



**Annual Report to the  
Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

**7.30pm**

**Harnham Church Hall**

## **AIMS AND VALUES**

### **Living, Learning and Loving**

In God's love, we seek to be an open Christian community where everyone, of every age, is welcomed and valued. We aim to do this through living, learning and loving.

#### **Living-**

As people seeking faith, we are committed to exploring a living, loving relationship with God

#### **Learning-**

As people of reflection, we learn through asking questions, exploring doubts, prayer, worship, Bible Study, and every-day life experience

#### **Loving-**

As people showing love, we actively care for our neighbours, Harnham and the wider world.

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### **Our values seek to communicate our aims:**

**Celebration-** We celebrate life and the love of God, shown through his Son Jesus. We celebrate the joys of our communities.

**Hope-** We hope in the transformation of ourselves and the world, through God's love, that we can always start again, and that this life is not the end; we work to bring hope in the lives of those around us by committing ourselves to loving our neighbours and to stand with those who suffer injustice.

**Compassion-** We have compassion from God through the reconciliation Jesus brings; we show compassion to our neighbours as we listen and walk with them through life.

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## St. George's Report

Thank you to all those who contribute to the smooth running of the church without your support and help it would make my task much more difficult. I really appreciate everybody's willingness to give a hand in these challenging circumstances, even more so now that we have had to use the hall for services.

At last year's APCM Anthony Bird was appointed as Church Warden, unfortunately after only a few months because of family reasons he had to resign.

During the year there have been 5 weddings; 3 baptisms; 2 funerals and 7 burial of ashes. Again this year we have joined with all saints for Patronal festivals, the pet service, Remembrance Sunday, carol service and Midnight mass. This Christmas period saw us using the yew tree again for the community to write a memory star and hang it on the branches, it appeared to have been even better used than last year, despite the wind doing its best to scatter them all around the churchyard – thank you to those who returned them.

We held an unusual event on 2<sup>nd</sup>. July – an afternoon tea. It was to help raise funds for the St. George's icon – now complete and on its stand, donated by Debbie and George Mussellwhite, in the Trinity Chapel. The weather was really kind to us and so we could have some tables outside it seemed to be a very popular event. Later that week the pupils from the school came to watch "Ikon John" as he completed the painting and even helped by adding a touch or two to his work. They really enjoyed that experience. Maintenance of the church and churchyard is ongoing. Some electric work has been carried out, the boiler was serviced but now has stopped working and we have been without heat since 22<sup>nd</sup> December. I have been very grateful for the help and advice from members of the congregation and now have the required 3 quotations but am awaiting clarification from the conservation officer as to how the flue can be installed given the Grade 2\* listed building status.

An interim faculty was granted for the removal of the fir tree impinging on the grave where there was to be a burial, it took until the end of September for the full faculty to be granted. Permission to trim the Red Chestnut tree took from May until November from the Wiltshire tree Preservation society, it has now been done. The bushes by the gate from the walk through have also been cut back to enable the grass to be more easily cut.

The congregation has remained steady throughout the year.

**Helen Evans.**

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## All Saints' Report

### General

All Saints' Church is a place of worship learning and fellowship and we have aimed to maintain the fabric of the building to a reasonable standard. Much of this work is done by others and we are very fortunate in our volunteers who have helped: -

- To act as sidemen, servers, readers and intercessors each week
- To provide and arrange flowers in the church week by week
- To make sure that we have adequate clean linen for communion services
- To keep the interior clean, tidy, dusted and polished
- To organise and to run the coffee sessions both on Saturday and on Sunday
- To keep the grass, graves edges and topiary in the churchyard trimmed

Thank You All Very Much; we Churchwardens could not do what we do without you.

During 2017 we welcomed Joyce Salkeld as a sidesperson. Thank you for coming forward to help. Matthew Stone has asked to be suspended from all duties while he studies for his LLM qualification. Also, Marina Carr has decided that she can no longer help with Sunday Coffee. Thank you both for your service to All Saints.

