

Opening Prayers

Apologies for Absence

Review of the Year

What have been our highlights? Any lowlights?

Photographic Memories

THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING (The Vestry Meeting)

- Minutes of the Meeting of April 12th, 2018 - (*see page 2*).
- Election of two Churchwardens

Celebrations and Thanks

THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. **Minutes** of the Meeting of April 12th, 2018 - (*see page 3*).
2. **The Annual Report of the PCC** – written - (*see separate document*).- including : **Finance** - Annual accounts – circulated, for questions and approval
3. **Churchwarden’s Report** on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Churches of St Mary’s Fordingbridge and St Giles’, Godshill - (*see page 6*).
4. **Electoral Roll Report** - written - (*see page 8*).
5. **Deanery Synod Report** – written - (*see page 9*).
6. **Reports from other groups, written or spoken.**(*see page 9*).
7. **Elections: (*see page 17*).**
Deanery Synod. Elections every 3 years next one 2020
Elect 5 Parochial Church Council Members.
8. Appointment of Sidespersons and Vergers. (*see page 17*).
9. *Appointment of Independent Examiner*
10. **AOB** – Questions for discussion or recommendations to the PCC

Looking forwards – Benefice of the Future.

Behind the Scenes

Closing Prayers

Continue with Refreshments

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2. The Annual Report of the PCC - *(see separate document)*.- including : **Finance**
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4. Report on the Church Electoral Roll 2019.
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6. Supplementary information of interest to parishioners 2018 -2019.
7. Elections
8. List of Sidespersons.
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Attached as a separate document:

Annual Report on the of the PCC with Financial Review and Statement 2018

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to Elect Churchwardens, followed by the Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Monday 12th April 2018

Present	Rev'd Canon Gary Philbrick(Chair)	Ian Newman
	Judith Dowsett	Andy Finch
	Jane Calver	Martin Calver
	John Dowsett	Viv Finch
	Alison Steven	Janet Spratt
	Dorothy Ashford	Jane Hawker
	Patricia Detheridge	Sue Ledger
	Christine Pope	Sarah Perrelle
	Gillian Benfield	Peter Worthington
	Ann Campbell	Chris Carter
	Ian Campbell	Keith Halstead
	Sally Johnson	Sally Fudge
	Margaret Ward	Pat Bloomfield
	Mark Ward	Graham Fry
	Roger King	Christine Fry
	Clive Jones	Alan Moore
	Mike Ireland	Gwenda Moore
	Jean Godden	Chris Calder
	Margaret Weston	Carol Butt
	Rev'd John Towler	Edna Ross
	Nigel Spratt (Minutes)	
Apologies	Rev'd Rachel Noël	Rev'd. Kate Wilson
	Rev'd Nicky Davis	Ann Pye
	Jennifer Craythorne	Mary Melbourne
	David Melbourne	Janet Newman
	Neil Felton	Pam Felton
	Annette Young	Olive Baker
	Helen Tague	Trevor Tague

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to Elect Churchwardens 2018

1.	Welcome and prayers: Mark Ward led the opening prayers, read today's Gospel and welcomed all.
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2.	Apologies: were given and are recorded above.
3	<p>Review of the Year: Those present were asked to name their Highlights and Lowlights:</p> <p>Highlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music and Arts Festival • Church Choir singing at Salisbury Cathedral • Holidays at Home • Train Festival • Easter Story Play • Children's Corner • Easter Flowers • Poppies • New Kitchenette • Lent Lunches • Lent Courses • Toilet Twinning. • Bishop's Visit. • St. Patrick's Day meal. • Unification of the new Benefice. <p>Canon Gary showed some photos of many of the above events and some other highlights of 2017/2018</p> <p>Lowlights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vandalism. • Rev'd. Rachel Noël's Illness. • Rev'd .JohnTowler's Illness.
4	<p>Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners to Elect Churchwardens held on April 12th 2018 These had been circulated prior to this meeting, and were approved and signed without change on a proposition by Ian Newman which was seconded by Martin Calver.</p>
5	<p>Election of Churchwardens: Two nominations had been received, Judith Dowsett and Jane Calver . Judith has fulfilled her 6 year period as churchwarden but as no nominations have been received to replace her and she is willing to continue, Ian Newman proposed that the time limit should be extended by one year. This proposition was seconded by Dorothy Ashford and agreed by all present. There being no other nominations Judith Dowsett and Jane Calver were duly elected. Rev'd Gary thanked the wardens and everyone on the team.</p>
Signed Rev'd Canon Gary Philbrick, Chairman/04/2019	

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2018

1.	<p>Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held 24th April 2017 These had been circulated prior to this meeting, and on a proposition by Ian Newman, seconded by Andy Finch, were approved and signed without change .</p>
2	<p>Report on the Church Electoral Roll. 2018 The report, which has been circulated prior to this meeting, was received. There are 155 on the Electoral Roll. Two less than the previous year. In the year ending 31st December 2017 one person died and one moved away, no people were added. Since December 2017 one person was added , two moved out of the parish and one died.</p>
3.	<p>To Receive the Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish. (2017-2018) The report , has been circulated and was recieved. There were no questions or comments .</p>

