

# *Plympton St. Mary Parochial Church Council*



*Annual Report and Financial Statements*

*For the Year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014*

***Incumbent***

*Vacancy*

***Bank***

*NatWest,*

*74/76 Ridgeway,*

*Plympton,*

*Plymouth, PL7 2AF*

***Independent Examiner***

*Mr Graham Beeson*

*150 Dudley Road*

*Plympton*



## **CONTENTS**

<b><u>Reports:</u></b>	<b>Page</b>
Parochial Church Council	1
Overview of Church Year	1 - 2
Parochial Church Council Meetings	3
Growing the Church	3 - 4
St Mary's House Groups	4
Servers	4 - 5
Café Praise	5
Chaddlewood United Church	5 – 6
Parish Safeguarding	6 - 7
Church Fabric	7
The Bell Tower	7 - 8
The Choir	8 - 9
The Churchyard	9
Church Watch	9 - 10
Sunday Morning refreshments	10
St Mary's Handbell Ringers	10
Parish Centre and Hall	11
Bereavement Group	11 - 12
Melting Pot	12
Mothers' Union	12
<b><u>Accounts:</u></b>	
Independent Examiner's Report	A1
Statement of Financial Activities	A2
Balance Sheet	A3
Notes to Financial Statements	A4 – A8



## PLYMPTON ST. MARY - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2014

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)

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

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

Mr Peter Leigh (due to the parish being in 'Vacancy' he has served as PCC Chairman throughout 2014) & Mr Kenneth Kingwell.

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

Mr Keith Escott, Mrs Margaret Leigh & Mr. Phil Smith

### Elected Members

#### 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

#### Elected to 2017

Mrs. Mila Collier  
Mr. Julian Otto  
Mr. Keith Shepperd  
Miss Deborah Tozer  
Miss Mavis Buttle  
Mr. Sam Snelling

### Co-opted Members:

Mr. Peter Hayes, Head of St. Mary's Church of England Infants' School  
Mrs. Sue Higson, Assistant Head.

The PCC currently consists of those Ex officio and co-opted members listed above, and 13 elected members, each for a period of 3 years. There should be 15 elected members. 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".

### Overview of the Church Year

The year under review is one in which the parish has been without an incumbent. The usual pattern of Sunday and weekday services has been maintained. This has been possible thanks to the help of Revds. Mark Brimicombe and Ian Provost and Readers Mr Bob Harrison and Mrs Margaret Provost.

A highlight of the year was the visit of our new Diocesan Bishop, The Right Revd. Robert Atwell, to celebrate the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation in the Eucharist. Two candidates

from St Mary's were baptized and confirmed and three confirmed. We were also joined by candidates from St Aubyn's, Devonport with their priest, the Revd. Tim Woods. Bishop Robert joined a happy gathering for a buffet lunch in the parish hall afterwards. There were many comments on the spiritual atmosphere which the Bishop gave to the service and it was very fortunate that we were able to welcome him so early in his episcopate here. He is also, of course, the Patron of this parish and was able to gain some familiarity with us during this time of vacancy.

In addition to our usual services St Mary's continued to receive many requests for the Sacraments and Baptism and Marriage with over 40 weddings during the year. We continue to offer preparation sessions for both and are grateful to our own couples who share in the marriage preparation. Few of those who come for these Offices establish a more lasting link with us although there is a large constituency for occasional services particularly at Christmas. Café Praise continues its outreach to families on Sunday afternoons each month.

We continue to seek to deepen the spiritual life of the parish. There is a full Holy Week and during Lent we again shared in the Plympton Churches Together weekly sessions, hosting one. Weekly Stations of the Cross and Lent Lunches have become part of our regular pattern. An annual Quiet Day was again held at Buckfast Abbey led this year by a Methodist Minister who took as his subject the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was good to be joined for this by several Methodists. They also joined us for what has become another part of our annual programme the Study Day. Once again we were fortunate in the leadership of Professor David Catchpole this time on the Gospel according to St Luke. Several House Groups have also continued to meet.

A considerable part of our ministry is outside the church itself and focused particularly on the young and the older parishioners. We have links with several schools in the parish that visit the church during the year and try to respond to invitations received to go into schools. The Associate Priest takes a part in the Friday worship in St Mary's School most weeks. There is then our ministry in the ten residential and nursing homes in the parish mainly consisting of the regular programme of Holy Communion and responding to requests for visits especially to those nearing the end of their earthly life. A number of parishioners also receive Holy Communion in their own home.

