the Church's gospel for the year. The annual Quiet Day was held as usual at Buckfast Abbey conducted appropriately by the Vicar.

During the year the "Growing the Church project" continued with groups reviewing and developing: deepening faith including house groups; service within the church; service to the wider community; website and social media; parish magazine; publicity and notice boards. Targets were set and the project continues.

Our strong links with St Mary's School continue with Mr Keith Escott as Chairman of Governors and the Revd, Mark Brimicombe becoming a governor during the year. The Revd. Roger Beck also regularly takes a part in the Friday worship in school.

We continue to have many requests for Baptism and Marriage and to have preparation sessions for both. A small Confirmation of adults also took place during the year. Our regular sacramental ministry in the ten residential/nursing homes continues and a number of individuals receive Holy Communion at home. Our annual Memorial Service for the recently bereaved took place in November. While many Plympton funerals still take place in church there are fewer requests for our clergy to conduct funerals at the local crematoria. Unfortunately this means that fewer people are able to be introduced to and benefit from our Bereavement Group.

This year also saw a Stewardship Renewal Campaign chaired by Mr Julian Otto and advised by Mr Peter Leigh. Our pattern of Sunday/weekday worship remained unchanged with the continuing variety contributed by Café Praise in particular their

involvement in worship at Christmas and Easter. The dedication of Plympton Priory to SS. Peter & Paul which has now become an annual event on the Sunday nearest their feast day took the form of Compline (Night Prayer) on the Priory Site. It is attended by some in the community concerned to preserve Plympton's heritage. We again took part in Heritage Open Day to the same end.

Chaddlewood United Church continued to develop their relationship with Colebrook Methodist Church. On the retirement of the Vicar Mrs Marguerite Coaker took over as Chairperson of St Mary's Pre-School keeping our existing links with this work. We have continued to receive and benefit from the ministry of the Revd. Ian and Margaret Provost.

Finally thanks to all those who sustain the work of the parish in church, sacristy, parish hall, parish office, and churchyard in so many and varied ways to numerous to mention but greatly appreciated.

*Revd. Roger Beck, Associate Priest*

### **Parochial Church Council Meetings**

We have met six times over the past year. The PCC is the organisation that maintains the running and financial side of the Church Our main topic of discussion has been the work on the east end of the church which has been successfully accomplished ahead of time.

Anybody can be elected on to the PCC provided they are on the electoral roll. Elections take place annually at the APCM.

*Deborah Tozer, PCC Secretary*

### **Growing the Church**

The Growth Project, launched at the last Annual Meeting, has made a good start. We need to continue to work in order to make it firmly established within the consciousness of everyone in the Plympton St. Mary's community.

Priorities were set and a shared understanding of growth was confirmed, these were,

- a) Build up the confidence of members of the congregations – nurture, understanding of the faith and ability to live an effective Christian life. It is not about increasing numbers, it is about strengthening our relationship with Christ.
- b) It includes developing support and pastoral care within the congregations.
- c) It reaches beyond the existing members to the needs of the wider community and ensuring our life is known by the wider community.
- d) Our understanding of the project may be summarised "growth within, growth among and growth beyond"

Six house groups were established meeting on a range of days, times and in a variety of areas within the parish. Most studied the Lord's Prayer using N.T. Wright's book, 'The Lord and His Prayer.' Other groups followed their own programme. There are three issues that need to be addressed if we are to grow in confidence as faithful disciples of Our Lord:

- a. To increase the number of groups we need more people who are willing to be group leaders. It is disappointing that nobody attended the planned meeting to give potential leaders training for the role.
- b. To increase the number of participants we need to publicise meetings in weekly notices and the magazine. Short reports in the magazine from each group would be interesting from time to time.
- c. To develop daily Bible reading it is intended to raise the profile of Bible Reading Fellowship (BRF) Notes and publications

Peter Leigh is reviewing 'Service' within the church. When completed, this work will result in a definite list of all those undertaking tasks within the church community. It is important that we continue to support each other within our community.

Jack and Sarah Duckworth are reviewing the website and social media. Ownership of the website has assumed by the parish, its upkeep being our responsibility. The site has been redesigned and updated. It is an information hub, potential new visitors, those looking for information on weddings, funerals and baptisms it also provides links to families at St Marys School. The news page is for members of the congregation if they have been unable to attend services during the week.

Phil and Di Smith are reviewing the Parish Magazine. If we are to grow communication is essential. The website and the Parish Magazine are the key means of communication between parishioners and the wider community. Both are vehicles by which we can convey what is happening and what we believe. The magazine has continued to develop. A wider range of articles has been included. WC Parsons' offer to print the magazine in full colour in future has been gratefully accepted.