4.	<p>To Receive the Financial Statement 2017 Martin Calver, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statement, (a detailed, independently audited, report has been circulated prior to this meeting).</p> <p>Martin said that as a result of two generous gifts, £24,000 from the 'Friends of Fordingbridge Parish Church' towards the new kitchen and the legacy of £735,000 from the late Roy Lillington, of which £630,000 was received at the end of December 2017, the Church Finances finished the year in a very healthy state.</p> <p>Income excluding these two gifts was £146,000 was in line with budgetted expectations. This was contributed to by fund raising which exceeded expectations. However expenditure far exceeded what was expected at £164,000 which included unbudgetted improvements . Our investments under performed showing a small loss of £152. Our Parish share of £71,670, an increase of £6,400, was paid in full .</p> <p>At the end of the financial year the General Account stands at £20,388 there is £8,823 in restricted funds and £677,192 in designated funds.</p> <p>Totalling £70,802 .</p> <p>The PCC policy to set aside money in a quinquennial fund was suspended for the year.</p> <p>The PCC are committed to achieving a reserve in the General Fund equal to three months operating costs.</p> <p>The PCC continues to operate two bank accounts with NatWest, and invests balances where appropriate in the CBF Fixed Interest Funds.</p> <p>Martin pointed out that we should not be complacent, without the two gifts the situation would have been dire.</p> <p>Questions were invited by Martin, there were none.</p> <p>John Dowsett proposed that the Annual Accounts presented to the meeting be accepted. This proposition was seconded by Sarah Perelle and agreed by all present.</p> <p>Canon Gary said that we owe Martin an enormous debt of gratitude, and thanks were also given to the wardens, Jane and Judith.</p>
5.	<p>To receive a report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod (2017/2018): A written report had been circulated and was duly received, there were no questions or comments</p>
6.	<p>Reports on the Parish Activities 2017/2018: All the reports from the church organisations were received and accepted without questions or comments.</p>
7.	<p>To appoint 3 members of the Laity to the Deanery Synod: There are 3 members of the laity to the Deanery Synod who were elected in 2017 for 3 years. Next election in 2020. No elections required this year Nominations had been received for: John Dowsett Ian Newman Mark Ward No further nominations were offered. All persons were elected unanimously.</p>
8.	<p>To elect 5 members to the Parochial Church Council: Nominations had been received for: Sarah Perelle Peter Worthington Melvyn Beynon Sue Ledger Andy Finch</p>

	No further nominations were offered. All persons were elected unanimously. On a proposition by Pat Broomfield seconded by Margaret Weston
9.	Appointment of Sidespersons: The following people were appointed as sidepersons: Alison Steven Pat Bloomfield Margaret Ward Edna Ross All of these people and those on the original list were appointed.
10.	Prayers for those elected and appointed to office: Rev'd Gary led the prayers and thanks for all those appointed and elected and for those whose term of office had come to an end.
11	To appoint an Independent Examiner of Accounts: Fawcetts are happy to continue and were duly elected on a proposition from Alison Steven which was seconded by Dorothy Ashford. It was noted that Fawcetts make no charge, and Martin was asked to pass on our thanks.
12	Report from the Rector: Gary reflected on the full and interesting year of 2017. Judith Dowsett proposed a vote of thanks to Gary which was carried unanimously with great enthusiasm!
13.	Questions and comments : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ian Newman : said that decisions need to be made about what to do with the Lillington Legacy. The PCC are considering the renovation and development of the Church Hall. A review what changes can be made and the work needed is required. There is also considerable repair work required on the church roof and other work is highlighted in the inspection. • Jean Godden : asked if something can be done to limit the use of the church hall car park by those not on church business. The PCC are discussing what to do, it is a difficult problem which needs to be addressed. There is an unofficial acceptance that people living in the cottages adjacent to the car park can use it, but that is being taken for granted and abused. Roger King said that the local Estate Agents should be made aware that people advertising the sale of these cottages cannot say that parking in the car park is allowed by right of ownership. Ian Newman pointed out that we should keep on good terms with our neighbours. Dorothy Ashford suggested that perhaps more use could be made of the Glebe field if there was an area with mesh reinforcement for extra parking. Sarah Perrelle asked if marked bays would help, but it was agreed that these would actually reduce the space available. • Alison Steven: suggested that someone should be trained to take over from her as Safeguarding Officer when she retires from the post next year. • Martin Calver: said that Alison's suggestion should also be applied to the Treasurer position. • Judith Dowsett: said that the role descriptions of all the major parish jobs should be made public.
14	Looking forward: Rev'd Gary: said that discussions are taking place about the Benefice of the Future project in which our Parish has been selected to take part .
15	Behind the Scenes: Appreciation of people who undertake important tasks which we take for granted. This year: Church Cleaners- who do a wonderful job keeping a huge, difficult building in a condition which always presents a good impression to our congregation and visitors. Flower Arrangers – whose artistic talents enhance our beautiful building.
16	Rev'd. John Towler closed the meeting with Prayers

Signed by..... Signed by.....
Date.....

3. Report from the Churchwardens concerning the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church of St Mary, Fordingbridge and St Giles Godshill 2018-2019

Fabric

Following the latest Quinquennial Inspection Report (QIR) the PCC considered the contents and in the light of the Lillington Legacy agreed priorities for work on the fabric of the Church and Church Hall as follows:

Church Priority 1: External repairs: Roof, rainwater goods.

Church Priority 2: Accessibility, paths, car park, porch

Church Priority 3: Internal and electrical work

Church Hall Priorities: Insulation, heating, windows, doors, kitchen, toilets, decoration, storage and extensions.

The PCC received the completed Quinquennial Inspection report (QIR) in March 2018 by Church Architect, Mr Antony Feltham-King from the St Ann's Gate Architects practice in Salisbury. His report notes that the church building is clearly well-loved and cared for by the church community and the generally good condition of the building's fabric is testament to the care shown to the building over many generations. His estimated cost of attending to every recommendation with timescales ranging from urgent → priority within a year → within two years → within five years → within ten years → general maintenance → keep under observation – would amount to £200,000-£250,000.

NB. These costs, and those quoted below, are very approximate, and do not include fees, VAT, builder's overheads, or access. Wording below in italics is taken direct from the QIR.

The main items are:

Roof coverings of the tower and the nave are approaching the end of their service lives and these will require attention early in the coming quinquennium. The church is advised to plan for work to the tower roof first (as this is actively leaking) and also to the nave roof. It would be sensible to attend to the defects in the northern parapet gutter of the northern chapel, and the southern parapet gutter of the chancel. The church is recommended to carry out a close-quarters examination of the roof timbers in conjunction with the roofing project.