Funeral ministry continues to play an important part in each year with 76 funerals this year. These were mainly in church as parish clergy are not now asked to take funerals at crematoria unless requested by the family – they are, of course, always ready to do so. Our Memorial Service continues to receive a good response and the Bereavement Group enhances this ministry. Chaddlewood United Church will have its own report but we record here the death during the year of Linda Foster. Lin contributed much to CUC over a number of years and was a great loss. Another notable death during the year was that of Revd. Theo Thomas. He was for many years Rector of St Maurice, our neighbouring parish. St Mary's was represented at his Memorial Requiem by the Associate Priest and others.

2014 marked the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War and St Mary's had an open day to mark this with opportunities for prayer and a display of memorabilia.

A feature of the year was the work undertaken on the organ and the bells following a restoration appeal for both. Work on the bells continued into the New Year.

In the latter part of the year discussions took place regarding the future of the two Plympton Parishes the outcome of which was agreement to the proposal from Bishop Robert to form a Team Ministry. The staffing will be a Team Rector with principal responsibility for St Mary's and a Team Vicar with principal responsibility for St Maurice, the latter also assisting at St Mary's. The present Associate Priest at St Mary's will take on the role of the Team Vicar. At the time of writing this report the Rector post is open to application.

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 too numerous to mention but greatly appreciated.

*Revd. Roger Beck, Associate Priest*

### **Parochial Church Council Meetings**

The PCC has met six times over the last year. Main topics discussed have been the finance of the church and its day to day running as well as discussion about a new Vicar and working with St Maurice. This year we also had the faculty to refurbish the bells. Their absence whilst being repaired was noticed by all.

To become a member of the PCC you need to be on the electoral roll and be voted on at the APCM.

*Deborah Tozer, PCC Secretary*

### **Growing the Church**

Although the growth group have not formally met (perhaps one of the unfortunate consequences of a long vacancy) the issues have never been far from the work of the parish. The magazine has been dramatically improved, the website is ever-changing and up to date and regular articles appear in the local press. Those responsible for these aspects of our growth are doing a good job in letting the local community know what is going on. The parish is grateful for the hard work that goes into the publications.

The Lenten activities demonstrate that among our congregations we are trying to grow our faith. House groups, Lenten reading and Stations of the Cross on Fridays all demonstrate our desire to grow; the small shoots are there. On Thursday evenings in Lent the Eucharist has been followed by a study group using the 'Pilgrim' booklet on the Holy Communion, which has provided stimulating and thoughtful conversation. It has demonstrated to the participants that the 'Pilgrim' course has much to offer a growing church and it is to be hoped that more people become involved with it. One house group is also focussing on Pilgrim and it would be good if other groups were formed to do similar work.

Various activities have taken place to build relationships with those who are not formally members of our congregations. Cafe Praise continues with an enthusiastic leadership; open the Book continues to lead worship in school by presenting Bible Stories in an attractive way. These groups would welcome new members; please consider whether you have the time to join them and develop the skills that would help them.

Various members of our congregations continue to develop appropriate links with those families who come to the church for the occasional offices. This is another area to consider in terms of growth.

In our report last year we stated the following;

“At the outset priorities were set and a shared understanding of growth was confirmed:

- 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 necessarily 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”

As a parish we have continued to work on these but as ever there is still much more to be done. Let's keep calm and continue to pray.

*Revd. Mark Brimicombe*

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

During 2014, a number of house groups were held; two on a Monday evening, one on a Wednesday morning, one on a Thursday evening and one on a Friday morning. Our thanks go to those who host these groups and those who lead them. Such groups are appreciated by those who attend. The numbers vary for each group and each session.

Last year I wrote that although it is good to have these groups, it would be good to have more groups, but for that to happen we need more leaders. The requirements for leaders are not demanding, 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.

A training morning for potential house group leaders was held during 2014, but regrettably only one person came.

One of my prayers for St Mary's is that people will experience a hunger and a thirst for the things of God. A thirst and a hunger that is satisfied through worship, prayer, study and service. We learn best in small groups. This is what our Lord did.

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.

Please remember that in order to keep healthy we need to engage mind, heart and spirit. Sitting down with friends to study some aspect of the Christian Faith will do us no harm.

*Revd. Ian Provost*

### **Servers**

“Those who serve at the altar share in what is offered at the altar”. 1 Cor.9.13

The team of servers have continued to support the worship at St Mary's over the last twelve months, ensuring the Priests have everything they need for the service.

