

*Plympton St. Mary
Parochial Church Council*



*Annual Report and Financial Statements
For the Year ended 31st December 2015*

*Incumbent
Vacancy
Bank
NatWest,
74/76 Ridgeway,
Plympton,
Plymouth,
PL 7 2 AF*

*Independent Examiner
Mr. Graham Beeson
150 Dudley Road
Plympton*

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Our Mission

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

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, registered number 1128769. The appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules. After ex-officio posts (clergy, churchwardens and deanery synod representatives) have been filled, Ordinary members retire after three years on the PCC but can be re-elected.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the PCC (Powers) Measure 1956 and the Synodical Government Measure 1969. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Clergy: (Ex-officio on PCC)

Revd. Roger Beck, Revd Mark Brimicombe, Mr. Robert Harrison (Reader).

Wardens: (Ex-officio on PCC)

Mr. Peter Leigh (who also acted as PCC Chairman due to the continued vacancy) and Mr. Kenneth Kingwell

Elected to the Deanery Synod for the session ending 2015 (Ex-officio on PCC)

Mr. Keith Escott. Mrs Margaret Leigh and Mr. Phil Smith

Elected Members

Elected to 2016

Mrs. Gillian Anstey

Mr. Mick Austin

Mrs. Mary Nicholls

Elected to 2017

Mrs. Mila Collier

Mr. Julian Otto

Mr. Keith Shepperd

Miss Deborah Tozer

Miss Mavis Buttle

Mr. Sam Snelling

Elected to 2018

Mr. Ian Duckworth

Mrs. Julia Escott

Mr. Rodger Ruse

Miss Lucy Skinner

Parochial Church Council Meetings

Over the last year the PCC has met six times. During meetings the day to day running and finances of the church have been discussed. Arrangements have been made for the commencement of the Planned Giving Scheme starting in January 2016. Discussions and preparation of our Parish Profile were undertaken together with representatives from St Maurice PCC. The profile was available on the Parish web site specifically for those interested in the vacancy of Team Rector.

To become a member of the PCC you need to be on the electoral roll and be nominated by two people. Elections take place during the Annual Parish Meeting .

Deborah Tozer

Deanery Synod

Since last APCM there has been three meetings in July, November and February 2016. Keith Escott, Margaret Leigh and I (Phil Smith) have attended most of them. The meetings change location so we experience different parts of the City.

There have been regular Guest Speaker inputs on the Mission Focus for 2015 (which is Ministry to Young People) as well as related focus talks on such matters as Child Poverty. There was a special introduction to the Parish Giving Scheme. Meetings always begin with an act of worship which lasts approximately 15 minutes and is varied in nature.

One important fact sticks in my mind from 2015 meetings: "In Plymouth One in Five (10,760) children live in Poverty, this is higher than both regional and the national average". This was a shock to me! Perhaps the emphasis on community mission, consideration of Credit Unions and other initiatives to help poor people is the most important one.

The representatives on Diocesan and General Synods also have fed back an important matters being discussed in those places and these may also be of importance to each church PCC.

There is always a financial item, and once included the Parish Giving Scheme as a special topic last year. The expected parish response to the Common Fund target has been mentioned as some churches are struggling to meet their assessment.

At each meeting a few parish representatives give feedback on the current situation in their parish: outline worship pattern and attendance, children's work, challenges and successes. There are occasional Communications regarding special services, such as licensing of new vicars, and useful courses or seminars.

Finally occasional requests for finding replacements for committed church people to serve on committees, or in related organisations such as Foundation Governors in local VA schools, are made. From my perspective, 2015 has appeared to be a time of on-going change of representation and church representation in Plymouth. The Deanery Synod continues to seek to focus local mission by using some common themes within active worshipping churches to extend into the community and thus maximise impact.

Philip Smith

Churchwardens' Report

During the year the hedges along the Ridgeway and Market Road have been cut and trimmed by a contractor. The grass in the Churchyard has been maintained throughout the year by Bob Dyer and his team and generally keeping the churchyard in good condition thank you.

In 2014 the team from Plympton Civic Society came in and helped us by cleaning up the litter over by the bus stop on the Ridgeway since then they have kept working clearing the up the Brambles etc, around the graves in the Churchyard especially near the Ridgeway where the Brambles were head high, we thank John Boulden and his team for the work they carry out for the Parish.