The review of service to the wider community led by Sam Snelling. Identifying the needs of the local community has been the main focus of this work. Links have been made with the local authority and some local organizations. Areas that may provide opportunities for parishioners to serve others within the wider community have been identified. This will be considered by the growth group and the PCC. When we move into this work it will be important that as a faith community we provide a committed and reliable team. It will be best to focus on developing the confidence in our faith before embarking on this aspect of growth.

Rodger Ruse is responsible for publicity. Regular contact with local media has continued with good effect and the Plympton magazine has been added to the list of contacts. Media are selective in the articles they will include so it is important for us to prioritise. They are more interested in our outreaching projects (especially those involving young people) than in our work within our church community. Group leaders are asked to ensure that Rodger is made aware of all activities.

We appreciate all the work in the above aspects of growth within and beyond the parish and look forward to the next steps in our journey in the coming year.

*Revd. Mark Brimicombe*

### **St Mary's House Groups**

During the last twelve months, five house groups have been running; two on a Monday evening, one on a Wednesday morning, one on a Thursday evening and one on a Friday morning. Thanks must go to those who host these groups and those who lead them. We know that these

groups are appreciated by those who attend - the average number in each is about nine, which is about right.

It would be good to have more such small groups but we need more leaders. Leadership training is available and does not require a degree in theology, just a love for God and His people and a desire to learn more about how we can be disciples in this day and age. However, there is more to a house group than learning about the Bible and the Faith we hold dear. There is the fellowship side which allows us to get to know each other better. This is one way St Mary's can thrive by growing Christian friendship amongst the congregation and all who regard St Mary's and Chaddlewood United Church as their spiritual home. If you are not a member of a house group, then please consider joining a group; you will be most welcome.

*Revd. Ian Provost*

### **Servers**

Three servers brave the early mornings to serve at the 8 a.m. service. It would be good to have a couple more.

There are 11 servers who take turns to serve at the 10 a.m. Eucharist. This number has increased recently as youngsters who acted as acolytes progressed to be servers. That is fine but it has left the band of acolytes (candle bearers) very much weakened. There are four who do this duty. It makes it very demanding so on some Sundays we have no acolytes. It would be good to have a couple more. Servers for baptisms and evensong are drawn from the adults who serve at the 10 a.m. Eucharist.

In the last 2 years servers have joined the Company of Servers. This is a nationwide company who meet for a corporate Eucharist several times a year.

*Julian Otto*

### **Cafe Praise**

The last year has been a good one for Cafe Praise. In addition to the Church based events, we have been spreading God's word to the schools of Plympton. We have visited all of the primary schools once and are part way through our second round with a different theme. We take the assembly with an illustrated video Bible story. We provide an explanation of how this applies to them plus songs and a prayer. One of the songs in particular is very noisy. We have a competition to find the loudest school. The assemblies seem to be very well received. As a result a number of children have attended Cafe Praise Sunday events.

We continue to meet monthly on Sunday afternoons. These offer various craft options, cookery, a story, songs and prayers and then tea. These continue to be popular but we are conscious that not all families can manage Sundays. In December we ran "Getting Ready for Christmas" as an after-school event, held at St. Maurice Church Hall on a Friday. This proved very popular and we are incorporating Friday meetings into our timetable for the summer. Afternoon events offer a free meal to the children and we plan to alternate these between the two Church Halls for the initial period.

We used a combination of the Church calendar and the lectionary to identify subjects which included both Old and New Testament themes. We have also assisted in the Good Friday, Christingle and Crib Services. If requested willing to assist in the wider life of the Church.

We are self-funding with the means of various stalls at the Churches' events, jam and marmalade sales, donations and our 100 Club. We are able to provide free books to the children,

refreshments to parents, children's' high tea, after school meals and craft expenses. The much of our funds are expended on publicity with flyers and posters go out to the schools each month.

We received invaluable support from Rev. Margaret Cameron until she retired. She will be sorely missed. Without her we could not have achieved so much, she remains very much in our prayers. The continued support of St Mary's clergy for our Sunday events is very welcome. This is particularly so whilst the vicar's post is vacant and their duties having increased, thank you.

We welcome new members, helpers and leaders, if anyone wishes to become more involved with our work please feel free to contact any of the leadership team.

Please hold the work of Cafe Praise in your prayers.