## **Worship & Outreach**

Revd. Becky has been ill since the start of March 2017 and our Curate Revd Heather on maternity leave for six months. Meanwhile, Julian and the retired clergy have stepped in for them. We use the church building to show God's love, for instance: -

- During 2017 there were 6 baptisms, 3 weddings, 10 funerals, 6 burials and 6 burials of ashes. A funeral buffet was served in the church after one funeral.
- The May 2014 pattern of services continued until the start of October, when it changed to one, with either a 0800 Communion service or an 1100 Parish Communion service every Sunday. This change was made to allow for the availability of the retired clergy. Variations in the pattern throughout the year included Lenten talks, Rogation Evensong, a service for the bereaved, Easter & Harvest Festival services for Harnham Junior School and both Carol & Midnight Services at Christmas.
- Opening for Coffee on Saturday mornings continues to draw in people for a chat as well as those wishing to book baptisms or weddings. We rely on volunteers coming forward, but more would be useful. The church was again open for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride & Stride in September and remains available for learners to practice the Organ.
- Remembering Stars were available for Mourners who visit the graveyard during the Christmas period.
- Planning to make it more suitable as a community venue in future.
- Thank you to Julian, Heather, David Callard, Penny and to all the 'retired' clergy who have continued Becky's work in her absence. Thanks also to Linda Baker and others who have stepped forward to take up the administration of the parish while Becky is away. We could not what we do without you. Meanwhile, we pray for the return of the Rev Becky to her ministry with us.

## **Church and Churchyard**

The planned re-survey of the churchyard did not take place and no 2014 Quinquennial works this year but some essential work done as follows: -

- Monitoring the rising damp in the chancel wall.
- Trying to find the means to value the vestments for insurance purposes.
- Enforcing the Graveyard Regulations.
- Arranging for the annual cut of the churchyard in January.

**Robert Salkeld, Jane Greenaway - Churchwardens**

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## **PCC Committee Reports**

### **Church Hall and Re-development**

Committee: Jane Greenaway (Chair), Chris King (Architect), Linda Baker, Geoff Gilbert, Tony Mercer, Helen Evans and Paula Price.

Remit:

- ❖ Hall Extension
- ❖ Promote best use of the hall as a building that serves the community
- ❖ Plan and review the upkeep of the hall

In 2017 the Hall committee met three times. Although it would appear visually that nothing is happening yet with the hall, a lot is going on behind the scenes.

1. The group obtained a Quantity Surveyor's report to give a rough guide as to the costs of the proposed works to the hall. This they were able to obtain without a fee. The suggested budget for the works recommended by the surveyor was £145,000.
2. Plans were submitted to the Planning Office and we received Planning Permission in June 2017. (The architect was able to get the plans submitted without paying a fee as we were improving disabled facilities).

3. A meeting was held in January updating all the hall users on the situation and another is planned early in 2018.
4. With regards to fundraising for this project a small group of people are researching grant options. The PCC treasurer has located a restricted fund that we can use towards the extension and all the hall users have been asked to raise £200 towards the work too. Other fundraising is beginning and will probably start seriously in 2018.
5. Some of the committee have started getting rid of some of the clutter at the hall. All users have been asked to review what they keep on site, and to let the Parish Administrator have a list of storage needed. This is being done for 2 reasons – one is because a large amount of floor space is taken up with storage, and we wish to utilise the space better when the extension and work is complete. Secondly during the building work, limited storage will be available.
6. The Committee have obtained a storage container that will be used to store equipment whilst the work is being completed.

Early in 2018 plans will be sent to a Structural engineer for his input, we will then be a position to start asking local builders for quotes.

Linda Baker

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## Property Committee

Committee: Revd Becky, Revd Heather, Jane Greenaway,  
Helen Evans, Tony Mercer & Robert Salkeld.

Remit:

- ❖ Three Church Properties
- ❖ Plan and review the upkeep of church buildings in line with the Quinquennial Inspection reports
- ❖ Be proactive about promoting best use of church buildings in line with the mission of church

### Report

The Committee met only twice during 2017, in January and October; the meeting in May was cancelled because a quorum could not be gathered. During the course of the year Ms Louise Rendall of St Anne's Gate Architects LLP has been appointed as the Parish Architect.

The Committee continues to receive informal reports of the progress of the works to the Church Hall.

### Works not proceeded with during 2017

- All Saints – Additional double-glazing and new cupboards in the Vestry to improve security and help turn the Vestry into a venue for meetings.

### Works Completed During 2017

- All Saints – Provision of a new Terrier
- St George's – Treatment of Carpet Moth in the Sanctuary Carpet.