Estimated costs for this and associated work = £150,000. A specification to include all exterior roof repairs, rainwater goods replacements, tiles, windows, and stonework repairs has been drawn up by Antony Feltham-King in readiness to obtain a Faculty for the work and to go out to tender. (Church Priority 1)

The interior of the church building is heated using a forced warm air system, fed from a boiler located adjacent to the south aisle. The inspection noted that there are signs of condensation damage to windows, and this might be occurring elsewhere within the fabric of the building, particularly to the underside of metal roof coverings. It is suggested that the internal environment of the building is monitored for a period of two or three years, to gather data on the behaviour of the heating system, to begin to inform the thinking for a potential new heating installation. No cost estimate for boiler replacement is included in the QIR, though the boiler is decades old and an economic, environmentally efficient and reliable replacement is inevitable.

The estimated cost to install a monitoring system for the internal environment is £500 - £1000.

The internal plastered surfaces are beginning to look a little 'tired' and this may not be helped by the condensation issue. It would be advisable to plan for a rolling programme of redecoration to all of the internal walls over time.

The south aisle walls and ceiling redecoration work was successfully completed in March 2018.

The internal lighting of the building is quite basic and the fine interior spaces could be better appreciated if a new lighting scheme is undertaken.

The main entry point via the north porch could be improved to enable access for all through this space. ...and... Consideration should be given to the matter as required by the Equality Act 2010. If one has not been carried out, an access audit should be commissioned to review what measures could be implemented, which primarily concern the stepped access at the porch. It should be noted that accessibility covers wide range of physical and other limitations and is not solely related to wheelchair access issues.

An Access Audit was carried out in June 2018 and is being used alongside the QIR to plan improved accessibility both externally and internally. (Church Priority 2)

Some of the windows require specialist inspection in order to plan for any repairs or to rule out such work. It would be advisable to commission a stained-glass specialist to visit the building and to report on the east windows of the chancel and the north chapel, and also the window in the northern elevation of the tower space.

Repair work on the lead roof of the tower belfry was carried out in Autumn 2018 to arrest risk of further damage by rainwater ingress on the tower roof, to a beam above the bells and to a bell itself. Further lead repair work and gutter clearance was carried out in two areas of the roof because of rainwater ingress above the font, as well as the eastern gutter of the belfry, and the western gutter which had a very clear break in the lining.

Costs were £162 and then £582.

Damage by vandals climbing onto the boiler house roof adjacent to and over the south porch necessitated the replacement of approximately 20 roof tiles which, with the repair of the dislodgement of the rainwater downpipe, cost £380. In November it was noted that further tiles have been damaged, and rainwater drips through the south porch roof. It is expected to include these repairs in the major roof and external repair schedule.

There continues to be a slight but apparent ingress of water collecting on the shelf above the accessible toilet within the choir vestry, thought to be caused by a leak in the flat roof felting or a break in the flashing on the downpipe into the cubicle. Currently a plastic tray prevents water spillage onto the floor and this needs emptying following heavy rainfall. The QIR advises choir vestry roof tiling repair work estimated at £500.

Thanks to a regular volunteer team the church interior, floors and furniture continue to be cleaned fortnightly, including attempts to keep cobwebs and dust away and maintain an attractive and welcoming appearance.

One of the lights under the tower requires replacement, for which more extensive electrical wiring work may be necessary.

The QIR for St Giles, Godshill is due in 2019 but it is clear that work will need to be done on the guttering and the main door and door-frame which is in a bad state of repair. This work will be carried out soon.

Goods

The new kitchenette installation was completed for Easter 2018. It has exceeded expectations in that it not only enhances the south-west corner of the church but – importantly – provides much-needed storage and essential hospitality facilities for the church users and the wider community.

A Sennheiser microphone transmitter was found to be missing, presumably stolen, in May 2018 so a replacement was supplied, installed and synchronised by VP Bastion/Sound Advice costing £801.60 (incl. VAT). The theft was reported to the Police, and listed along with other smaller items of damage and nuisance caused by young vandals for a short time in early 2018. Problems with the sound system have continued into 2019 and significant time has been spent finding the source of the problems. In February 2019, the engineer visited again and matters have improved significantly.

Ornaments and Furniture

Two new oak credence tables supplied by Vanpoules were donated to the church. Some small wicker chairs in the children's area were damaged during one of several visits by young vandals during the winter and early spring; most were kindly repaired by volunteers, but one had to be disposed of.

Parochial Visitation

As reported last year, Mrs Penelope Chitty, Archdeacon's Representative, carried out the five-yearly Parochial Visitation on 29th September 2016 for St Mary's, Fordingbridge but the report is still awaited – this has been chased up via the Diocese. Sadly, Mrs Chitty died in 2018.

The Churchyard

Following a lot of work by a team of volunteers to clear and recover the overgrown Garden of Remembrance in the northeast corner of the graveyard in 2017, a new planting scheme was designed by Ann Beynon, agreed and speedily implemented during May 2018, taking advantage of the optimum planting time. Diligent care with regular and plentiful watering during the extremely hot 2018 summer weather is rewarded by a very attractively restored Remembrance area. These volunteers continue to tidy and enhance the garden areas adjacent to the church hall too. Improved signs regarding dog fouling are still required near all churchyard footpaths and rights-of-way. One of the 12 lime trees within the avenue from the lych gate to the north entrance door is diseased and becoming dangerous, so will need removal and replacement. As already reported, an Access survey was carried out in June 2018 and plans

are in hand to enhance the accessible car park and the pathways in particular. (Church Priority 2)

Church Hall

The church hall continues to be widely and reasonably used, both by private hirers, regular bookings and for the serving of refreshments, support and as an auxiliary site for major church events. Regular weekly or monthly sessions are still available for hire. Redundant sound equipment, stored in the right-hand storeroom, has been given to Burgate School for their music and drama departments and they are extremely grateful for the donation. The task to clear out, sort and dispose of a large amount of unwanted items stored in the loft above the front entrance hall still needs to be done. This will ensure that important papers are checked, filed and if applicable are taken to the Hampshire Records Office in Winchester. There is yet more evidence of damp spreading all over the high wall opposite the stage, and the concrete porch over the front entrance is deteriorating.