*Linda Lewis*

### **Chaddlewood United Church**

The small congregation at Chaddlewood continues to meet and worship faithfully though less frequently as our services here have been reduced. On the first Sunday of each month we join with Colebrook Methodist Church and likewise on the third Sunday with St Mary's. For various reasons our numbers have dropped but in spite of this we have still been busy over the year.

We have two Bible Study groups. One is led by June Drake meeting on Friday mornings at her house. The other meets on Monday evenings at Judith Goodridge's house and led by Rev. Ian Provost. The groups are mixed, not everyone is a worshipper at Chaddlewood. We are delighted that some of the Monday group are planning to go Lee Abbey in May when the weekend is entitled "Renew - Refresh - Resource". This will be led by the Lee Abbey team and is designed for individual Christians, small groups, and Churches:

- (1) To strengthen relationships with each other
- (2) To deepen their relationship with God
- (3) To learn how to be salt and light more effectively in their local communities.

As well as the Bible Study groups there is a prayer meeting held each Wednesday morning at the home of Beryl Smith. Some of the members of Chaddlewood have joined with Colebrook Methodist in taking "Open the Book" to Chaddlewood School which has been very well received.

Chaddlewood members also support St Mary's "Cafe Praise" either helping in the actual sessions or in the background by baking cakes or supporting the fund raising. Again working with Colebrook we assisted them in holding a Soup Lunch in 2013 for the work of Christian Aid and are hoping to do even better this year.

The produce at our Harvest Thanksgiving Service was donated to the Food Bank. We continue to support the Food Bank with contributions. June Drake looks after this project for us.

At Christmas we went Carol Singing in Chaddlewood Plymco being supported by friends from Colebrook Methodist and other Churches. Singing carols away from church is a good but we collected a respectable sum of £97-04 for the Shekinah Mission. They have been invited to tell us more about their work.

We undertook fundraising with stalls at Harewood House Fairs in order to reimburse St Mary's for the cost of our insurance premium. We also held a successful cream tea at the Vicarage. This also a very enjoyable social afternoon.

Another social group "Good Company" continues meeting once a month for a meal and is much valued by all the members, many of whom live on their own.

On Good Friday we held our traditional an Open Air Service. This provides a visible witness of the meaning of Easter to the residents of Chaddlewood.

I think the people of Chaddlewood United Church do have some concerns as to our future. But we hope and pray that the way will be open to enable this outreach branch of St Mary's to move forward and that the worship and witness in the Chaddlewood area will continue and grow.

*Mavis Buttle*

### **Parish Safeguarding**

The aim is for St. Mary's to be an open and welcoming place. At the same time we need to do all that is possible to safeguard the vulnerable from harm. The incumbent and PCC are jointly responsible for the duty of care to ensure the well-being of children, young people and vulnerable adults in our church community. This includes sharing in the selection and appointment of all workers with young people, whether voluntary or paid, ensuring that the policies and procedures are followed. The PCC has appointed me as the parish safeguarding representative to work with them to implement both the Diocesan and Parish safeguarding guidelines. In recent years changes have occurred particularly with the introduction of the Disclosure & Barring Service. Those who work directly with children, young persons and vulnerable adults require an enhanced certificate of disclosure from this organisation.

The PCC has adopted both the Exeter Diocesan guidelines and has produced also parish guidelines. A copy of the parish child protection policy, procedures and good practice guidelines is provided to all who work with vulnerable people, young or old or are in a position of authority.

The PCC is also responsible for ensuring that any organisation hiring the church hall certifies that they have a formal child protection & vulnerable adult safeguarding policy in place as a condition of using the hall.

A summary of the PCC policy on safeguarding is displayed in the South Porch of the Church and in the lobby of the Church Hall. There can also be seen posters of the Childline telephone number and where the full safeguarding policy may be viewed. My contact details are can be found in the parish magazine.

*David J. Farley*

### **Church Fabric**

Major repair works to the east end were completed. A faculty had been submitted for work to take place during 2014 on, the organ, the bells, the installation of CCTV in the belfry and the building of a 'music stand'.

During the year several lamps lighting the church had to be replaced. There is a problem with the low voltage that is delivered to the lamps. This had not been taken into account when the new system was installed a few years ago. We hope to resolve this during 2014.

We thank the team of cleaners who weekly clean the building and also the flower arrangers who always manage to provide attractive floral displays appropriate for time of year or occasion.

*Ken Kingwell*

## **The Bell Tower**

The Open/Gift Day in June was a great success. With contributions and refreshments, nearly £1200 was raised. There were many visitors to see the displays and visit the tower to see the bells and the needed repairs. Several gave pulling a bell rope a try, with assistance, and pleased to say that three people have continued to learn to ring.