### Works in hand during 2017

- St George's & All Saints – Changes to the electrical systems following inspections in both churches. At All Saints this has included the provision of two additional earth-points, but they need to be tested.

### Other Works likely to take place during 2018 and thereafter

- General – Maintenance and minor repairs to both churches, some of which have been on hold over on account that had been held over during 2015, have also been on hold pending the results of the campaign to increase Planned Giving during 2016.
- St George's – Replacement of the central heating boiler that failed just after Christmas. Although the change itself is a maintenance task, minor modifications to the boiler room might require a Faculty.
- All Saints – Cutting back or removal of the tree adjacent to the vestry.
- All Saints – Implementation of minor works to window vents, tool shed, front boundary wall and some ironwork highlighted in the 2014 Quinquennial Report. In the long term masonry repairs will be needed.

The availability of Restrictive and other funds for all types of repairs remains as per the Treasurer's statement to PCC on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 to carry out any legislative, statutory, health & safety or emergency items works as does the £5k annual budget sum for to carry out any planned maintenance tasks and that 'ad-hoc' events.

In May 2017, Linda Baker successfully managed to effect the removal of a tree from the churchyard at St George's to allow a grave to be opened just in time for a funeral.

Thanks to everyone on the Committee and to those who have provided advice, labour and enthusiasm to keep the parish's properties available for our congregations and others.

**Robert Salkeld – Acting Chair of the Property Committee**

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## **Worship Committee**

Committee: Revd Becky, Revd Heather, Revd Julian, Val Overton, Sister Theresa Mary, Jacqui Brown, Jane Pelly and Ian Davidson.

Remit:

- ❖ Review worshipping life of church
- ❖ Plan special services
- ❖ Plan music for services
- ❖ Plan and review learning about the Christian faith

The Worship Committee meets to review the services that have taken place and make suggestions for future services. The Diocese asked the Church Wardens to review the number of services that take place on a Sunday in response to Revd Becky and Revd Heather being on leave. There have therefore been more opportunities for the congregations of St George's and All Saints' to worship together, and we are thankful to Revd Julian and the many retired clergy who have led our Sunday services and Thursday morning communions. Communion has also continued once a month at Brympton, Harnham Croft and Willowcroft, and LPAs take home communion to those unable to attend church.

We also thank all who contribute to our worship in so many ways as musicians, intercessors, readers, servers, chalice assistants, Churchwardens, Sr Theresa – our parish worker, LPAs, Linda – our parish administrator, sidespeople, flower arrangers, cleaners, and all who serve tea and coffee. Thank you to all who pray for the parish, both individually and as part of the Thursday morning prayer group.

Thank you to all who worked together to lead a Stations of the Cross in Holy Week. Thank you to Neil Turpin for leading our Ascension day and Rogation Sunday walks and services, and to Val Overton and Joanna Woodd for the Advent Talks and Compline series on the theme 'Love bade me welcome.' Matthew Stone is currently training to be a Licensed Lay Minister we thank him for preaching. Thank you to all who plan and lead Messy Church, it has been wonderful to see it go from strength to strength this year.

### **Seasonal Service Booklets**

We now have a complete set of Seasonal Service Booklets. In 2017 we introduced booklets for Epiphany, Ordinary Time, Lent, and Easter. These have given the worship a distinctive feel in each season, and there has been appreciation of the variety of liturgy we now use.

### **Guest speakers**

- Guest speakers contributed wonderfully to our Lent Talks this year, which were on the theme of Social Justice.
- Revd Heather took part in the Pulpit Swap one Sunday with the URC church and in return All Saints enjoyed welcoming Revd Ana Gobledale.
- We heard more about some of the charities that we support as a church when we welcomed speakers from The Bridge Project and Mission Aviation Fellowship during the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday united services.
- It was good to welcome Bishop David Hallett to preside and preach at the All Saints Patronal.

## Services that reach the wider community

There are a number of services that continue to appeal a large number of people who do not regularly worship in Harnham on a Sunday morning. We are pleased to continue to reach out the wider community through services including the Junior School Easter services, Pet Festival service, All Souls Bereavement Service, Uniformed Organisations Carol service, Care home carol services, Carols and The Old Mill, Carol service at All Saints, Children's Nativity, and Blue Christmas – a service for those who find Christmas hard and has seen numbers attending double in the past 3 years.