The hall needs a complete overhaul to make it a warm and attractive building with good facilities. The priorities for improvement are the kitchen, cloakrooms, entrance lobby and doors, windows, heating system and storage areas. (Church Hall Priorities) A structural survey has been carried out by our Church Architect who has confirmed the soundness and therefore the viability of proceeding with upgrades and improvements to the building. A sub-committee has been formed to manage this project. Visits and comparisons with similar Reed & Mallik (REEMA) halls nearby (Verwood and Netley Abbey) have taken place in early 2019 so work is in progress to achieve an improved church hall, and ideally attract more income from hirers.

St Aldhelm's

Following prolonged discussions, the 25-year full repairing and maintenance lease was signed by all parties and came into effect on 19 November 2019. The PCC are very pleased that this extended project has finally come to fruition. The Sandleheath Village Hall Trustees will pay an annual rent of £1 and in exchange will carry out improvements to the building itself and its facilities. Within the lease, the parish will retain a regular option to use the building throughout the lease via an Albemarle scheme. At the end of the Lease in 2041, the PCC at that time, as Charity Trustees, have the responsibility of obtaining the best value option for the future of the building. In the meantime, there is close liaison with the SVH. Unfortunately, there was an issue with the hot air heater soon after the signing of the lease, but SVH have been able to get the heater repaired satisfactorily. There is an ongoing responsibility for the PCC to treat and manage Japanese Knotweed in 2 specific areas. The small team who have overseen 'The St Aldhelm's Project' for the last 7 years are thanked by the PCC.

Judith Dowsett and Jane Calver, Churchwardens

4. Report on the Church Electoral Roll 2018/2019

The number on the Fordingbridge Parish Electoral Roll reported to the Diocese following the 2018 APCM was 155. During the year to 31st December 2018, 8 people passed away, and 1 person moved out of the Parish. Of the 147 people remaining on the Roll on 31st December 2018, 127 are resident in the Parish and 20 are non-resident. In February/March prior to the 2019 APCM there has been a complete revision of the Roll as required by the Church of England. All names have been removed and all eligible people invited to reapply. At the time of printing the information regarding the new Electoral Roll is not available and will be reported at the APCM on 3rd April 2019.

Jackie Garratt, Electoral Roll Officer

5. Deanery Synod Report

There were 3 meetings of Synod during 2018. At the 1st meeting in March, the final draft of the Deanery Mission Action Plan was formally adopted by Synod. Another important topic at the meeting was Pastoral Reorganisation. Synod was advised that it was proposed to go down the route of church planting sourced from St Swithun's, Bournemouth, and aimed at the 97% of New Milton population not currently at churches. The subsequent Q&A session drew a vigorous response from Synod members. Also at the meeting, Gill Tybjerg reported that nearly £15,000 had been raised for Kinkiizi in 2017, twice as much as the previous year. Projects have included the MU Bakery, the Health Centre Staff House and Female Hygiene Packs. In May, Synod held its annual Excite event, open to everyone in the Deanery. The speaker this year was Canon Paul Harris, who talked on the Holy Spirit – Truth, Dare, Promise, and the Rev'd Nigel Lacey led a reflection on prayer.

The second meeting of Synod was in June and provided updates on various ongoing activities. The dMAP was now moving into the Act and the review process for updating pMAPs would begin in the autumn for completion next July. Under Pastoral Reorganisation, it was reported that the church plant in New Milton had been delayed and this drew a reaction of significant frustration from Synod members. It was also reported that the Benefice of the Future project was now underway and Avon Valley Partnership in the Deanery was one of the 3 rural benefices that were taking part. On a pleasing note, Gill Tybjerg told the meeting that a Lent appeal for Bwanja Primary School had been very successful, raising almost £4500 within the Deanery.

The final Synod of the year was the Saturday Synod open meeting in September at Highcliffe. At this meeting, Gordon Randall led a workshop on 'Living Generously' and Jen Sissons talked about Ministry to new housing areas. The Meeting was framed by Communion, and there was a good attendance from across the Deanery.

John Dowsett

6. Reports from other groups: Supplementary Information of Interest to Parishioners for the Year 2018-2019

St Giles, Godshill

We had another exciting Godshill Nativity and we were very pleased Canon Gary was able to be with us this year.

The New Year has seen the introduction of a new pattern of services. We now have one Festival Service a month and Coffee Mornings in Godshill Village Hall on the 3rd Wednesday of every other month except in December when it is on the 2nd Wednesday.

On January 12th we held a meeting at St Giles to look at the way ahead. There were 22 of us and a number of ideas; to perhaps make St Giles an information point for finding out about Godshill and the New Forest between services; to forge further links with St Giles Farm - they have already kindly allowed us parking in the gravelled area of their farm opposite the church when we have services, and this has made a huge difference to the way in which we might potentially use the Church; possibly to install a portaloo or other toilet and have a sink and water laid on in the vestry if we could establish a need.

We are having essential repairs to door(s) and gutters done, and we will have a Quinquennial Inspection into the state of the building as soon as possible this year.

It is my intention to step down as Assistant Warden at the APCM and it is hoped we will have a new person elected. Many thanks to all the Ministry Team & congregation(s)!

Peter Worthington

Sandleheath Uniting Church

Last year our church celebrated seven years of uniting Methodists and Anglicans in the village and we were led in our celebrations by Bishop Jonathan. It was a beautiful service, even though our congregation was a bit depleted due to the snow! Even the Methodist Minister, Steve, was unable to get there but those of us who managed it were rewarded with a joyful service followed by lunch.