Raising funds to pay for the repairs to the bells will continue into 2014. In addition to fund raising grants from various bodies is also being sought. It is known that once an order is placed with the Bell Foundry there will be a delay of some seven to nine months before they can commence work. Once work is commenced it will take six to eight weeks for it to be completed.

Thanks are due to both Brian Meek and Philip Dowrick (one of the new learners) who have worked hard on the Bell Frame. This has involved many, many hours, power wire brushing the metal work and 2 coats of special paint. Their DIY work has and will save considerable sums of money. This has involved the removal of the sound deadening old carpets and years of dust and grime had to be cleaned out from under the bells and brought down to be disposed of. There are 47 steps to the ringing chamber and up a further 20 to the bells. Hopefully the repairs to the Tower fixings, Frame and Bells will allow ringing to continue for many years to come.

When work is eventually commenced further savings can be made by someone volunteering to provide bed and breakfast for the visiting engineer. Also a few volunteers prepared to assist him will also reduce the final costs.

We are very grateful for ringers from other Towers assisting us to make up numbers for Wedding ringing and Sunday evening Service.

We welcome anyone interested in Bells or ringing to come along on Monday evenings, 7.30 – 9.00 pm

*Mary Nicholls* Tower Captain

## **The Choir**

We were again busy last year. There are thirteen members of the choir, five sopranos, four altos, one tenor and three basses. When David sadly died we lost a bass. There have been no new recruits but we have been augmented on several occasions by ex-members whose help has been great. We still have a real need for new singers as, being such a small number we are limited in the quality, class and style of what we can perform. We are all enthusiastic about singing but there is a huge pressure on each of us not to be sick! Or to go on holiday!

The choir has worked very hard under the guidance of Mila, supplying music at two services each Sunday and on various other occasions including the Memorial Services. We have sung anthems for the major festivals and on other occasions, with special music for the Advent Carol Service, the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas We are frequently asked to sing at weddings, and increasingly, funerals.

We really look forward to the RSCM Choir Festival at Exeter Cathedral held in October. About seven of us went this year; as ever we found it very uplifting. Earlier this year we had a special evening out to celebrate Lionel Footers 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and to demonstrate our affection and thanks for all the knowledge and wisdom he has given to us over the years. Another notable event was when our musical director married Steve Collier. We sang at their wedding and we offer them our hearty congratulations.

Everyone will know by now that enough funds to refurbish the organ were finally raised thanks to the generosity of so many people and the hard work of those who organised fund raising events. (*Work should be completed by early May*).

We would like to make an appeal here: If you like to sing please consider joining us in the choir. We don't need voices that are operatically trained, we don't do auditions. All you need is an enthusiasm for church music and a willingness to offer some commitment. We understand that to commit to two services each Sunday is difficult, but if you are able to just do one service a week, or to help out from time to time; we would welcome this. We would, of course expect some visits to Choir Practise on Fridays at 7-15 pm. Age, or lack of it, is no barrier! Just see either of us, or any member of the choir.

We want to continue and renew St. Mary's musical reputation.

*Mila Collier (Grimes) Director of Music*

*Pauline Nicholls Deputy Organist*

### **The Churchyard**

I would like to thank all those who have helped in the Churchyard over the year, particular Jill and Jon. Jill Symons has taken charge of the new cremation plot, strimming the grass and general tidying that area, and as you can see has done a very good job. Well done Jill. Jon, on the other hand helps me with the grass cutting on the lower part of the churchyard, strimming where you cannot get the sit-on tractor. I do not know how the churchyard would look if they were not available, so, thank you once again.

There has been a party of helpers who have cleared the rubbish from part of the stream that runs between the churchyard and the Ridgeway. Thank you all very much.

Finally, may I thank those that come and go unannounced and ask once again that, if anyone has time to spare and they would like to help in this very rewarding task, please contact me to arrange a time, we have the equipment, all we need is "people power". Thanking you in anticipation.

*Bob Dyer Sexton*

### **Church Watch**

We are there to give a warm welcome to visitors who either wish to view St Mary's or are seeking a quiet sanctuary for prayer. We have a group of dedicated volunteers who give up a couple of hours once a month during the summer so our lovely Church is open to the public. We ensure that our visitors have an enjoyable and memorable experience. Comments in the Visitors Book reveal that our presence is appreciated. Whilst we have 30 members this is insufficient for the building to be open every day throughout the summer. However, last year the church was open on more occasions than ever before!