Inside the Church, thank you to the cleaning team and the brass cleaning group for keeping the church in good order. Also to the Ladies who arrange the flowers every week.

During the year several of the light fittings in Church have been renewed, and work was carried out on the boiler house roof, also in the bad weather some of the plaster came down from the Church ceiling just east of the tower. This has been cleaned up and made safe.

A lot of our time this year has been taken up with the Vacancy we had to rewrite the Parish Profile to include St Maurice, and attending extra meetings with the Archdeacon and the Bishop of Plymouth, culminating on 12th November when we interviewed the Revd Robert Harris who will starting his ministry as team Rector in March 2016

Peter Leigh

Overview of Church Year

The year under review was the second complete year in which the parish had been without an incumbent. At the end of the previous year plans had been made following the proposal of the Diocesan Bishop for a Plympton Team Ministry composed of both Plympton Parishes and staffed by two stipendiary priests as Team Rector and Team Vicar.

Unfortunately little progress was made in this during the year with a lack of suitable applicants responding to national church press advertisements and the diocesan senior staff also unable to 'headhunt' anyone. There was therefore great joy and not a little relief at the end of the year with the announcement of the appointment of The Revd. Robert Harris as Team Rector to take up appointment early in 2016. Had the vacancy gone on any longer a certain weariness might have set in!

As it was the usual pattern of Sunday and weekday services was maintained. This was made possible thanks to the assistance of Revds. Mark Brimicombe and Ian Provost and Readers Mr Bob Harrison and Mrs Margaret Provost. We are also grateful to Canon Gordon Ruming for his preaching at Evensong and the assistance of the Revd. Elizabeth Burke from the Ascension, Crownhill.

In addition to the regular pattern of services St Mary's continued to receive numbers requests for Baptism and continued the monthly preparation sessions for parents. Few families establish a more lasting link with us although there is a large constituency for occasional services particularly at Christmas. Three young people began preparation for Confirmation in the new year.

The work of Café Praise, a notable development in recent years, saw a drop in attendance which has caused the regular pattern to come to a halt and concentration on occasional services. This included for the first time a Pets Service which was well attended and received.

Sunday Club continued its usual pattern with a small number of children. More positively 'Open the Book' made regular presentations in St Mary's School and the Associate Priest continued to take part in weekly worship. There are also many visits to church by other schools during the year and clergy respond to invitations to schools as time allows.

The Mothers' Union again had the raising of money to present the early years children at St Mary's with bibles as their project and shared in the presentation itself.

There were considerably fewer marriages than in the previous year and numbers seem to be very difficult to predict year by year. Preparation sessions continued facilitated by couples from our congregation and a music evening by the organists and choir. Funeral ministry continues to be an important part of the work of the clergy with an increased number

of church funerals this year. Our Memorial service continues to receive an appreciative response and a large congregation. This is supported by the weekly meeting of the Bereavement Group. We minister regularly in the ten residential and nursing homes in the parish including the regular celebration of Holy Communion.

We continue to seek to deepen the spiritual life of the parish. There was a Quiet Day at Buckfast Abbey led by the Venerable John Rawlings which was fully subscribed. However a first time Quiet Afternoon in church in preparation for Holy Week attracted very few indeed. During Lent a group met in church to share in one of the parts of the Pilgrim Course (on the Eucharist) and other house groups continued to meet during the year. The Julian Group which meets in church monthly expanded its membership including some from other local churches. Stations of the Cross in Lent has become a regular feature of the Lenten season. Once again we were fortunate in the leadership of Professor David Catchpole who completed his series on the four gospels with St John.

After going through a lean period the Saturday Coffee Shop has again become a popular venue and friendly meeting place valued by those who come.

Finally, thanks to all who have sustained the work of the parish through a long vacancy in church sacristy, parish hall, parish office and churchyard in so many and varied ways too numerous to mention but greatly appreciated.

Roger Beck, Associate Priest

PCC ACCOUNTS

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

This report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31st December 2015, which are set out on pages 5 to 12, is in respect of an examination carried out under 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 Report 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 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.