Revd Heather

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## Churches Together/Deanery Synod

Representatives: Joanna Woodd, Jane Pelly and David Baker.

Churches together have met regularly over the year, with the Chairmanship being shared between the church leaders. We have heard about new initiatives, which are being spearheaded by individual churches and the progress of on-going projects such as 'The Dementia Friendly Churches'. The annual events continue to be organised such as the Good Friday Procession, Congregational exchanges and Carol Singing.

The highlight for me was hearing about the renewal, reorganisation of church buildings and bringing them up into the 21st century so as to meet the needs of their communities. We were shown numerous photos of work which has taken place around the country, but right on our own doorstep is St John's Bemerton, which is a delight to see. This Victorian church is open and serving its community, including the school and meets the needs of those even further afield. The funds were raised without too much trouble because of the width of its appeal.

Joanna Woodd

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## Youth and Children:

Remit:

- ❖ Plan and review activities that promote wellbeing of children in our community and enable them to learn about the love of God.

## Messy Church

We continued to meet monthly in the Church Hall (not August) and provided an activity table at the Church fete, local school Christmas Fair and the Pet Service. The meeting times remained from 3 – 5pm on the second Sunday in each month in the Church Hall. We went into St. George's church for a time of celebration and worship in the months the weather allowed.



The format remained as a fairly traditional Messy Church where families enjoy games; crafts; songs and activities which are related to the Godly Play theme for that month. We combined the two forms of worship although traditionally they would be offered separately.

[www.livingthegoodnews.com](http://www.livingthegoodnews.com) / [www.messychurch.org.uk](http://www.messychurch.org.uk)

As for most worship, we never knew how many families would arrive but were between 5 and 11 so we planned and catered for the higher number. We had some of the families sharing in the worship.

In the absence of Rev Becky and Heather for most of the year, we were given dedicated support from Rev. Penny Joyce and Debbie Orris who have shared the worship part of the afternoon. The team of volunteers this year has been second to none with new faces joining. We thank God for these and for those who have been connected with Messy Church in the past. A big 'thank you' to everyone.

Please talk to Jean Mercer or Katharine Callard if you would like to know more.

Jean Mercer

## Harnham Junior School

Our **School Community** at present consists of 343 Children in 12 Classes, 16 Teachers, 12 TAs, 16 Support Staff & 14 Governors, and of course we must remember to include the parents. The Foundation Governors from the local churches are **David Stone** and **Helen Evans**. **Becky** as Vicar is the ex-officio Foundation Governor.

**Ofsted, SIAMS and Academic Achievement.** This year the School has received no inspections from either Ofsted or the Diocese (SIAMS inspection).

Age related **Expected Progress** for each child is the government's measure of a school's success and so forms the focus for teachers and the leadership team at school. The school puts considerable resources into assessing pupils' progress which then helps in the development of strategies to assist the children in reaching their potential. The core subjects of maths, reading and writing remain the areas where the school's efforts are focused.

Good behaviour and punctual arrival at school greatly improve children's chances of progressing and enjoying their education; in order to encourage both of these, two schemes are in use at the school:

**Green Cards** - rewards that are keenly sought by the children; they are given for outstanding achievements, good behaviour and good deeds. The class accumulating the most cards in one week receives a non-uniform day to celebrate its achievement. Red cards are a means of censure for bad behaviour.

**The Smith Cup** - presented to the class achieving the highest weekly attendance. The cup is given as an encouragement to children, and through them their parents, to be punctual in arriving at school. Many useful development activities take place immediately on arrival and before formal lessons begin; using all the time available is essential for the children.

The school's own internal self evaluation continues to judge the school as a **Good** school.

**The Purple Bus** remains a centre for numerous activities, both for the Juniors and Puddleducks. Apart from the role as a snack and hot drinks stop for parents and children, the bus provides a venue for story and reading groups, and other small focus groups.

**Residential visits** to New Barn and Osmington Bay continue to be important developmental experiences for children in years 5 and 6. During these visits they live as a close community and take part in a variety of outdoor activities.

### **The School and our Church community.**

Harvest this year was celebrated during the third week of October. The children and staff took part in services at All Saints Church and gifts were collected at the school for the Trussell Trust.