Each year English Heritage organise coordinated Open Days for thousands of buildings across the country. The dates for will be the weekend of 13/14 September. It is necessary to have at least two volunteers present at any time when we are open. We always need new volunteers to replace those are unable to continue. I am truly grateful for the efforts of our splendid volunteers throughout the summer season. A new rota for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September is being compiled and I would be delighted to hear from any members of the congregation or their friends who could join our team. Please contact me on 01752 510190 if you feel able to help.

*Rodger Ruse*

## **Brass Cleaning Group**

This year has been a difficult year for the Brass Cleaning Group. We were sad to hear that Mrs. Pauline Adams died this year. Our sympathy goes out to her family. Five of our group Andy and Sue Cole, Maurice Prizeman, Mick and Barbara Austin are all stepping down for health reasons. We thank them for all their hard work and wish them all well. I would like to say a big thank you to those who helped out during my recent period of ill health. Recently I was given the 'all clear' am now back doing the brass cleaning. Mrs. Pat Gray has volunteered to help the group. Many thanks to all the other members of the group who help to keep the brass looking bright and well cared for.

*David Brinkley*

## **Sunday Morning Refreshments**

We have continued to serve Fair Trade tea and coffee after the 10 o'clock service to give people a chance to meet and chat to each other. There are currently 12 people in our catering team, plus a few who are off temporarily, many thanks to them all. We would always welcome more helpers (not only women!), it only involves helping about once in 5 or 6 weeks. People now make voluntary monetary contributions for their refreshment and over the year we raised £345 for Church funds. We are always most grateful for the "gifts" which arrive from time to time, thank you. If you are prepared to assist please contact me, my home tel. no. is 511862.

*Glenys Otto*

## **St Mary's Handbell Ringers**

Our aim is to provide the residents of the homes with a good sing song and an enjoyable fun evening. We try as much as possible to go out to a Residential Home every Thursday evening. During the year we visited the following homes on many occasions, Merafield View, Lambs Park and Michaelstow, (all Plympton), Butterpark and Ivydeen, (both Ivybridge), Chatsworth in Manamead, Furzatt Lodge, Plymstock, Tor Home, Hartley, Nutley Lodge, Elburton, Valley View, Egguckland, Manor Court, Efford. Also at Pocklington Rise, Plympton, with the Methodist Minister and the Combined Churches Carol Singers. We never ask for payment from the homes, a nice cup of tea is all we ask but we sometimes get a donation.

We also played before the start of the St Mary's Carol Service. We ended the year with same number of ringers as when we started. We lost 2 ringers due to family reasons, but we have gained 2 new members to replace them. We would like to have more ringers, to cover bells that are not being rung.

We have a small fund out of which we cover the costs bell repairs and to provide polo shirts, with Plympton St Mary's logo, on them which promotes the Church for the ringers.

*Colin Mason*

## **Parish Centre and Hall**

The Centre is used on weekdays for Preschool, Parent Baby and Toddler Group, Bereavement group, Melting Pot, Past Times and Mothers Union. On weekends there is a weekly coffee shop and table top once a month.

Every weekday morning the office is staffed by volunteers. Their duties include maintaining registers, answering the telephone and maintain a church diary. The 'Vicar's' office had a

replacement PC during the year. We have access to superfast broadband and it provides a Wi-Fi facility.

Annually the church hall is used for the summer and Christmas Fairs and the Strawberry Tea. The Hall is also the venue for Baptism and Marriage preparation, Sunday Club and Cafe Praise. Thanks to Mr Michael Austen for his work as caretaker for the hall and to Mrs Margaret Leigh who has been taking the bookings and dealing with the ordering of equipment required to keep the Parish Centre running, since the sad loss of Mr. David Nicholls.

There is still a problem in the Church Hall when severe weather conditions may cause the floor to rise, several tiles have been repaired and/or replaced. Solving this problem more permanently will be addressed as soon as possible but, as always, finance is a major stumbling block. Since the New Year we have also had to replace the gas boiler in the kitchen. The old one was faulty and the timing mechanism of the thermostat was completely unserviceable causing a high spike in gas usage during the recent winter.

*Hall Management Group*

## **BEREAVEMENT GROUP**

This group has had a very successful year. We meet in the Parish Centre to provide a listening ear and friendship to those people who have been recently bereaved. We are still attracting 30 to 35 people on a regular basis. This group has become a very successful friendship club. Many recently bereaved people are benefiting from this group. They then move on and leave room for new members.