Signed by: Mr. G. Beeson

Date: 14th April 2016

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

	2015			2014
	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£	£
Voluntary Income	99,302	-	99,302	115,461
Activities for Generating Funds	9,804	-	9,804	10,691
Income from Investments	325	-	325	321
Church Activities	39,282	-	39,282	42,197
Other Incoming Resources	366	-	366	1,050
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	149,079	-	149,079	169,720

RESOURCES EXPENDED

Costs of Generating Funds	4,606	-	4,606	3,467
Mission/Donations to Charities	3,001	-	3,001	750
Church Activities	151,827	-	151,827	180,078
Major Repairs and Redecoration of the Church	-	-	-	-
Major Repairs to Hall/other PCC property	-	-	-	-
New Building Work	-	-	-	-
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		-	159,588	184,295
NET INCOMING RESOURCES			(10,509)	(14,575)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015		2014
FIXED ASSETS	£	£	£
Tangible assets	227,270		227,270
Investment	9,756		9,650
	<u>237,026</u>	<u>237,026</u>	<u>236,920</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Debtors	8,349		8,206
Cash at hand and in hand	10,198		22,265
	<u>18,547</u>	<u>18,547</u>	<u>30,471</u>
NET CURRENT ASSETS		255,573	267,391
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	(8,192)	(8,192)	(11,275)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		247,381	256,116
LIABILITIES: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR		-	-
NET ASSETS		247,381	<u>256,116</u>
FUNDS			
Unrestricted funds		237,381	246,116
Restricted funds		10,000	10,000
TOTAL FUNDS		247,381	<u>256,116</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 17 March 2016 and signed on its behalf by:

Original signed by Robert Harris

The notes on pages 8 to 12 form part of these accounts.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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. A recent change has been the grouping of all Mission Giving and donations to charities under one heading.

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.

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 congregator 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 received. 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 that no material understatement of the funds raised occurs as a result of this treatment.

Parish Trusts Investments

The Exeter Board of Finance has again advised us on the total value of trusts held on behalf of the parish. There has been a slight increase in their value which is shown in the accounts. The six trusts produce quarterly income.

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

INCOMING RESOURCES

	£	£	2015 £	2014 £
	Unrestrict ed Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	Total Funds
Voluntary Income				
Gift Aided Planned Giving	54,845	-	54,845	56,828
Other Planned Giving	-	-	-	-
Collection at Services	8,743	-	8,743	11,438
All Other Giving/Donations	5,331	-	5,331	7,458
All Tax recovered through Gift Aid	12,127	-	12,127	19,617
Legacies Received	200	-	200	12,500
Income from Grants	18,056	-	18,056	7,620
	<u>99,302</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>99,302</u>	<u>115,461</u>
Activities for Generating Funds				
Gross Income from Fund-raising Activities	9,804	-	9,804	10,691
Income from Investments				
Dividends, Interest, Income from Property	325	-	325	321
Church Activities				
PCC Fees	24,003	-	24,003	27,946
Gross Income from Trading	15,279	-	15,279	14,251
Other Income Resources	366	-	366	1,050
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	<u>149,079</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>149,079</u>	<u>169,720</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2015 Total Funds	2014 Total Funds
Church Activities				
Costs of Generating Funds	4,606	-	4,606	3,467
Mission Giving/Donations to Charities	3,001	-	3,001	750
Diocesan Parish Share	88,682	-	88,682	87,347
Salaries, wages & honoraria	8,548	-	8,548	7,895
Clergy and Staff Expenses	3,504	-	3,504	1,858
Mission and Evangelism Projects	1,729	-	1,729	3,056
Church Running Expenses	30,078	-	30,078	53,588
Church Utility Bills	7,425	-	7,425	9,745
Costs of Trading	11,862	-	11,862	16,529
Governance Costs	154	-	154	59
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	159,588	-	159,588	184,295
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Major Capital Expenditure				
Major Repairs and Redecoration of the Church	-	-	-	-
Major Repairs to Hall/other PCC property	-	-	-	-
New Building Work	-	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	159,588	-	159,588	184,295
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

We continued to have a Director of Music and a Deputy Organist. We also continued to employ a part time office assistant to assist the clergy with their clerical work. There were again changes in the management and care of the hall. The small committee lead by Mr Leigh, Churchwarden, has continued but following his bout of ill health Mr. Austin stood down from being the hall cleaner. In his place we now have the services of a contract cleaner.