During the year we decided to experiment with a Breakfast Service. We have now held three of these and seem to be getting the hang of them, although breakfast seems to be getting bigger and bigger each time. We hold a monthly Coffee Morning on the first Tuesday of every month. This is well supported by local villagers and includes a quiz, raffle and Traidcraft stall as well as scrummy cakes.

Our choir, Uniting Voices, continues to practise on Monday afternoons. Their concert in July was a great success and the proceeds were donated to the Sandleheath Village Hall fund. They are always pleased to welcome new members.

In August we held a tea party for Margaret Hallas to celebrate her 100th Birthday.

This year we plan to continue with our Breakfast Services and will be offering free Film Nights.

Sue Ledger

Children's Sunday Activity

Another year of our Sunday Morning Activities has seen a consistently enthusiastic group of youngsters in variable numbers. Part of the challenge is in preparing for an unknown number of participants of all ages and abilities. However, it always seems to work out somehow!

Our team of leaders and helpers continues to prepare imaginative and engaging stories and related activities with the aim of giving breadth and depth to the children's knowledge and understanding of the bible and the church's celebrations.

The gospel reading is a suggested focus for each Sunday. Stories may be simply told or read from The Lion Storyteller's Bible. Occasionally we deviate from this to fit in with a current event if that's more appropriate.

We are glad to welcome our Children and Families Officer, Jo Heath to the team of leaders and helpers.

Currently we would be glad of more offers of folk to assist the leaders once or twice a term. An extra pair of adult hands is invaluable when scissors and glue are necessary!

Feedback from our 'clients' indicates that topics involving food or craft are popular; that it's fun and it feels very inclusive. Comments include: 'I like learning about God' and 'I like the walk to the North Chapel'. Perhaps others appreciate the chance to move around a bit in an hour-long service. They also like to feel that they are still part of the worship.

Unsolicited feedback from adult members of the congregation indicates that they like to hear what the children have been doing (we do try to remember to use the PA system but sometimes that's tricky when there are things to show) and that the displays in the children's corner are appreciated.

We welcome your comments and thank you for your continuing interest.

Nicola Daykin and Ruth Daykin

Allsorts

Allsorts services throughout the year have been very well attended, and we thank you all very much for your continuing support. It continues to be a service for all ages and, looking around the congregation, we have age ranges from babies in arms to 90 years plus. Showing us that we are truly God's family worshipping together.

The year has seen a variety of themes taken from the Old or New Testament, as well as Christian festivals such as Mothering Sunday and Godparents Day. Often the theme is dramatized in some way and an activity is devised to encourage everyone to participate. We are very grateful for those, young and old, who come with the requested props or even come dressed up.

The Thought for the Day has been introduced to reinforce the message and this has been very well received. We are truly thankful for the people who have been brave enough to stand up and speak to everyone.

Highlights of the year include True or False, which had a spoof 'Would I lie to you?' programme to demonstrate Jesus knows our innermost thoughts, and it's no good lying to him. Beef Stew and Dumplings told the story of Mary and Martha, and Mrs Needy showed that Jesus is there for everyone, but we need to let him in. The year ended with the traditional Nativity tableau as Hannah Eden was invested as Young Bishop.

We continue to encourage others to take part in the service, especially the children. Where possible they are invited to take part in advance, but otherwise are included on the day by welcoming, taking the collection and being actively involved in the story telling.

Our aim for this service is to keep it simple and fun, but make sure children understand the overall message being focussed upon, as well as give adults something to think about. I would like to thank Revd Gary, Revd Mike, Tim and Clive, as well as my fellow helpers. The support and encouragement of the congregation is what makes the service.

Janet Newman & Team

Puddle Ducklings

We continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month. Over the year we have said 'farewell' to a number of children and their parents as the children start school but are so thankful that new children come through the door on a monthly basis. There is no doubt of the positive impact of Puddle Ducklings on young families as we see young

mums, new to the area, quickly develop friendships with other mothers, as well as with the helpers.

We have a varied programme throughout the year. Our time together always includes a craft table, themed story time, birthdays and prayers with bubbles. Of course, there are two other important events during our time together, food and drink. In the summer we trialled a lunch time picnic session and, after consultation, have changed our time to 12.30pm to 2,30pm. Families and helpers bring their own lunches and we all sit together to enjoy our choice of food. Tea and cake are served later with something for the children as well. The change of time has meant that parents can enjoy the full session before going off to collect their school aged children. Some of them return in time for Boost.

I cannot thank my helpers enough for all the work and preparation they do to make Puddle Ducklings enjoyable for all. Angela and Lisa organize craft activities each month, so enjoyed by the children. Carol, Judith and Olive take on a variety of jobs between them, Glenda has been helpful in the kitchen and, of course, Carol does all the admin work for us.

We often have discussions about extending the number of times Puddle Ducklings meets as there is a clear need for a weekly gathering of toddlers with their parents or carers. What we need are helpers to enable this to happen!

Janet Newman & Team

Boost

Since September 2018, Boost has continued to provide after-school activities centred around a bible story, theme or Christian values. Our original aim was to engage with children who graduate from Puddle Ducklings as well as bringing in newcomers. We have added significantly to the number of people who attend each month as a result of families from Holiday at Home now regularly attending our monthly Boost session.

Because we now welcome people of all ages, we have been challenged to rethink how we organize our sessions. We are aware that we currently support some children and their parents with additional needs, some of whom require quiet reflective space and ear defenders, compared with those who struggle with attention deficit. The team is facing this challenge with enthusiasm and motivation, given that as church, we are called to be inclusive and welcoming to all. Everyone involved in the preparation, planning and leading of Boost recognizes that we are being called to try nothing new in Jesus' name and to the glory of God, which makes this a unique, fresh expression of church.