On Bank Holiday Mondays we have a friendship meal to our members as holiday weekends can feel very sad and lonely for the bereaved. We also invite former members of the group. The meal is taken at the Royal British Legion Club. Similar arrangements are made for a festive meal at Christmas.

Rev. Preb. Margaret Cameron was presented with a new chasuble for the Church. The group paid for the materials and the vestment was made by Mrs. Maureen Diffey. We are very grateful to her for the many hours she spent sewing this garment. Maureen has decided that she could no longer carry on helping with the group on a Monday morning. We are very grateful to her for all the help she has given since the group started ten years ago. She continues to support the group by running table top sales to raise money for the group and helping at other events.

One of these events is the annual Memorial Service for the relatives of those people who have died in the past year. Our group helps with this event and we are very grateful to Mrs. Maureen Diffey, Mrs Pauline Squires and Mrs. Diana Stedall who all help on the day. It is lovely to see members of our group supporting church events.

We have introduced a rota of volunteers to provide the tea, coffee and biscuits on Monday Mornings. We are very grateful to the following volunteers, Mrs. Sarah Dinwoodie, Mrs. Pat Gray, Mrs. Diana Stedall, Mrs. Judith Bye, Mrs. Pauline Squires, Mrs. Beryl Smith, Mrs. Maureen Maynard, Mrs. Ena Blower and Mrs. Audrey Stewart. We should also like to thank Mr. David Tozer, Mr. Tom Evans and Mrs. Elizabeth Taylor-Evans for their regular help.

I would like to say a big thank you to all those people who ran the group during my period of ill health. His major operation in 2013 was followed by chemotherapy and then a hernia operation. I am pleased to say that I have been given the 'all clear' and I am back 'in the driving seat'.

*David Brinkley*

## **Melting Pot Group**

Melting Pot meets every Tuesday morning in the Church Hall. On the first Tuesday of each month we run a raffle. The number of members of the group remains much the same. We are a very friendly group and would welcome anyone to join us. At Christmas we have a carol service where we collected presents for Shekinah Mission.

The coach trips have recently re-started. Sadly last year we had to cancel a few due to lack of numbers. We have a lovely driver who makes our journeys very interesting by using different routes for our outward and homeward journeys.

I wrote this on behalf of Pam Green who has been ill for several months.

*Shelia Prizeman.*

## **Mothers Union**

It is good to start the report with news that during the past year our members have increased by four. We are always happy to welcome new members and hope that we may do so again in the coming year.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month, except August in either the Church Hall or Church. We are grateful to Rev Roger Beck and Rev Ian Provost for officiating at our quarterly services.

We have had some very interesting speakers, including Mr Keith Escott, who told us about the Mission to Seaman and Mrs Maureen Stockdale who told us about the Special Olympics. We have a good programme for the year ahead.

Our main fund raising project was once again the Bibles for the children of St Mary's School. This was achieved by a most successful coffee morning in May.

We are grateful to everyone who has supported the Mother's Union during the past months, and look forward to the year ahead.

*Anne Tozer*

## **INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF St MARY'S PLYMPTON**

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2013, which are set out on pages 5 to 12, is in respect of an examination carried out under of the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and the need to fully comply with SORP (Statement of Recommended Practice) 2005. Also Part VI of the Charities Act 1993; The Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2005 and Accounting and Financial Reporting Standards.

### **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 Regulation 3 (3) and section 43 (2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of Regulation 25.

### **Basis of this report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Commission under section 43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2005 Charity edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishops' Council. 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 the required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by accounts.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

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

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 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

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Original signed by: G D Beeson  
Mr G Beeson

Date: 3rd April 2014

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2013 Total Funds	2012 Total Funds
		£	£		£
<b>INCOME AND EXPENDITURE</b>					
Voluntary Income		108,224	10,000	<b>118,224</b>	90,938
Activities for Generating Funds		9,885	-	<b>9,885</b>	18,099
Income from Investments		445	-	<b>445</b>	1,681
Church Activities		34,367	-	<b>34,367</b>	36,552
Other Incoming Resources		444	-	<b>444</b>	-
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		153,365	10,000	<b>163,365</b>	147,269
<b>RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of generating funds		1,869	-	<b>1,869</b>	706
Mission Giving/Donations to Charities		664	-	<b>664</b>	3,244
Church Activities		147,483	-	<b>147,483</b>	146,852
Major repairs and redecoration to the church		26,417	-	<b>26,417</b>	52,466
Major repairs to Hall/Other PCC property		-	-	-	-
New building work		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		176,433	-	<b>176,433</b>	203,268
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>(23,068)</b>	10,000	<b>(13,068)</b>	(55,999)
<b>TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS</b>			-	-	-
<b>BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD AT 1 JAN 2013</b>		277,878		<b>277,878</b>	340,450
<b>BALANCES CARRIED FORWARD AT 31 DEC 2013</b>		254,810	10,000	<b>264,810</b>	277,878

**BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2013**

	Note	2013		2012
		£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets		227,270		227,270
Investment		1,892		1,892
		229,162	229,162	229,162
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors		8,136		7,675
Cash at bank and in hand		35,168	10,000	73,015
		43,305	53,305	80,690
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>282,467</b>	309,852
<b>LIABILITIES : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>				
		<b>(17,657)</b>	<b>(17,657)</b>	(31,974)
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<b>264,810</b>	277,878
<b>LIABILITIES : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR</b>				
			-	-
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<b>264,810</b>	277,878
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			254,810	277,878
Restricted funds			10,000	-
			264,810	277,878
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>264,810</b>	277,878

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 25th March 2014 and signed on its behalf by:

Original signed by P Leigh  
Mr Peter Leigh, Church Warden

The notes on pages A 4 to A 8 form part of these accounts

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### 1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 prescribed by the Business Committee of the General Synod. These regulations have made a number of changes in the way that the figures are presented. In a number of cases previous groupings have been divided. For example our charity giving is now divided into four groups.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

#### Funds

General funds represent the funds of the PCC that are not subject to any restrictions regarding their use and are available for application on the general purposes of the PCC. Funds designated for a particular purpose by the PCC are also unrestricted.

Following advice received from the diocese previously funds listed as Restricted are now classified as Designated. The intention to only use them only on the intended purpose remains. However due to the conditions of a legacy we do have a sum of money listed as 'restricted'. Its designated purpose is the re-ordering of the church in due course.

The amounts include all transactions, assets and liabilities for which the PCC is responsible in law. They do not include the accounts of church groups that owe their main affiliation to another body or those that are informal gatherings of church members. Charity collections made by the congregation away from the church no longer form part of the accounts.

#### Incoming resources

Collections are recognised when received by or on behalf of the PCC. Planned giving receivable under Gift Aid is recognised only when received. Income tax recoverable on Gift Aid donations is recognised when the income is recognised. Grants and legacies to the PCC are accounted for as soon as the PCC is notified of its legal entitlement, the amount due is quantifiable and its ultimate receipt by the PCC is reasonably certain. Income from bazaars, socials and other events is shown net of the expenditure incurred. Although this is not in accordance with accounting standards it is the opinion of the PCC that no material understatement of the funds raised occurs as a result of this treatment.

#### Resources expended

All expenditure incurred by the PCC is recognised on an accruals basis and analysed to the appropriate cost category.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued**

2.	<b>INCOMING RESOURCES</b>	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2013 Total Funds	2012 Total Funds
			£	£		£
	<b>Voluntary Income</b>					
	Gift Aided Planned Giving		56,288	-	<b>56,288</b>	55168
	Other Planned Giving		-		<b>0</b>	2139
	Collections at Services		9,478	-	<b>9,478</b>	9874
	All Other Recurring Giving/Donations		1,299	-	<b>1,299</b>	3184
	All Non-Recurring Giving/Donations		10,879	-	<b>10,879</b>	263
	All Tax Recovered through Gift Aid		5,531	-	<b>5,531</b>	13204
	Legacies Received		11,050	10,000	<b>21,050</b>	-
	Income from Grants		13,288	-	<b>13,288</b>	4207
	Non recurring or one off grants		412	-	<b>412</b>	2900
			108,224	10,000	<b>118,224</b>	90939
	<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>					
	Gross Income from Fund-raising Activities		9885	-	<b>9,885</b>	18099
	<b>Income from Investments</b>					
	Dividends, Interest, Income from Property		445	-	<b>445</b>	1681
	<b>Church Activities</b>					
	PCC Fees		20315	-	<b>20,315</b>	21012
	Gross Income from Trading/Activities		14052	-	<b>14,052</b>	15540
	Other Incoming Resources		444	-	<b>444</b>	-
	<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		153,365	10,000	<b>163,365</b>	147269