Three members of the PCC received pay during the year. Mrs L. Collier, Director of Music received £2,280, Mr Austin, whilst the hall cleaner received £300, Mrs J. Escott, part time office assistant, received £714. Mr K. Escott also a member of the PCC received £1,280 fees for duty as the Verger at weddings and funerals.

Our Sexton, not a member of the PCC, receives fees for attending weddings, funerals and internments. None of those receiving pay and or fees earned more than £50,000 p.a..

There were no other disclosable transactions in respect of PCC members, persons closely connected with them or related parties. No PCC members were reimbursed travelling or substance expenses during the year.

TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	£
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 January 2015	227,270
At 31 December 2015	227,270
Depreciation	
At 1 January and 31 December 2015	-
Net book value	
At 1 January 2015	227,270
At 31 December 2015	227,270
Freehold land and buildings comprise of the following properties:	
Church Hall at cost	194,970
27 Pinewood Close, Plympton	<u>32,300</u>
	<u>227,270</u>

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

INVESTMENTS	2015	2014
	£	£
Parish Trust Investments held by Exeter board of Finance Ltd	7,864	7,758
2 X War Stock bonds (at nominal value)	<u>1,892</u>	<u>1,892</u>
	<u>9,756</u>	<u>9,650</u>

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

DEBTORS	2015	2014
	£	£
Payments	8,349	8,206

LIABILITIES : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR	2015	2014
	£	£
Accruals	(8,192)	(11,275)

ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUNDS

	Unrestricted	Restricted	
	funds	funds	Total
	£	£	£
Fixed assets for church use	227,270		227,270
Investments	9,756		9,650
Current assets	8,547	10,000	30,471
Current liabilities	<u>(8,192)</u>	<u> </u>	<u>(11,275)</u>
Fund balance	237,381	10,000	256,116
		<u>247,381</u>	<u>256,116</u>

FUND DETAILS

	2015	2014
	£	£
Funds for specific purposes:		
Choir Members account	330	330
Bereavement Group	413	413
Bells maintenance	2,110	5,467
Organ fund	-	167
	2,853	6,377

OTHER GROUPS

Other groups operating under St Mary's umbrella but who's financial activities do not form part of these accounts. Their cash balances at 31 December 2015 are:

	£
<i>Chaddlewood United Church</i>	197
<i>St. Mary's Altar Flower Fund</i>	382

OTHER REPORTS

Chaddlewood United Church

2015 was a quiet year for Chaddlewood. We followed our normal pattern of services through out the year, with the worship team taking the services that fell on the 5th Sunday of the month. These took place on Palm Sunday, Trinity Sunday, a favourite hymn service at the end of August and on Advent Sunday when we held an Advent Carol Service.

We maintained our tradition of an open air service on Good Friday, when we were joined by some members of Colebrook Methodist Church. Also, again with support from Colebrook, we undertook our usual carol singing at Christmas at the Chaddlewood Co-op, when £70 was raised for St Luke's Hospice.

Some members of CUC, in conjunction with the Community Association, took part in a Macmillan Coffee Morning in September. The following Saturday June took the remaining goods to the table top sale at St Mary's. The 2 events raised £330 for Macmillan Nurses.

The weekly Monday evening Bible Study, which is mainly (but not exclusively) supported by Chaddlewood members, has been led by Ian Provost and is very much appreciated. As also is the monthly Wednesday evening Bible Study led by Bob Harrison. Due to the popularity of the 'Good Company' monthly friendship group we have had to stop taking new members, at the moment. If anyone felt able to commit to leading a second similar group, we are sure it would quickly take of

Mavis Buttle

Cafe Praise

We started the year with the story of Joseph and talking about dreams. In February the theme was love is all around and St Valentine. The children enjoyed craft work drinks and cake. Very kindly made by volunteers. In March we had the story of Palm Sunday. In April the café praise helped with the Good Friday service for children and families. In May the theme was fire and wind and Pentecost/Whitsunday. In June we had a picnic in the church hall as it was raining.

After a fairly successful and busy 6 years the attendance was dropping and at a special meeting it was decided to help at special Sunday services. A lot of other activities happen and it was felt that with our church members going into school, with the open book we would re-think café praise in the future and look forward to welcoming the new Rector.