Towards the end of 2013 the Company of Servers produced a server's handbook which means we now have a structured guide to help with the induction of new servers, as well as reminding the rest of us what we should be doing!

Julian Otto who organised the server's rota for many years stepped down in October and I have agreed to take on this role. On behalf of all the servers, thank you Julian for all of your hard work in organising us all for so long!

Of the fifteen servers, two are members of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary and five are members of the Company of Servers ([www.companyof servers.org](http://www.companyofservers.org))

Unfortunately some of our servers and acolytes have moved onto other things and it is envisaged that some of the other servers will step down as they get embroiled in their studies. If you haven't considered being a server or acolyte before, please do! Contact Sam Snelling, 07599 869860 / [ssnelling@outlook.com](mailto:ssnelling@outlook.com) for more information.

*Please note: there is no maximum age limit for either roles!*

*Sam Snelling*

### **Cafe Praise**

2014 was another good year for Cafe Praise which continues to offer its monthly Sunday afternoon event involving various craft options, cookery, a Bible story and talk, songs, prayers, and then tea. The Sunday continues to be popular but we are conscious that, for various reasons, not all families can manage Sundays. With this in mind we tried an "after school club" theme on some Fridays throughout the year, both at St. Maurice and St. Mary's, also offering a light meal.

Although these events proved very popular unfortunately we still did not reach those children who do not attend any form of worship. However, in the latter months of 2014 we have acquired a core group of parents and children who tell us that their children do not find the various Sunday school options stimulating enough and prefer to attend Cafe Praise as their form of "church". This is exactly what we are hoping for so we are greatly encouraged and, with the Lord's guidance, we are looking forward again. Cafe Praise again was pleased to assist with the Good Friday, Christingle and Crib Services at St. Mary's Parish Church.

We still manage to be self-funding through various fund-raising events, jam and marmalade sales, donations and our 100 Club. The membership of that 100 Club is as follows: St. Mary's parish church, 27 members, St. Maurice parish church, 12 members and Chaddlewood United Community church had 16 members

The membership of the Club has reduced recently and we need more members otherwise we will shortly have to officially request some funding from the sending churches. During the past couple of years we have lost some of our original helpers and this has put more pressure on the remainder of the team. We are urgently seeking new blood to help run our monthly events. We have welcomed Anne Boyes, with Matthew, and greatly appreciate her invaluable contribution to the craft section of Cafe Praise.

Please pray that we may be able to continue our work in spreading the word of God to those who otherwise would not hear it and remembering that the children are our future.

*Linda Lewis*

### **Chaddlewood United Church**

Chaddlewood United Church has continued to meet at Chaddlewood Farm Community Centre on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month, to celebrate Morning Prayer (2nd Sunday) or Holy Communion (4th Sunday). When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, we have held a 'home-made' service at the Centre, arranged by the Leadership group, to which our Colebrook friends are invited. The theme of the service varies according to the Church calendar. During 2014 there were four such Sundays, the last of which featured a speaker from the Shekinah Mission, who gave a very interesting talk which surprised us with the diversity of their work in Plymouth. A retiring collection raised £132.75 for the Mission.

Further funds were raised for Shekinah from our carol singing in Chaddlewood Plymco - £75.58 in total - when we were joined by members of Colebrook Methodist Church. Earlier in the year, donations of food at our Harvest Thanksgiving were also given to Shekinah. Produce has also been collected regularly during the year for Plymouth Food Bank; every time we meet at Chaddlewood, groceries have been donated by members of the congregation and taken to the Food Bank. At the end of November, we received a certificate stating that we had donated 349.23 Kg of food to the Food Bank so far that year.

Other fund raising that year consisted of a table at the Community Centre Christmas Fayre and at Harewood House Christmas Fayre, from which we raised £55.65 for Chaddlewood funds.

On Good Friday we held a service in the open air near the Centre, led by Bob Harrison, followed by hot cross buns indoors. Members of other Plympton Churches joined us for this act of witness. During Christian Aid Week, we joined up with Colebrook for a Coffee morning and Super Soup lunch for Christian Aid, raising £171 in total.

Besides our weekly worship, Judith and June have continued to hold Bible Study groups at their homes. Judith and Beryl also meet on a weekly basis, whenever possible, for a session of prayer. Many members of our congregation have supported Cafe Praise in various ways, either financially through the Cafe Praise 100 club, with the provision of cakes for the monthly meetings or with hands-on help at the meetings themselves. Some of us are involved with Open the Book.