During Advent 2017 the children wished to continue the hosting of the Posada figures in the school. Figures were donated by Mr Bunn, and then moved from class to class, much to the enjoyment of the children.

The carol service was as usual, held at St. Thomas'; it was well attended and much enjoyed by children, families and staff. The readings were this year presented by some of the parents and their children, and the carol singing set the mood for Christmas. At the end of the service small origami Christmas trees with a star on top were offered to wish the departing congregation a Happy Christmas.

Once again the front for the parish Christmas card, delivered to every house in the parish, was chosen from designs created by children at the junior school.

Our thanks go to Penny Joyce for her support at the Harvest and Christmas services, and some of the assemblies at the school.

**Revd Becky Roberts, David Stone, & Helen Evans - Foundation Governors**



## **3B's and St. George's Toddlers**

Both groups are continuing to be busy, we have acquired a few new mums and carers who bring along their children to either Monday or Wednesday or both groups,

One mum sent me a lovely Christmas card with a message thanking us for making her welcome and helping her settle in her 'new community' after moving here from London and being the 'new girl' we helped her make new friends and was glad of advice about amenities in Salisbury.

We offer healthy food at snack time where all the children sit together at the table encouraging good manners at social events and tasting new foods which might not be offered at home.

In February 2017 we raised the session donation from £1 to £1.50 as we were not covering the rent and snack some weeks.

We average 8-20 adults with their charges at each session, both days are usually busy so we are making a little profit which we plough back into the group for snacks and craft materials and play equipment including two dolly prams, a 'ride in' little tikes car, wooden work bench and paint and felt tip pens which are all loved and well used at each session!

**Irene, Sarah and Paula.**

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## **Social Committee**

Committee Members: Josa Snow, Robert Salkeld, Sue Witt, Ayesha Nickol, Anne Perry, Pam Macklin, David Baker and Anne Paterson.

Remit:

- ❖ Organise a variety of social events
- ❖ Organise events that support new members of the church and the range of ages

The first event for the Social committee in 2017 was Shrove Tuesday with a demonstration by "Jeff the Chef" on new ideas for using pancakes, they were simple ideas like layering in ramekins with a sauce and chicken or stuffing them with fruit.

ST George's Patronal took place in April with 60 people attending. It was a "Bring and Share" which always seems to go well with enough food for everyone. We made a donation of £178 to the Trussell Trust.

In May we served teas to walkers who took part in the Rogation Walk, there was a short service after the teas.

The biggest event of the summer was the Church Fete on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June as it was a very hot day we sold a lot of juice. Cream teas seem to go down well though quite hard work, it has been suggested that we do cream teas again next year.

The Pet festival was held in September on a very wet Saturday, in spite or because of the rain we made over £100 on the teas.

The Harvest Lunch was on 1<sup>st</sup> October, nearly 70 people attended a Bring and Share Lunch, there were too many pork pies and sausages so we need to ring the changes. The Women's Refuge received £250 from this event.

All Saints Patronal lunch was well attended, Sarum College once again catered for the main course and the congregation donated puddings. It does make things so much easier having caterers who take away the main course crockery and cutlery to wash as the Memorial Hall kitchen is not big enough.

The Carol Service on 23<sup>rd</sup> December was attended by over 160 with the Social Committee serving wine, mini mince pies and mini stolen. Cardboard plates and plastic cups were used so no washing up!

**Josa Snow**

## Mission and Vision Committee

Committee Members: Revd Becky, Revd Heather, Linda Baker, Jane Greenaway, Joanna Woodd, David Paterson and Jean Mercer.

Remit:

- ❖ Enable vision and strategy for church community e.g. mission statement, mission action plan
- ❖ Review mission in light of recent research
- ❖ Communicate mission and vision to wider church
- ❖ Stewardship Campaign
- ❖ Review Awaygiving and support of mission and evangelism
- ❖ Ensure mission and evangelism are a priority

Mission and Vision met 4 times during 2017. In addition to Revd Becky and Revd Heather's absence during 2017 the committee lost a further two members to study and gained one new member.