Many thanks to everyone who have supported us over the years and been members of the 100 club. God bless

Marguerite Coaker

Open the Book

The team of Open the Book storytellers from St Mary's have been going into the Infant School monthly to join an act of worship since 2013 when Revd Margaret Cameron invited volunteers to join this initiative. We are following Book 1 of the Lion Storyteller Bible and have now reached the New Testament stories after 3 years. The hand-made resource

bank of clothes and props, which support the impact of each Bible story, has developed under a team of crafts-people from all the Plympton Churches and are stored centrally at Ridgeway Methodist Church.

The children enjoy our visits greatly, respond well to the stories and actively join in the song at the beginning and the questions and the prayer at the end. This structure makes it a true act of worship. We try to involve the children as characters in stories where it seems appropriate. We have contributed to the cost of the resources and the St Mary's team is always well represented at the central organising group. Representatives from all the churches involved in Plympton meet together about every 3 months at Ridgeway Methodist Church to plan, share experiences of delivery and develop resources.

Our team of people include some from Chaddlewood United Church as well as St Mary's. The churches' outreach to children across Plympton Primary Schools is now having substantial impact through the age groups, as the pupils who have received the stories, in some Primary schools, now reaching secondary school age.

Phil and Diana Smith

Mothers' Union

Our membership remains at 18 but we do have the prospect of enrolling two new members in the near future. We continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month, except August, in either the Church Hall or the Church. We are grateful to Rev Roger Beck and Rev Ian Provost who conduct our quarterly Eucharist services. We have had some excellent speakers, including our own Bob Harrison who told us what had inspired him to become a Reader.

This coming year we look forward to hearing about, among other things the work of the Red Cross, and the work of a store detective.

Once again, we raised a considerable sum of money towards the cost of Bibles for the children entering St Mary's Infant School and hope to do so again this year. We are grateful to all who have supported St Mary's Mothers Union in the past year.

Anne Tozer

Bereavement Group

This group has had another very successful year. We still meet in the Parish Centre to provide a listening ear and friendship to those people who have been recently bereaved. We are still attracting 25 to 30 people on a regular basis. The group has become a very successful friendship group.

Many recently bereaved people are benefitting from this group. They then move on and leave room for new members.

On Bank Holiday Mondays we try to offer a friendship meal to members of the group, holiday weekends can feel very sad and lonely for the bereaved. We also invite former members of the group to attend. As in previous years, we had these meals at the Royal British Legion Club on Market Road, Plympton. There were two Bank Holidays in May, then one in August. The last meal of the year was our Christmas Meal. This was particularly good with roast turkey and all the trimmings. The chef, Tony Ashley, announced that he was retiring, we all wish him well in his retirement. His assistant, Karen, provided us with a

delicious roast lamb meal for our Easter Bank holiday in 2016. We look forward to her meals in 2016.

In November we supported St. Mary's Annual Memorial Service for the relatives of those who have died during the last year. We are very grateful to Mrs. Maureen Diffey, Mrs. Pauline Squires and Mrs. Diana Stedall, who all helped on the day. It is lovely to see members of our group supporting Church events.

This year we are very grateful to Mrs. Maureen Diffey for running the table top sales to raise money for our group. This money has bought three valuable items for St. Mary's Church:

- a) A carpet to go in front of the Altar in the St. Catherine's Chapel;
- b) Four Altar Frontals for the St. Catherine's Chapel and
- c) Lace for the Credence Cloth.

Again, we are very grateful to Mrs. Maureen Duffey for all her hard work.

In December we made a donation of £30 for the purchase of St. Mary's Christmas Tree. Instead of giving each other Christmas Cards We made a donation of £20 to Childrens Hospice South West in Barnstaple.

In March 2016 We had pleasure in welcoming St. Mary's new Team Rector, Reverend Robert Harris. We also sent a bouquet of flowers to his wife Mrs. Christine Harris to welcome her to the parish.

This year we have continued with our rota of group members who have volunteered to help provide the tea, coffee and biscuits on Monday mornings. We are grateful to Mrs. Sarah Dinwoodie, Mrs. Diana Stedall. Mrs. Judith Bye, Mrs Pauline Squires, Mrs. Beryl Smith, Mrs. Maureen Bulley, Mrs. Ena Blower, Mrs. Audrey Stewart and Mrs. Sheila Prizeman who all volunteered. Many thanks also to Mr. David Tozer and Mr. Ken. Kingwell for their regular help.