Though not strictly a church activity, but run as an outreach venture by Chaddlewood Church, our group of ladies known as Good Company has been meeting once a month for a meal and, yes, good company! The group has plateaued at about 25 members of which between 16 and 20 attend each month.

*Mavis Buttle*

### **Parish Safeguarding**

A new Diocesan Safeguarding Policy Statement and Guidance for Parishes was adopted by the Diocesan Synod in May 2014. I attended the September meeting of the PCC and gave a report on the new policy and guidance.

The PCC agreed that the new policy would be formally adopted and implemented. It was also agreed that our own safeguarding policy and guidelines complied with the Diocesan recommendations. These are summarized on notice boards in the lobby of the parish hall and in the south porch of the church. They can also be seen on the Safeguarding page of the church website.

One of the recommendations concerned the appointment of a Children's Advocate in addition to the parish safeguarding representative. Mrs. Sarah Duckworth was the unanimous wish of the PCC to fulfil this role. She had previously indicated her willingness to accept the position, the PCC confirmed her appointment. Notices with her contact details have been published in the parish magazine and also on display in the hall and church, as well as on the Safeguarding page of the website.

Further details concerning the new safeguarding policy and guidelines are now available in the parish office and on the church website. The national Childline telephone number is now prominently displayed within the church and the parish centre.

In September 2014 the Diocese moved to electronic checks in respect of the Disclosure and Barring Service. To date it has not been necessary to process or renew any applications

under the new online system. I have registered myself to undertake such checks as and when they become necessary- I am pleased to report that currently there are no issues of concern relating to the safeguarding of children or vulnerable adults within our church community.

*David J. Farley*

## **Church Fabric**

The year started with some big storms, which damaged a large tree to the west of Ridgeway gate. The tree surgeons came and made it safe by reducing its size. Also in January we submitted the final version of the faculty for the bells, organ and CCTV and also the removal of the pews where the music group sit and play.

During the year in the churchyard a new notice board was purchased and erected on the Market road entrance. The hedges on Ridgeway and Market Road have been cut and trimmed, and a couple of new trees have been planted along the pathway through the churchyard. Many thanks to Bob Dyer and his team for continuing to cut the grass and generally keeping the churchyard tidy.

We had letter from the council to say that a lot of litter had accumulated in our grounds adjacent to the bus stop and was a health hazard. Thanks to the team from Plympton Civic Society for cleaning up the litter.

Inside the Church the bells have been refurbished by Whitechapel Bell Foundry Ltd. The Organ has also been refurbished and upgraded by Michael Farley Organ Builders. The CCTV cameras and monitor have been installed and also several lamps have been renewed. Thank you to the cleaning team and the brass cleaning group for keeping the church clean.

During the bad weather some of the plaster came down from the ceiling just east of the tower. This has been cleaned up and made safe.

*Church wardens*

## **The Bell Tower**

The most important thing to report is that the long awaited overhaul and refurbishment in the Tower has just about been completed.

An Engineer came from Whitechapel Bell Foundry on Monday 3rd November 2014 to remove the various parts that needed attention at the foundry. This necessitated the trap doors in the two floors being opened. This allowed chain pulleys and lifting gear to be used so that tools and equipment required to dismantle the necessary parts could be hoisted up into place. Four volunteers assisted in this work and by Wednesday, a well loaded lorry was returned to London. We initially expected the return to be late January or early February but were delighted to receive a call for installation from 15th December. Hopefully bells could be rung at Christmas. However, it turned out that the job could not be completed.

Again the floors had to be taken up and the repaired wheels, clappers, bags of bolts, washers and fixings all had to be hauled up to the ringing chamber. This had to be done quickly as it turned out that the primary school children were coming in for Nativity rehearsals. Imagine the faces of the children as things slowly rose and disappeared through the floor above.

All jobs were made difficult because the bells and metal frame seem to be 'in the way'. Carrying and holding heavy items in place to secure while balancing on 5" frame or not falling through the hole in the floor proved very tiring. The wheels, in two parts, had to be reattached as

did the clappers. Firstly, each bell had to be lifted and the bearings from each side removed, the housings cleaned of thick grease and the new bearing installed. To lift a bell, straps and chain blocks over the roofing girders had to be used. We realised that when the bearings were removed at least one side had seized, making it harder work to swing the bell and pull the rope to make the clapper strike the bell. After the bearings, the headstock bolts and nuts had to be changed. Not having the need to be removed since 1933, when records show last workings done, these nuts proved the downfall. Some nuts literally took hours to undo and remove, even with the use of blowtorch, hammer and hacksaw. Several of the clappers had to have new crown staples made due to wear and this was the reason why the 6th bell could not be finished. No amount of persuasion would allow that particular bolt to align. It was found that the bolts supplied for 7th bell headstock were not of the correct size. The engineer gave up for Christmas taking these bolts back to Whitechapel.