Each session involves approximately three craft activities, colouring in and a sensory game for the smaller ones. From March 2019, we are rearranging the space to include a quiet and an active area and to eliminate empty space in the centre of the room. Craft time is followed by a short time of worship including a story, prayers and a song. At Boost, in a similar way to Messy Church, we offer a home-cooked meal now, which has been particularly well received. The Boost helpers are a wonderful blessing because they are always committed to planning and preparing well and we have had a number of people offer to help out, as a result of a plea that went out in church and in Partners. In February 2019, we welcomed 31 children and their parents, so we very much look forward to welcoming new helpers. Occasionally there is a special event, our next one is the Pancake Party and we look forward to Gary welcoming us for a summer picnic in the Rectory garden in July. We are planning to hold the Easter worship for Boost in the church on Thursday 4th April.

One of our regular parents described Boost as a place where 'we are all friends'. Her son also said that he knows 'Jesus died to save us from our sins'. These children attend a community school and do not attend other Christian groups, apart from Holiday at Home and Boost. Despite our description of the group as an 'after-school club', these comments show that people are meeting Jesus too.

Jo Heath

Michaelmas

Once again the Michaelmas Group has enjoyed a year of varied meetings. We have made "virtual" journeys to different parts of the world, burned up a few calories and promptly replaced them, attempted to be artistic and tried to be useful.

At our combined meeting with the MU, Nicky Davies told us about her trips to the Holy Land, in particular to Bethlehem, and also to Kinkiizi and the impact these visits had had on her. Later in the year Chris Gates described her holiday in Colorado and New Mexico. Nearer to home we walked up to the Breamore Miz-maze from the church one summer evening and enjoyed wonderful views of the surrounding countryside. We then rewarded ourselves with supper at the Bat and Ball.

Janet Newman came twice (such patience!) and endeavoured to help us to do something artistic/creative with flowers and foliage. She always makes it look so easy!

On a more serious note, we helped the Trussell Trust in Salisbury sort shoeboxes prior to their distribution to less affluent families in South East Europe. Most recently, David Williams explained what happened to the contributions we leave in the supermarket trolley in St. Mary's and the wider work of the local Foodbank.

Still to come this year: Jo Heath, Mike Trotman, play reading, a guided tour of Salisbury and more food! Do join us. We usually meet on the 3rd Tuesday evening each month.

Gillian Benfield

Mothers' Union

Our current membership stands at 33 making our branch one of the largest in the Winchester Diocese. This group couldn't flourish without a strong committee; I would like to thank all of them for their support.

Once again, we had a year of varied and interesting speakers. Revd Canon Gary Philbrick brought with him many vestments explaining what they were called and when they were worn. Many of the robes were very special to Gary.

In 2018 the Mothers' Union theme was 'Following in Mary Sumner's footsteps'. This was the theme we used at a service in May to commemorate our Fordingbridge branch still thriving and successful after 125 years. Gary helped us to put together a lovely service where we enrolled 2 new members. Also in May we had our joint meeting with the Michaelmas group when Revd Nicky Davis told us all about her trips to the Holy Land and Kinkiizi.

The Festival Service at Winchester Cathedral was well attended by our branch. Jean Groves organised a mini bus and Helen Tague was in the procession with our banner.

Our outing in June was a trip to Romsey Abbey, where guides took us around the Abbey, the Mothers' Union from Romsey provided us with afternoon tea to end a very interesting and informative afternoon. In July the committee members held garden parties; this is a way for a small group of members to sit and chat and to get know each other a little better.

The 'bring a book and buy a book' coffee morning was well supported, this enabled us to give donations to Project Uganda where our speaker Ann Gothard came to talk to us in September, and The Hope School of Bethlehem when our speaker was Revd Michael Anderson. In November Revd David Dennis told us what it was like to be a Barnardo's boy and in December we held our own Advent service.

There were also Deanery events. In January the Wave of Prayer service was held at Mudeford and The Lady Day service in April was in Highcliffe. The Deanery Advent service was at Hyde. There were also quiet days in the Deanery which members can attend.

We had our usual Corporate Communion, three this year which were well attended and an important part of our branch life.

As you can see, we are a flourishing and busy group and always welcome new members. Our programme is on the notice board at the back of the Church.

Christine Fry

Music at St Mary's

The musicians at St Mary's continue to make a significant contribution to the liturgical life of the church, with the choir singing Sunday services throughout the year as well as the many special occasions that fill the calendar. Members of the choir have also sung for weddings at Fordingbridge and Breamore.

Amongst the memorable occasions for the choir was a Festal Evensong on St George's Day at Salisbury Cathedral. The choir's assured and musical singing was very much appreciated at the Cathedral.

An extended choir was put together for a "Big Sing" during the Arts Festival at St Mary's in June. The Festival also afforded the chance for various individuals and groups, including choir members and other musicians within the church congregation and further afield, to perform and be appreciated by the audiences over the three days.

The choir was in excellent voice over the Christmas period, especially at a wonderful Carol Service on 23rd December which was particularly well attended.

We are very grateful to all the singers for the large amount of time, effort and energy they give. Our young choristers, although small in number, have continued to sing enthusiastically and with great commitment, and we have been delighted to appoint Hannah Eden as our Head Chorister. Hannah's beautiful solo singing at the Carol Service and on many other occasions during the year has been very much appreciated by us all.

Tim Ruffer and Clive Jones

Pastoral Visitors and Related Activity

As always, the loyal team of Pastoral Visitors continues to provide support and companionship to all members of the community and not just to church members. Our thanks go to them all for the time, effort and commitment they all show as we show the love of Christ here in our lovely town and the surrounding areas. A special thanks go to Helen Tague for taking the minutes of our meetings every time we meet. Over the past year the Pastoral Visitors from Hyde have joined us for our meetings, as well as Margaret Read from Sandleheath. This year Heidi Trotman joined the team and she has become authorised to administer home communion by Bishop Johnathan.