We continue to think that the Monday Morning Group provides great support for those who have been recently bereaved. Again, many thanks to all those who help with this project.

David Brinkley

Melting Pot

We have enjoyed another successful year. At Easter we had hot cross buns. Then the coach trips of which there ten were well supported.

At Christmas we had our Carol Service and miscopies with donations going to the Shekinah Mission. We were able to donate a good sum of money towards the new church boiler. We are looking forward to next year and our coach trips will be listed in the Parish magazine.

We are always ready to receive new members who can enjoy good conversation over a cup of tea, or coffee, with biscuits.

I wish to thank my local band of helpers for their support during the year.

Sheila Prizeman

Stewardship

This year has seen a change in Stewardship Officers and appreciation and thanks are extended to Mrs Glenys Otto for her many years undertaking this role for St Mary's and the support she has provided to me as the new Stewardship Officer.

It has been a busy year as in October 2015 we commenced promoting the introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme [PGS] as a method of supporting the financial operations of the church. This scheme is administered by the Diocese of Gloucester and is free of charge. It enables the HMRC gift aid contributions to be claimed on a monthly basis thus being available to the church to use more promptly. Currently 56 people have joined this scheme and it is proving to be extremely efficient.

The majority of the people who have joined the PGS were prior to this giving via Standing Orders. This continues to be a popular method of giving. Other parishioners contribute by the envelope method and there are presently in the region of 80 parishioners who use this method. New boxes of envelopes will be available at the end May 16.

HMRC claims have been made regularly and we have claimed our full entitlement up until the end of March 2016. This is 20% of any donation made by a tax payer who has given us authorisation to claim Gift Aid. Additionally we are entitled to claim via the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme [GASD's] for small anonymous donations (limit of £20 per donation) made up to a total of £5000 per tax year for which haven't already claimed gift aid. In the new tax year this rises to £8,000 per annum.

As always it is important that we all encourage continued regular giving to the church and the current generosity of the parishioners is greatly appreciated. However if anyone wishes to commence giving by PGS, Standing Order or Envelopes or wants to discuss these options further myself, Peter Leigh or Keith Shepperd are available so that all make the right decision.

Claire-Louise Journeaux

Sunday Morning Refreshments

The tea and coffee after the 10am service continued to be popular. Thanks are due to those in the congregation who stay after church for fellowship. Many thanks too to the faithful helpers who provide the drinks and biscuits and who clear up afterwards, it would not happen without them! We have so far managed to give the treasurer the of £570 for church funds.

Glenys Otto

Servers

This year we have, with some success, redesigned the role of a server at St Mary's - defining a server as consisting of three roles: Crucifer, Book Bearer, Acolyte. This means that we have a full serving team at all services and because we are all wearing matching cassocks etc, the serving team on duty can be intergenerational (young and not so young!).

I would like to thank everyone in the serving team for their continued support and help. Special thanks to Mo Diffy for her sewing / cassock making skills. If anyone wants to join the team, please contact me on [07599 869860](tel:07599869860) or by email, ssnelling@outlook.com

Sam Snelling

Choir

This year has, as usual, has been busy one for us. Our numbers presently stand at seven sopranos, four altos, two tenors, and four basses, a total of 17 members. 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, making a good sound, it limits 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 during the year 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 and Christmas Carol Service. and recently we sang for the devotion 'The Cross of Christ' on Palm Sunday. We are frequently asked to sing at weddings and, increasingly, funerals.

An annual treat we really look forward to is the RSCM Choir Festival at Exeter Cathedral in the autumn. This year we were all able to take part and, as ever, we found it very up-lifting.

We only manage to do one stint at the Saturday Coffee shop, many of our Saturdays are taken up with weddings.

Sadly, earlier this year saw the passing of our long time friend and choir member Lionel Footer. We were honoured and privileged to sing at his funeral. Although he had been retired from the choir for several years he was still an inspiration to us and we miss him.

After two years without an incumbent we were delighted to welcome Revd Robert Harris as Team Rector. and we eagerly look forward to working with him.

We would like to make an appeal here: If you like to sing PLEASE consider joining us in the choir. You don't need voices that are operatically trained , or even been a contestant on 'The Voice' – (a current TV programme!), AND 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 7-15pm).