Over the year the group covered a variety of subjects :

- In January Revd Becky had produced a draft questionnaire for the committee to discuss, covering Welcoming and Belonging, learning, timings of services and more. The aim was to gather the data that the questionnaire would provide, but Revd Becky was investigating how best to get the information.
- Matthew Stone produced a discussion paper "Harnham 2027". It encouraged the group to discuss what we want our church to be like in 10/20 years. Questions included, "How could we achieve this vision?, How have changes in society affected our church and do they make the vision for our church unsustainable?" This led to the group discussing what we could do as a parish to help Revd Becky. How we could relieve the pressure on her return and allow her to achieve her goals, to work on projects to generate newcomers, to do the tasks only a vicar can and importantly to relax and look after her health.
- Our CMS partners - Derek and Jane Waller were not able to return to South Sudan, and after a lot of thought and prayer decided to take up a new post in Madagascar. The Mission and Vision committee discussed whether to support someone else through CMS, but it would not be in South Sudan, or to stay with Derek and Jane and support them in their new venture in Madagascar. The committee felt it would be best to stay with Derek and Jane especially as they were known by the parish and most of us had met them.
- The Mission and Vision Team were aware that some things were being planned by the Events committee for the World War 1 centenary but would happily support/organise a Prayer event, which would be on a smaller timescale to the 900 minutes in 2015, but could include the Prayer Labyrinth (walking around battle grounds), pictures of the war at different stations, prayers written during the war and cards on each pew of individuals locally who died in the war with their names and age at time of death. A parade for Remembrance Sunday was considered to be a great idea for 2018. With a bit of planning we could include the Scouts, Guides, Sea Cadets, local soldiers (past and present) and parade from St George's Church to the Memorial Hall. It was agreed that the event had to be in the Memorial Hall because that was where the list was, but the service could be relayed into All Saints, if larger numbers expected.
- In the absence of Worship committee meeting the Mission and Vision team reviewed the services laid on in Revd Becky and Revd Heather's absence. They also organised the Advent Talks and began preparations for Lent 2018.
- The group discussed doing a stewardship campaign possibly aimed at the community rather than the churchgoers ie the ones that are booking baptisms, weddings, funerals, the church hall for events, visiting loved ones in the churchyards, attending events and more. This was referred to PCC for discussion and the outcome was to do a congregational campaign in Autumn 2018. We could approach community for fundraising for the hall, and perhaps we should have a separate Stewardship and Fundraising committee for this.

## Events Committee

Committee: Revd Heather, Jane Greenaway, Linda Baker, Rosemary Duffy, David Baker, Debbie Mussellwhite and David Stone.

Remit:

- ❖ Build up links with Groups, organisations and people in Harnham
- ❖ Use the various buildings and green spaces to hold events
- ❖ Build on the events from 2015
- ❖ Make more of the "Friends of Harnham Churches" and encourage new members
- ❖ Raise funds for the church

A good year for the Events committee, events organised included:

### Quiz Evening (January)

This was very well attended by people from both church and community . All tables were sold and hot food went down well. Committee agreed this would be a good annual event.

### Shrove Tuesday

The committee worked with the Social Committee on this one. The Social committee provided and organised the food and drink and the Events Committee sold tickets and booked a speaker. Jeff the Chef did a demonstration of a variety of pancake recipes and those who attended seemed to enjoy his jokes and recipes. The evening also attracted people from the community and not church members.

### Church Fete

This was a wonderful afternoon which was well attended (220 adults plus children) and raised £1157.92. There were approx. 40 volunteers and stall holders.

### Hymns and Pimms

This event attracted the community. The timing of year was good, and all felt it would be good to do this again. All agreed having a last night of the Proms at the end went down well.

### Pet Festival

Unfortunately this year was the first year where we had to cope with a very wet day for the Pet Festival, but dog walkers still have to walk their dogs, and those who attended the afternoon thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many stall holders did not turn up because of the weather. The Dog show was held in the Scout Hut and this created a great atmosphere, and a lot of laughter. Revd Penny Joyce opened and blessed the Pet Service and all enjoyed meeting her monkey. The only disadvantage was that as everyone in Scout Hut, refreshments were not being sold, but this was solved by regular breaks in the Dog Show.

### Cheese and Wine Evening.

This event was initially organised as a thank you to all the clergy who have been helping out in the past year. Our aim was to just cover costs, but 55 parishioners purchased tickets and 15 clergy some with their partners accepted the invitation to the evening. It was so successful that £100 was banked following the evening.