Visiting We now have eleven pastoral visitors who do regular home visits and once a month take Communion to all the care homes in the Parish. Not all our visitors administer communion. We have continued to visit people who are housebound and want some companionship. We meet every 6 weeks and our day of meeting has been changed back to a Monday. At our meetings we discuss any problems that may have arisen and re-arrange visits for Visitors who will be away. We also ascertain who needs hospital visits or if any of our church members have any problems that we can help with. Margaret Read who is the Pastoral Visitor for Sandleheath still attends our meetings when possible. I try to meet with Revd Nicky Davis and her pastoral team but that is not always possible.

SP6 Friendship Group Our Friendship Group continues to thrive having 24 regular attenders, although not everyone can attend every month. We now meet at Bridges Coffee shop in the High Street of Fordingbridge. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month from 10.00am -12.00pm for coffee, cake, biscuits and chat. At Christmas we had a wonderful bring and share Christmas party where we played games. We have had two theatre trips. We have a number of events coming up including a Sunday Lunch at the Augustus John and an outing to Sarah Boyd's beautiful gardens in Godshill. We regularly have between 16 and 20 people attending these mornings. This year we have welcomed 6 new members.

Fordingbridge Surgery Patient Participation Group During 2018 the Friends of Fordingbridge Surgery (FoFS) and the Patient Participation Group (PPG) joined forces. This has been an extremely successful move as we are now able to work in partnership, for the benefit of the patients and the surgery. As well as being able to offer support and friendship through the Friendship Group, we are now able to offer one to one support through counselling to those who are bereaved. These are people who are referred by the doctors, nurses, teachers at The Burgate School and social services. We have 3 counsellors and we have had a further 20 referrals since April 2018. The FoFS have agreed to fund a counselling room in the Avonway Community Centre for these sessions.

Revd Kate Wilson

Prayer and Meditation Group

The Meditation Group continues to meet every Wednesday in St Mary's Church, 7.45p.m. to 9p.m., for contemplative prayer. Over the past year we have been joined by many new friends who drop in whenever they can manage. The benefits of meditation, contemplation, or mindfulness as it is more commonly known, are many. As well as the relief of stress and anxiety and generally making you feel calmer, it helps to still the overly busy mind and helps you to cope with whatever life throws at you. There have been many scientific studies that claim meditation improves the memory, lowers stress levels, reduces chronic pain, and eases depression and anxiety symptoms.

I just know the church is a wonderfully peaceful space to sit and meditate; just being in the presence of God. Everyone is welcome to join us, from the experienced to the beginner; just drop in.

Sue Ledger

Open Space

Open Space is always well attended and we all enjoy our discussions on the different topics at each session. Last year was cut short by illness but nevertheless we had five sessions: David Brown our Quaker friend gave us two workshops: one on Shamanism which was fascinating and the other on 'Understanding who we are.' Daphne Himmel opened a talk on the Psychology of Jigsaws which created a lot of discussion. John Towler gave us two talks including a video on Dietrich Bonhoeffer a much needed reminder of the horrors of war and the constant need to refresh our thoughts on our faith.

This year we are asking people to choose their own topics for discussion. Open Space is a free time when we can openly talk about things that perplex or worry us; it gives us an opportunity to look at the world through different eyes and at our need to strengthen our faith. It is open to all and all are welcome.

Daphne Himmel

Too Old for Sunday School (TOFFS)

TOFFS has been meeting, usually once or twice a month, since September 2016. It is held at the home of Revd John and Pat Bloomfield. We meet together to share our journeys, and to find out more about the Christian faith, often listening to DVD films/talks by eminent Christian Speakers, followed by discussion and a time of prayer. Usually there are between 6-9 of us. Anglican in origin, we are now an interdenominational group with some seekers.

We break during Lent so that we can attend our Churches' Lent courses.

We have had an annual pub lunch in December, to which Rev Gary comes, if he is able.

Revd John and Pat Bloomfield

Mission Matters

The Mission Matters group, which started in 2016, have met 3 times in the last year, in July and November 2018 and March 2019. The group's aim is to raise the profile of Mission and Social Justice in our churches, and to provide opportunities to explore our faith and what it involves.

We are delighted that this group has grown, and now represents all areas of the AVP:-

Revd Gary Philbrick,

Revd Nicky Davies (Breamore, Hale and Woodgreen)

Revd Mike Trotman

Alan and Gwenda Moore (Godshill)

Carol Sims (Hyde)

Sue Ledger (Sandleheath)

Rosemarie Price, John and Pat Bloomfield (St Mary's Fordingbridge)

What we have done this year:

Supported Fairtrade, and the Fairtrade cross-churches group who, besides selling Fairtrade products in our churches and at Coffee mornings (fighting injustice by supporting poor producers in the Third World), are also encouraging the PCCs in the AVP to make all 7 Churches into Fairtrade Churches, with an aim to make Fordingbridge a Fairtrade Town (like Wimborne).

Set up a Books to Borrow Pop-Up Stall, where mainly Christian books for young and old, can be borrowed free of charge.

Started to make an Audit of Charities supported by the AVP churches.

Arranged Speakers to visit on "Mission Sundays" in St Mary's Fordingbridge, St Mary's Breamore, and St Giles Godshill; and liaised concerning a Speaker at Holy Ascension, Hyde.

Childrens' Society speaker John Houghton came on 10/2/19 to FB and Breamore.

Speakers invited so far in 2019:-

12 May FB at 9.30 and Breamore 11am Open Doors

19 May GH* at 10am, and Hyde at 10.30am Christian Aid

An exciting Combined Service for Godshill, Breamore, Hale and Woodgreen.

Pat Bloomfield

Traidcraft

Fairtraders are continuing to meet as a group, with a view to encouraging fair trade throughout the benefice and in the hope making Fordingbridge a Fair Trade town in the future. Our groups comprises: Rev. Nicky Davies, who provides inspiration and encourages local schools to promote fair trade; Gwenda Moore who runs a stall at Godshill and also orders for Trudi Cotton who sells fairly traded goods after All Sorts services and at Lent Lunches at St Mary's; Isabel Brown who promotes fair trade at Fordingbridge Methodist Church; Sue Ledger, the Fairtrader at Sandleheath Uniting Church; Jenny and Martin Rice who are experienced Fairtraders from Hyde; Beverley Judd who runs the stall at Woodgreen coffee mornings and the Farmers Market in Hale and Joyce Hughes another experienced Fairtrader who joins us from Downton.