Age, or lack of it, is no barrier, although we really do need some younger voices.

Just see either of us, or any member of the choir.

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

Mila Collier (Grimes) Director of Music

Pauline Nicholls Deputy Organist

Bell Tower

Grateful thanks go to Brian and John for their continued maintenance work to the clock and chimes ensuring it remained accurate. The clappers and the chime hammers required work back at the Bell Foundry, clappers to be repaired and the hammers to be adapted. Following their return Brian and John continued to work at least on Tuesdays to make sure everything was functioning correctly. The wires attached to the chimes had to be adjusted and co-ordinated with clock strike and quarterly chimes. In the upper bell area, minor adjustments were made to settle the new parts and help them bed in. Regular inspections of bolts and clappers were made to check they remained tight. Small blocks were made for the sliders to stop the bell being 'set' too deeply, which made it hard to 'pull out'. Once satisfied that the clock and chimes were running without problems there was a need to go under the floor space. Thick roofing insulation was put into place as soundproofing. Without this the Call Changer had to really shout the calls so as to be heard when all bells were ringing above the Bell Chamber. During the year the 6th clapper was returned to Whitechapel as it appeared to 'chatter'. When it went for original repair with others it had a counter balance on it. It was returned with new painted shank, perhaps it there was a minor weight difference but now it seems resolved.

Since the refurbishment of the bells, a few groups of ringers have visited to experience the improvements.

The same few people continue on Monday practice night and manage to ring for Evensong, Festivals and Weddings. Now that St.Mary's and St.Maurice are becoming a Team Ministry our ringers will continue to support both Towers. We look forward to welcoming the new Rector's wife, a keen and able Bell ringer with much experience.

Mary Nicholls

St Mary's Handbell Ringers

This year, we ended the year with 8 ringers. We lost some ringers and gained new ones. As usual we are desperate to have couple of more ringers to cover bells that arena being played at the moment and to cover sickness and holidays. The bells are played by numbers so there is no need to be able to read music. We have added a few new tunes to our repertoire this year and play tunes old and new that the residents can sing along to. We always start with our theme tune The Bells of St Mary's. We get contacted a lot from the homes to come and play for them which is always pleasing.

We cover the cost out of our funds to get the bells repaired and to provide polo shirts for the ringers, with Plympton St Mary's logo on them which promotes the Church. We never ask for payment from the homes, but we do sometimes get a donation, which is a great help to us in buying uniforms and getting the bells repaired. Also we don't charge subs from our ringers, Our funds stand at £223 at the moment, an increase £71 on last year.

Our aim is to provide the residents of the homes with a good sing song and an enjoyable fun evening. We practice on a Thursday evening in the Church Hall, but we try as much as possible to go out to a Residential Home on a Thursday.

This year we have been to the following Residential Homes, many on more than one occasion:- Manor Court, Efford, Merafield View, Plympton, Ashleigh Manor, Plympton, The Retreat, Hooe, Pocklington Rise, Plympton, Lambs Park, Plympton, Furzatt Lodge,

Plymstock, Nutley Lodge, Elburton, Vale Lodge, Mutley, Selkirk House, Plymstock, and at the Summer Fayre. We also played before the start of the St Mary's Carol Service.

It has been a successful year and we look forward to the coming year with hopefully some new members.

Colin Mason

Parish Safeguarding

I am pleased to report that, once again, there has been no issues raised concerning the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in respect of any of our church activities or church groups.

The new electronic system for online criminal record checks with the Disclosure & Barring Service (formerly known as the Criminal Records Bureau) has transitioned really well and experience has shown that it is much faster producing results than the former system.

Following the appointment of Mrs. Sarah Duckworth as our Children's Advocate, I can confirm that we both attended a Safeguarding Training Session organised by the Diocese at St. Mary's Church, Tamerton Foliot on Wednesday 10th June 2015.

The PCC has formally confirmed that our local safeguarding policy and guidelines complies with the Diocesan recommendations; and are summarised on notice boards in the lobby of the parish centre and in the south porch of the church, in addition to publication on the Safeguarding page of our church website. The Childline telephone number is also clearly displayed in the church porch and in the lobby of the church hall.

Currently there are 32 members of our Church, including members of the Clergy, who hold valid DBS clearance certificates. I maintain a database of all such persons and initiate renewals after 5 years in compliance with Diocesan guidelines.