### Beer and Carols

This was again held at the Old Mill and unfortunately this too was also affected by the weather, but despite the rain around 75 people turned up for the evening.

Events planned for 2018 include:

- Quiz, Soup and Ploughmans – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January
- Stories and Songs – an event similar to Beer and Carols but for younger people.
- Church Fete – Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June
- Hymns and Pimms – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> August
- Pet Festival – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> September
- Old Time Musical Hall Evening – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> October.

An evening in the hall with a bar. Old Time Music Hall theme with songs from WW1 and WW2 ie Siegfried Line and stories of relatives in First War.

- Remembrance Sunday Procession – 11<sup>th</sup> November. A procession from SG to Memorial Hall for Scouts, Guides, Sea Scouts, and anyone in uniform or wishing to walk with medals etc. Poppies to be made by school, congregation, Saturday coffee, toddlers, Messy Church etc to be displayed in windows on route and on chains on church buildings.

Revd Heather and Linda Baker

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## Other Church Groups



Our Branch was successfully run by its committee last year and enjoyed a varied programme from learning about Alabare, the Women's Refuge and preparing for Lent to DIY sessions when we made bread and thought about its relevance in the Bible. We had our own "Agony Aunt" discussion to help us to be more helpful listeners, and at Christmas we all went home with a pudding we had made!

We have raised funds for Overseas work through the Soup and Sweets lunch and the coffee and cakes at the Card Sales have helped both the Refuge and the Holiday scheme for families in need of a break. We are very grateful to everyone who has supported these events.

We continue to give Prayer Bears to Baptism families and Cards and Wedding Candles to those getting married.

A new initiative we are launching on February 25th is the Community Tea for anyone on their own. It will be from 3-5pm in the Church Hall and we hope this will eventually become a regular feature. The next will be on April 29th. So do spread the word!

And finally we have at last got all that is needed to begin work on the altar kneelers for St George's. We do hope this will become a real community project with many people involved.

Visitors and potential new members are always welcome at our meetings.

Katharine Callard on behalf of the Committee

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### Bible Study (Tuesday)

The Tuesday Bible Study group now meets weekly at 20 Middle Street at 2pm. It's an informal Bible discussion over coffee, currently with around 5 members and others are always welcome.

Linda Baker

### Bible Study (Thursday)

The Thursday Bible Study is made up of around 6 to 8 people who meet at Brympton on a fairly regular basis. They have enjoyed considering the Bible readings from the previous Sunday service.



Linda Baker

### Outreach to the Elderly

Harnham Croft Nursing Home, Willowcroft Care Home and Brympton Sheltered Almshouses in Harnham are visited monthly by a member of the church team to take the Eucharist to the residents. Willowcroft has been having a monthly Evensong with hymns, but this ceased towards the end of 2017 as those providing the Evensong far outnumbered those who attended. All of the homes enjoy Carol Singing at Christmas, and occasionally during the year extra services are provided for different events for example Remembrance Sunday and Easter.

Linda Baker

## Prayer Meetings



Morning prayer was said at 8.00am on a Tuesday in All Saints', and at 8.00am on a Wednesday in St. George's. Unfortunately in Revd Becky and Revd Heather's absences this was one service we could not provide. It is hoped to review this early in 2018.

The Monthly Prayer Group continues to meet once a month to pray for the parish – new members are always welcome to attend.

**Linda Baker**

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## Pause for a Pint - Harnham Parish Men's Group



The men's group continues to meet from 8.00pm on the second Wednesday of the month in the Oak Bar at the Rose & Crown Hotel. It is an opportunity to meet socially over a pint (or a glass of wine) and then to discuss a topical and/or theological issue of interest. A warm welcome if offered to new participants, either regular or occasional.

**Linda Baker**

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## Coffee, Cake and Christ

Coffee, Cake and Christ is now into its second decade. In the Spring Term of 2017 the group used a Scripture Union Lifebuilder series, "The God of all Comfort," for its Bible studies and in the Summer Term another Lifebuilder series on "Heaven." In the Autumn Term the topic was "Major on Minors" where six of the minor prophets were studied. The term ended with a look at the time between the Testaments and a study for Advent on the promised Messiah.

With members from four different churches, Coffee, Cake and Christ now functions as an independent group.