On Christmas morning we rang 5 bells, enough to say St Mary's had bells ringing at Christmas. The engineer returned on Monday 19th January and the jolly band continued the work, finishing bells 6, 7 and 8. The chime wires of the clock hammers were reattached. It was then discovered that the hammers had not been correctly made or sized and as a result they were not hitting the bells in the right place. The engineer advised us that if he connected the chimes damage would be caused to the side of the bells. The chimes were added when the clockworks were changed in 1953.

To install the hammers but not make them operational seemed pointless. The decision was made to remove the complete set of hammers and take them back to the foundry for modification and repair. This of course incurred extra expense. The work has been completed and by Easter the chimes for the clock and the bells will be in full working order.

The clock will still only be correct on Ridgeway side, as the face on the South side has seized and waiting repair, but lacking funds.

I am pleased to say that several people have shown interest in learning to ring and Monday nights have become very busy. One lad comes from Plymstock and working towards his Duke of Edinburgh Award. He has now brought along a friend and the young ones really seem to pick it up well. A soon to be Bride, her Mum and Godmother have come along, when shift work allows. Unfortunately, illness and age is taking its toll on our regular ringers, so we have to make up with visiting ones from other towers and share for weddings.

With the refurbishment complete and money spent, hopefully we can look forward and encourage ringing of St Mary's bells for many years to come.

*Mary Nicholls Tower Captain*

## **The Choir**

This has been an exciting year, if only mostly for the organists, as the refurbishment and repairs to the organ have been completed and once again the instrument is a pleasure to play and the sound is great. There are still snagging problems to be sorted out by these are minimal if annoying.

The choir, as usual, has been busy this past year, partly because, under Mila's direction, we have been increasing our repertoire. We have been singing anthems most Sundays as well as the services of Parish Eucharist and Evensong each week. Then there are all the major festivals plus Advent and Christmas Carol Services, plus the memorial services, weddings and increasingly Funerals. We have sixteen members:- three bases; four altos; two tenors and six sopranos.

On several occasions we have been augmented by ex-members. Unfortunately, this year we nearly all had to miss the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) Festival which was in Plymouth at St. Andrews. This was due to holidays and wedding commitments.

There has been some sickness among members this year including the effects of the coughing bug which has been going around and this has put pressure on us all. Currently, we are praying for our friend Lucy who is recovering from a bad accident.

We would like to stress again the need for the choir to have new members for all voices. (As we process at Sunday services we have noticed two or three good voices coming from the congregation. We have our eyes on you!) Don't forget - men can sing alto and ladies can sing tenor.

If you like to sing please consider joining us. You can fit it around your personal circumstances for instance, one service on Sunday or helping at special occasions and services. We would expect some visits to choir practice though. This is on Fridays at 7:15 pm. Just a few more singers and we can further expand our repertoire and maybe perform concerts again.

Don't let this generation lose St. Mary's musical reputation.

*Mila Collier (Grimes) Director of Music*

*Pauline Nicholls Deputy Organist*

### **The Churchyard**

Some of our volunteers have had to give up for various reasons. If you have a few spare hours please give me a ring on 215823 or call into the Parish Office in the Church Hall.

Many thanks to Jill for looking after the new cremation plot between the Church and Market Road and for keeping looking neat and tidy. Thanks also to Jon, who comes all the way from Saltash to help with the lower churchyard.

I am still working in the Churchyard- but not at regular times as before, Should you need to talk to me about the Church yard, looking for a grave site etc., because I am also Church Archivist, just call me.

Finally, my sincere thanks go to the Civic Society, run by John Boulden, who find areas that need attention (where mowers will not go). They are currently clearing the brambles from the Market Road/Ridgeway corner and other areas of the Churchyard.

*Bob Dyer Sexton*

### **Church Watch**

Last summer, for the second year in succession, we succeeded in keeping the church open on most weekdays. The loss of some of our older stalwarts was balanced by the arrival of several fresh volunteers. Without the support of our fine group of Church Watchers we would not be able to provide this important service to the church. I know that we all derive much spiritual benefit from just sitting quietly in the church for a couple of hours but I really do appreciate the time given up by these kind people.