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued**

**3. RESOURCES EXPENDED**

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2013 Total Funds	2012 Total Funds
		£	£		£
<b>Church Activities</b>					
Costs of Generating Funds		1869	-	<b>1,869</b>	706
Mission Giving/Donations to Charities		664	-	<b>664</b>	3,244
Diocesan parish share		85355	-	<b>85,355</b>	83,923
Salaries, wages & honoraria		5773	-	<b>5,773</b>	6,842
Expenses of Clergy etc		3316	-	<b>3,316</b>	3,721
Mission and Evangelism Projects		3769	-	<b>3,769</b>	2,949
Church Running Expenses		26703	-	<b>26,703</b>	19,039
Church Utility Bills		10722	-	<b>10,722</b>	12,875
Costs of Trading		11846	-	<b>11,846</b>	13,553
Governance Costs		-	-	-	-
		<b>150,016</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>150,016</b>	<b>146,852</b>
<b>Major Capital Expenditure</b>					
Major Repairs and Redecoration of Church		26417	-	<b>26,417</b>	52,466
Major repairs (Hall/OtherPCC property)		-	-	-	-
New building work		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>176,433</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>176,433</b>	<b>199,317</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

Sadly our Church Warden who was also Verger and Hall Manager, Mr D Nicholls, died during the year. Also the Vicar, Rev. Preb. Margaret Cameron, retired in November 2013 and we now have a vacancy. The PCC, during this period, will be under the chairmanship of Mr P Leigh, Churchwarden. He had been elected as a Church Warden vice Mr Nicholls. He has taken responsibility for management of the Hall. He is supported by a small group of PCC members.

We continue to have a Director of Music and a Deputy Organist. Mr Austin, a PCC member, continued as Assistant Hall Manager and cleaner. He received £1338 (gross) during the year. He has since stood down temporarily due to ill health. Mr K Escott, Ex-Officio member of PCC, assumed the role of Verger during the year, vice Mr Nicholls, he received £380 (gross). His wife, Mrs J Escott, a PCC member, provided secretarial assistance to the clergy. She received £483 (gross) during the year. Mr D Nicholls received £1390 (gross) and his wife, Mrs P Nicholls, Deputy Organist, received £1960 (gross) during the year. The Sexton and the Verger only receive fees when they attend occasional services such as weddings, funerals and burials, none of these earned £50,000 p.a. or more during the year.

There were no other disclosable transactions in respect of PCC members or persons closely connected with them or other related parties.

No PCC members were reimbursed travelling and subsistence expenses during the year.

The PCC has continued to hire a contractor to maintain the upper churchyard. The Inland Revenue figure comprises of income tax payments for the Sexton, Verger, Hall Manager and the Hall cleaner.

### 5. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

#### Cost or valuation

At 1 January 2013	227,270
At 31 December 2013	227,270

#### Depreciation

At 1 January 2013 and 31 December 2013

#### Net book value

At 1 January 2013	227,270
At 31 December 2013	227,270

Freehold land and buildings comprise the following properties:

	£
Church Hall at cost	194,970
27 Pinewood Close, Plympton at 1994 valuation	32,300
	227,270

For accounting purposes, the value of 27 Pinewood Close is deemed to be its 1994 valuation.

### 6. INVESTMENTS

	2013	2112
	£	£
2 x War stock bonds (at nominal value)	<u>1,892</u>	<u>1,892</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

7.	<b>DEBTORS</b>	<b>2013</b>	2012
		£	
	Prepayments	<b>8,136</b>	<b>7,675</b>
		<u><b>8,136</b></u>	<u><b>7,675</b></u>

8.	<b>LIABILITIES : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>2013</b>	2012
		£	£
	Accruals	<u><b>(17,657)</b></u>	<u><b>(31,974)</b></u>

9. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	227,270		227,270
Investments	1,892		1,892
Current assets	43,305	10,000	80,690
Current liabilities	(17,657)		(31,974)
<b>Funds balances</b>	<u>254,810</u>	<u>10,000</u>	<u><b>277,878</b></u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u><b>264,810</b></u>	

10. FUND DETAILS

	<b>2013</b>	2012
<b>Funds for specific purposes:</b>	£	£
Choir Members' account	<b>330</b>	330
Bereavement Group	<b>413</b>	463
Bells maintenance	<b>8,291</b>	5,223
Organ fund	<b>26,776</b>	9,672
	<u><b>35,810</b></u>	<u><b>15,688</b></u>

11 OTHER GROUPS

Other groups operating under St. Mary's umbrella but whose financial activities do not form part of these accounts and their cash balances at 31 December 2013 are:

	£
Chaddlewood United Church	382
St. Mary's Altar Flower Fund	130
St Mary's Bell Ringers	339