We help each other in individual ventures, for example we supported Jenny and Martin's very successful stall at Hyde on November 3rd and at Fordwick the team took the impressive sum of £700. A number of us attended the Fordingbridge United Service on Jan 27th and we provided Fairtrade biscuits for the refreshments afterwards. As the theme of the service was Justice, Nicky was able to make an appeal for greater support for fair trade in the local churches and we stood up to say a prayer together, which enabled the congregation to see who we are. On March 9th, at the end of Fair Trade Fortnight, we will be holding a Big Brew event in the Salvation Army Hall from 10am to 12pm.

The company Traidcraft experienced problems in the Autumn and was forced to lay off staff. We were very concerned about our colleagues in the north but also for the many small famers in developing countries whose living and living standards are dependent on our support for fair trade. However, a leaner Traidcraft survived and we are looking forward to bringing new goods to our stalls in 2019. As a group we have been successful in raising money to be able to support the Traidcraft Exchange charity and this can be seen as part of the external giving made by our churches.

Please continue to support us. Fair Trade is a lifeline to so many people who work hard for very little return and we are proud of the quality of the food and items which they produce and we are then able to sell in our local area.

Trudi Cotton

Churches Together in Fordingbridge & District (CTFD)

In 2018 CTFD coordinated a programme called *We ♥ SP6*, encouraging all the local Churches to listen more closely to their communities, and find ways of better serving them.

The Programme was launched at the Unity Week CoOp, handing out chocolate hearts on Valentine's Weekend. A survey, called 'Who Cares?' ran until July, asking people the question 'What Hurts the Most?', and the results were shared at the Annual Meeting in October.

The Churches are still digesting those, and reflecting on how to respond.

Alongside this, there was 'The Easter Story', a play produced by people from across the Churches, intended to be outdoors, but eventually, and very successfully, in St Mary's, Fordingbridge. This was a wonderful occasion, and the Church was packed. It is hoped to repeat this in a year or two.

At the AGM in October, Paul Williams, Pastor of New Life Community Church, was elected as Chair, and is working with a group from across the Churches to plan events for this year.

Canon Gary Philbrick

Tower Bell Ringers

Having been through some thin times in the past few years, we are now able to boast a strong band of ringers and are pleased that we can usually ring six of our eight bells (occasionally even the full eight) for Sunday morning services and evensongs. Our husband and wife team, Simon and Beverley Evenden, have continued to make good progress with their ringing, as has our lone teenager, Tilly Gosling, who is now a regular Sunday ringer, and all three are hoping to progress beyond basic rounds and call changes. We have also gained a new ringer in Christine Leahy who has returned to ringing after a break of a few years but has picked it up again with alacrity.

Our Ringing Rector Gary Philbrick joins the band when he is able to do so and we appreciate his good humour and encouragement.

Our Thursday night practices are generally well supported, and we have welcomed the contribution of friends from Downton who have provided valuable assistance with training. We have rung for a few weddings this year and hosted a number of visiting bands for outings, quarters and peal attempts. We also have an occasional Friday afternoon quarter peal band, led by Mary Melbourne and augmented by friends from Salisbury, who have successfully rung several quarters, the last of which we dedicated to Iris Curtis on her 95th birthday.

We were saddened to hear of the death of David Wilson from Ringwood who was a regular visitor to Fordingbridge on Thursday practice nights for a number of years.

At branch level, some of us attended the annual Salisbury branch AGM and also the annual branch outing which was to Royal Wootton Bassett and other towers in that part of Wiltshire.

On the maintenance front, a single rope has been reconditioned and Simon and Mike, together with Martin Wilson from Downton, had a useful session in the bell chamber checking the condition of the bells, ropes and fittings.

Concern was expressed about a leak from a hole in the lead roof which was starting to cause damage but we understand that a temporary repair has now been effected.

As is customary we rang half-muffled for Good Friday and also for the Armistice commemorations around Remembrance Sunday. We concluded our year with the usual Christmas meal at The Ship where Simon (our legal eagle) donned wig and gown and officiated in a rather intriguing award ceremony. Will this become an annual event? Finally, we rang all eight bells at midnight on December 31st to greet the New Year. Our thanks are due to our Tower Captain, Keith Halstead, for organising the ringing during the year and to Mike Ireland for attending to maintenance matters.

Roger King

7. Elections:

Deanery Synod: Elections take place every three years, next one 2020

PCC. Elect 5 nominated PCC members

8. List of Sidespersons & Vergers 2019 : The following people are listed as sidespersons:

Dorothy Ashford	Patricia Detheridge	Alison Steven
Margaret Bailey	Vicky Eden	Pat Stauber
Hazel Banham	Viv Finch	Dee Stephenson
Gillian Benfield	Jean Godden	Helen Tague
Ann Beynon	Jean Ingham	Anne Tappin
Melvyn Beynon	Carol Jackson	David Tappin
Christine Bryant	Joan Orton	Christine Wilson
Jane Calver	Ann Pye	Annette Young
Sheila Clarkson	Edna Ross	Pat Bloomfield
Jennifer Craythorne	Alex Sains	

The following people are listed as Vergers, including those who cover funerals and weddings:

Dorothy Ashford	Jane Hawker	Funerals & Weddings only
Gillian Benfield	David Melbourne	Richard Farr
Melvyn Beynon + F&W	Ian Newman	Sally Fudge
Martin Calver	Helen Tague	
Barry Craythorne	Margaret Ward	
Judith Dowsett	Christine Wilson + F&W	
Andy Finch	Neil Felton	

9. Appointment of Independent Examiner.

10. Any Other Business: Questions for discussion or recommendations to the PCC.