The PA to the Archdeacon of Plymouth resigned late last year and a new appointment is awaited. In the meantime I have been dealing directly with Mr. Phill Parker, the Diocesan DBS Co-ordinator at Exeter in respect of new applications and renewals.

David J. Farley

Churchyard

Most of the volunteers cannot continue for personal reasons and I have appreciated their efforts. Any new volunteer would be very welcome. Firstly, I would thank Jill Symons for the work she puts in looking after Cremplot 4, (between the Church and Market Rd) and for keeping it so neat and tidy. I am still working in the Churchyard, weather permitting.

Should anyone need any information about the Churchyard, looking for a grave etc. contact me on 215823, because I am the also the Church Archivist and I have records of where people have been buried, or ashes buried.

Finally. My sincere thanks to the Civic Society and their members, run by John Boulden, who tend area's where mowers will not go, in particular, the Market Rd/Ridgeway corner of the Churchyard, plus other area's.

Bob Dyer

Church Watch

Last summer we were again able to keep the church open on most weekdays thanks to a few new volunteers coming forward to take the place of those who had dropped out for various reasons. We face the same problem this summer and I am hoping to hear from more of our people prepared to offer their services. Without the support of our fine group of Church Watchers we would not be able to provide this important service to the church. I really do appreciate the time given up by these kind people.

We have had many complimentary comments from a lot of people who have come along, the written observations in the visitors book show how grateful they have been for the welcome they received and help given. I am truly grateful to Bob Dyer for the help he has given in pointing visitors in the direction of graves of ancestors and answering historical questions; he even kindly opened the church for some visitors who arrived just too late for a particular Church Watch session. We heard some fascinating stories from several people about their families. A group from America brought along a framed picture of their parents who had been married in the church 70 years ago, a GI bride whose husband was stationed at Saltram. Again we found that children were often the most interested of all our visitors. They seem fascinated by the memorials on display and features such as the bells and clock.

We had another very successful weekend (12th and 13th September) participating in Heritage Open Days and the Devon Historic Churches Day. I am truly grateful to those kind Church Watchers who kindly gave up their time to act as guides and provide refreshments, especially Keith Escott who was present throughout the opening times and gave a great deal of help. We raised nearly £500 for the Devon Historic Churches Trust, over £400 of which came from the wonderful popular music evening splendidly presented by Ken and Tony who, together with the choir with their superb support and the fine ladies who provided refreshments, deserve our grateful thanks.

Please contact me on 01752 510190 if you feel able to help.

Rodger Ruse

Parish Centre and Hall

During 2015 the Centre has been used on weekdays for Preschool, Mums and Toddlers, Bereavement group, Melting Pot, Past Times and Mothers' Union. The office was manned by volunteers from Monday to Friday, 9 am – 12 pm. Their duties include maintaining registers, answering the telephone and maintain the church diary. We are very grateful for their support.

At weekends there was a weekly coffee shop manned by volunteers. Once a month we have a Table top sale, which is organised by Marcia and John Knight. Thank you to all who have been involved, making cakes sandwiches and serving tea and coffee all year

The Church hall was used for the Summer Fair (June), Christmas Fair (December) and the Strawberry Tea (June). The hall was also the venue for Baptism and Marriage preparation, also for study day organised by Rev Roger Beck. On Sundays it was used by Sunday Club and Café Praise. In the evenings the Centre was regularly used by other groups for meetings, keep fit and yoga. I thank Ken Kingwell my fellow Churchwarden who with my help has opened and closed the Parish Centre for our Hirers.

This year 2015 we have fitted new taps to the wash basins, the main hall has been scrubbed, cleaned and polished, in October half term we asked for volunteers to help with the maintenance. I thank Joy Devonshire, Marguerite Coaker, Pat Ridgeway, David Evans and Phil Smith for helping me, we painted the ladies' toilets the mural was cleaned and the outside of the windows were rubbed down and painted. Also thanks to Mick Austen who has helped me when I was in the loft renewing pipework, maintaining the floor in the main hall and unblocking drains.

Last but not least I thank Margaret Leigh who has been taking care of the bookings for the hall, organising the Rota for the coffee shop and table tops and ordering the Pasties and stores etc. required to keep the Parish Centre running.

Peter Leigh