Our Church Watch volunteers experienced several heart-warming occasions last summer. A young boy brought his family along because of his fascination with the bells. He was put in touch with the bell ringing team and his ambition was fulfilled when he was given a tour of the tower. Incidents like this could well bring new and much-needed volunteers for our hard working bell

ringers. Another day, a mother called in with her young sons. As the older boy was extremely interested in churches, she had promised to spend a large part of the summer holidays taking him to visit many of them in and around Plymouth. Her efforts to satisfy him had often been thwarted because churches tended to be shut. She decided to review the web sites of local churches and was delighted to find that St Mary's web site actually showed the dates and times when the church would be open - hence her visit. Our decision to include information about church watch on our web-site thus brought fine rewards.

I really did appreciate the support of the Church Watchers who acted as stewards throughout the day on 4th August when John Boulden helped us to present the World War 1 memorabilia kindly loaned to us by members of St Mary's and our local community. We had a large number of visitors. We also had another very successful weekend (13th and 14th 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. We raised twice as much for the Devon Historic Churches Trust as last year, which in turn was a big improvement on our first year supporting them. This year it would be good to raise even more, perhaps by arranging a concert for the evening of Devon Historic Churches Day. I shall be talking to Ken, Mila and others about such a possibility.

Sadly, we have lost a third of our Church Watchers this year so we are desperate for volunteers. Please contact me on 01752 510190 if you feel able to help.

*Rodger Ruse*

### **Sunday Morning Refreshments**

The coffee and tea served after Parish Communion on Sunday mornings continue to do well. We thank the many members of the congregation who stay and have a 'cuppa'. Many thanks too, to the small but dedicated team who prepare and serve the refreshments and clear up. (Any offers?). We have managed to give £600.50 p to church funds in 2014.

*Glenys Otto*

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

This year, we ended the year with same number of ringers as the start of the year. We lost some ringers and gained new ones. As usual we would like to have couple of more ringers, to cover bells that are not being rung.

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. Whenever ask for payment from the homes, but we 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 £152 at the moment, an increase £34 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:- Manor Court, Efford, (3 visits), Merafield View, Plympton (2 visits), Ashleigh Manor, Plympton, The Retreat, Hooe, (2 visits), Pocklington Rise, Plympton Lambs Park, Plympton, Michaelstow, Plympton Ivydeen, Ivybridge, Furzatt Lodge, Plymstock and Nutley Lodge, Elburton. We also played before the start of the St Mary's Carol Service

*Colin Mason*

## **Parish Centre and Hall**

During 2014 the Centre has been used on weekdays for Preschool, Mums and Toddlers, Bereavement group, Melting Pot, Past Times and Mothers' Union. The office was voluntarily manned 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 continuing support. At weekends there was a weekly coffee shop and monthly table top manned by volunteers. Thank you to all who have been involved.

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, the Sunday Club and Café Praise. In the evenings the Centre was regularly used by other groups for meetings, keep fit, yoga and dancing.

This year we have had a new gas boiler installed and new taps fitted in the kitchen. The main hall has been scrubbed, cleaned and polished; the radiators have been painted and the ladies' toilets have been painted. Thanks to Mr. Michael Austen and Mrs. Margaret Leigh for their help.

Thanks to Michael also for his work as hall caretaker and to Margaret who has been taking care of the bookings and dealing with the ordering of equipment etc. required to keep the Parish Centre running.

*Hall Management Group*

## **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 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 try to offer a friendship meal to members of the group as holiday weekends can feel very sad and lonely for the bereaved. We also invite former members of the group. This year, as in previous years, we have been going to the Royal British Legion Club on Market Road, Plympton. Once again, our Christmas meal of roast turkey with all the trimmings was particularly good. Our numbers were down on previous years because of ill health. We have just heard that the chef, Dawn, has decided to leave the club and Tony Ashley will take her place. We thank Dawn for all her lovely meals.

In November we supported St. Mary's Annual Memorial Service for the relatives of those people who have died in the last year. Mr. David Brinkley managed to set light to himself while helping with the candles which members of the congregation brought up to the altar. Luckily he sustained no major injuries – except to his pride!! We are 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.

In December the group made a donation of £30:00 to the Plympton Chamber of Commerce to help with the installation of the Christmas Lights on the Ridgeway, Plympton. We like to support local events and local charities. Instead of giving each other Christmas Cards we make a donation to local charities. This year we raised £20:00.

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 very grateful to Mrs. Sarah Dinwoodie, Mrs. Diana Stedall, Mrs. Judith Bye, Mrs. Pauline Squires, Mrs. Beryl Smith, Mrs. Maureen Maynard, Mrs Ena Blower and Mrs. Audrey Stewart who have all volunteered. We should also like to thank Mr. David Tozer and Mr. Ken Kingwell for their regular help. We are also very grateful to Mrs. Maureen Diffey who raises money for the group by running monthly table top sales.

We continue to think that the Monday Morning Group provides great support for those who are recently bereaved.

Again, many thanks to all those who help with this project.

*David Brinkley*

### **Melting Pot**

The group has had an enjoyable time in the past twelve months meeting each week on Tuesday mornings for coffee, tea, biscuits and a good natter.

We run coach trips between April and November, starting and ending with shorter trips, this past year we have visited Newton Abbot, Tavistock and Widecombe-in-the-Moor, Looe, Darts Farm and Topsham, Dunster Steam Railway, Sidmouth Folk Festival, Exmouth, Cornish Mystery Trip, Street and Wells.

On the first Tuesday of each month, we hold a raffle to boost funds, at Christmas we had our Carol Service followed by mince pies and cream which was well attended Melting Pot are always ready to welcome new people to our friendly and social group.

*Shelia Prizeman.*

### **Mothers Union**

Our numbers have remained the same this year and we continue to meet on the first Wednesday of the month in either the Church or the Church Hall. We are grateful to both Rev. Roger Beck and Rev Ian Provost for officiating at our quarterly Eucharist service and also for Roger for chairing the A.G.M. in January. We have had interesting speakers including Mrs Margaret Provost and Mr Jack Duckworth.

The only change to report is that we no longer have a Branch Leader, due to the retirement of Glenys Otto. No one was willing to take on what can be an onerous task. It has been decided to run the Branch by Committee with a Secretary and treasurer as before.

Again we have been able to raise money towards the cost of Bibles for children at St Mary's Infant School. This is something we hope to do again this year.

*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 2014, 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:  
Mr G Beeson

Date: 17th April 2015

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2014 Total Funds	2013 Total Funds
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE		£	£		£
Voluntary Income		115,461	-	<b>115,461</b>	118,224
Actiivities for Generating Funds		10,691	-	<b>10,691</b>	9,885
Income from Investments		321	-	321	445
Church Activities		42,197	-	<b>42,197</b>	34,367
Other Incoming Resources		1,050	-	1,050	444
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		169,720	-	<b>169,720</b>	163,365
<b>3 RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>					
Costs of Generating Funds		3,467	-	<b>3,467</b>	1,869
Mission Giving/Donations to Charities		750	-	750	664
Church Activities		180,078	-	<b>180,078</b>	147,483
Major repairs and redecoration to the church		-	-	-	26,417
Major repairs to Hall/Other PCC property		-	-	-	-
New building work		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		184,295	-	<b>184,295</b>	176,433
<b>NET INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		<b>(14,575)</b>	-	<b>(14,575)</b>	(13,068)

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2014**

	Note	2014		2013
		£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets		227,270		227,270
Investments		9,650		1,892
		<u>236,920</u>	236,920	<u>229,162</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors		8,206		8,136
Cash at bank and in hand		22,265		45,168
		<u>30,471</u>	30,471	<u>53,305</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>267,391</b>	282,467
<b>LIABILITIES : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>				
		<u>(11,275)</u>	(11,275)	<u>(17,657)</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			<b>256,116</b>	264,810
<b>LIABILITIES : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE AFTER ONE YEAR</b>				
			-	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>			<b>256,116</b>	264,810
<b>FUNDS</b>				
Unrestricted funds			246,116	254,810
Restricted funds			10,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>			<b>256,116</b>	264,810

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 25th March 2015 and signed on its behalf by:

Original signed by: P Leigh

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

#### **Parish Trusts Investments**

The Exeter Board of Finance have for the first time advised us on the total value of trusts held on behalf of the parish and appear in the accounts for the first time. 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

### 2 INCOMING RESOURCES

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2014 Total Funds	2013 Total Funds
		£	£		£
<b>Voluntary Income</b>					
Gift Aided Planned Giving		56,828	-	<b>56,828</b>	56,288
Other Planned Giving		-	-	<b>0</b>	0
Collections at Services		11,438	-	<b>11,438</b>	9,478
All Other Giving/Donations		7,458	-	<b>7,458</b>	12,178
All Tax Recovered through Gift Aid		19,617	-	<b>19,617</b>	5,531
Legacies Received		12,500	-	<b>12,500</b>	21,050
Income from Grants		7,620	-	<b>7,620</b>	13,700
		115,461	-	<b>115,461</b>	118,224
<b>Activities for Generating Funds</b>					
Gross Income from Fund-raising Activities		10,691	-	<b>10,691</b>	9,885
<b>Income from Investments</b>					
Dividends, Interest, Income from Property		321	-	<b>321</b>	445
<b>Church Activities</b>					
PCC Fees		27,946	-	<b>27,946</b>	20,315
Gross Income from Trading/Activities		14,251	-	<b>14,251</b>	14,052
Other Incoming Resources		1,050	-	<b>1,050</b>	444
<b>TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES</b>		169,720	-	<b>169,720</b>	163,365

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

### 3 RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2014 Total Funds	2013 Total Funds
		£	£		£
<b>Church Activities</b>					
Costs of Generating Funds		3,467	-	<b>3,467</b>	1,869
Mission Giving/Donations to Charities		750	-	750	664
Diocesan parish share		87347	-	87,347	85,355
Salaries, wages & honoraria		7895	-	7,895	5,773
Expenses of Clergy etc		1858	-	1,858	3,316
Mission and Evangelism Projects		3056	-	3,056	3,769
Church Running Expenses		53588	-	53,588	26,703
Church Utility Bills		9745	-	9,745	10,722
Costs of Trading		16529	-	16,529	11,846
Governance Costs		59	-	59	-
		<b>184295</b>		<b>184,295</b>	150,017
<b>Major Capital Expenditure</b>					
Major Repairs and Redecoration of Church		-	-	-	26,417
Major repairs (Hall/OtherPCC property)		-	-	-	-
New building work		-	-	-	-
<b>TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED</b>		<b>184,295</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>184,295</b>	<b>176,433</b>

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

We continued to have a Director of Music and a Deputy Organist. There have been changes in the management of the hall. There is a small sub-committee lead by Mr Leigh, Churchwarden. Mr Austin, PCC Member, is now employed as the hall cleaner. We have continued to employ a part time clerical assistant to assist the clergy with their clerical work.

Three members of the PCC received pay during the year. Mrs L Collier, Director of Music received £2,280, Mr M Austin received £1,200 and Mrs J Escott, part time clerical assistant received £672. Mr K Escott, also a member of the PCC received £1,640 fees for duty as the vergers at weddings and funerals. A reported previously the Sexton only receives fees when attending funerals and occasional services such as weddings and internments. None of these earned £50,000 p.a. or more. There were no other disclosable transactions in respect of PCC members, persons closely connected with them or members, persons closely connected with them or other related parties. No PCC members were reimbursed travelling or subsistence expenses during the year.

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

### 5 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

#### Cost or valuation

At 1 January 2014	227,270
At 31 December 2014	227,270

#### Depreciation

At 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2014

#### Net book value

At 1 January 2014	227,270
At 31 December 2014	227,270

Freehold land and buildings comprise the following properties:

Church Hall at cost	194,970
27 Pinewood Close, Plympton	32,300
	<u>227,270</u>

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

### 6 INVESTMENTS

	2014	2113
	£	£
Parish Trust Investments held by Exeter Board of Finance Ltd	7,758	N/A
2 x War stock bonds (at nominal value)	1,892	1,892
	<u>9,650</u>	1,892

## NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS continued

<b>7 DEBTORS</b>	<b>2014</b>	2013
	<b>£</b>	
Prepayments	<b>8,206</b>	8,136
	<b>8,206</b>	8,136

<b>8 LIABILITIES : AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR</b>	<b>2014</b>	2013
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Accruals	<b>(11,275)</b>	(17,657)

## 9 ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BY FUNDS

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Fixed assets for church use	227,270		227,270
Investments	9,650		1,892
Current assets	20,471	10,000	53,305
Current liabilities	(11,275)		(17,657)
<b>Fund balance</b>	<b>246,116</b>	<b>10,000</b>	264,810
<b>Total funds</b>		<b>256,116</b>	264,810

## 10 FUND DETAILS

	<b>2014</b>	2013
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
<b>Funds for specific purposes:</b>		
Choir Members' account	<b>330</b>	330
Bereavement Group	<b>413</b>	413
Bells maintenance	<b>5,467</b>	8,291
Organ fund	<b>167</b>	26,776
	<b>6,377</b>	35,810

## 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 2014 are:*

	<b>£</b>
<i>Chaddlewood United Church</i>	313
<i>St. Mary's Altar Flower Fund</i>	328