**Pam Pointer**

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## Church Links Report

For the Church Links scheme this year, it has been largely business as usual. Wherever possible, Links took on the delivery of Christmas and Easter cards in their roads, and called on those celebrating baptism or wedding anniversaries, or marking the anniversary of a bereavement, with a card and good wishes from the parish. They welcomed new residents with a copy of the parish's Welcome Pack - feedback has suggested this is much appreciated. They also keep their eyes open for any residents with a church connection in their patch who might have a pastoral need, so that the parish's pastoral team can be alerted.

For various reasons, Carol Parker, Mary Harper, Matthew Stone and Julia Woodford stepped down during 2017. We were sorry to lose them but grateful for all they did as a Link. On the other hand, I am delighted to say that Barbara Laws, Pam Macklin, Sandra Parker and Becky Wilkinson joined the team, which meant the total number remained at 28, which is an impressive commitment by the parish. Further changes were in the offing at the start of 2018.

We still face a major challenge in finding Links for the roads that the scheme does not currently serve. These include most of Netherhampton Road, Upper Street, Middle Street, Essex Square and the roads round it, Highlands Road and the neighbouring roads, the top end of Old Blandford Road, Harnwood Road and Folly Close, and the roads north of Downton road. This is not easy, as in principle we must identify people to take on the responsibility who live in the roads concerned. We are always looking for new

volunteers - do give it some thought if you live in any of these roads, or know someone who might be interested.

We now have a regular pattern of six-monthly meetings so that we can share experience, and keep up to date with relevant developments.

**Charles Woodd - Church Links Co-ordinator.**

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## Saturday Morning Coffee Report



All Saints has been welcoming visitors and regular church members to a safe place each week since 2008. We continue to offer a hot drink, friendship, conversation, biscuits and cake. People come in when out walking, staying at the Grasmere, reminiscing where they were married, some need a warm and friendly face or just somewhere they can find peace and quiet in an area away from those having a drink. Regulars involved with the life of both St Georges and All Saints take the opportunity to get to know each other better and welcome the visitors. Often there are others in the church doing the flowers, church wardens and other tasks.

There are so many reasons why over 200 people in each 3 month period, have gone into All Saints on Saturday mornings. Refreshments are free and donations are collected and put into PCC funds. This mounts up over a year – refer to Treasurer’s report.

In the absence of Rev. Becky or Rev. Heather during the past year /six months, Linda Baker, a Churchwarden or Jean Mercer has been in the church between 10.30 - 12.00 for anyone wanting to book / discuss a christening or wedding. This information is given to all those making enquiries through the parish office.

Volunteers are from both the churches. A rota to ensure we can continue is kept in All Saints. Health and Safety states there should always be two each morning. As we never know who will join us, it is so important we open each week but this can only continue if there are enough to help – might only be once in two months or once a year perhaps, but it is a valuable contribution to our outreach in the community. To all those who are dedicated to keeping the church open on a Saturday morning, a huge THANK YOU - especially to a few new people who have filled in gaps on the rota.

More details from Jean Mercer 01722324229 / [jean.sandways@gmail.com](mailto:jean.sandways@gmail.com)

**Jean Mercer**

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## Magazine Report

350 copies of the Parish Magazine are printed each month. Just over 300 of these are delivered around the Parish by 25 distributors and some 20 copies are posted. A big thank you to those people who act as distributors.

In the region of 20 hours per month is spent preparing the magazine copy for printing and a further 2 to 3 hours for actual printing in the Parish Office. The collation and bundling for delivery takes around 1 hour.

The copies are collated by a small band of loyal volunteers each month in the Meeting Room. We also welcome any newcomers who would like to get involved in the collation. It takes place on either the third or fourth Tuesday depending on when the first day of the following month falls. Please speak to Grace Hickman or Ian Davidson if you could help.

I would like to thank Grace for looking after the collation and distributors, all those who help with the collation and also those who deliver the bundles to the distributors each month. Finally a special thank you to Pam Pointer who has been contributing her monthly article for over 15 years.

**Ian Davidson**

## **Music Report**

In 2017 there were 100 Sunday services and a number of additional mid-week services requiring an organist. This total is slightly lower than 2016 due to the reduction in services which began in October. However this alteration has meant an additional task in setting up the equipment for the St George's services in the Church Hall. I played for around two thirds of services with the others being covered by William Alexander, Malcolm Sturgess and Frances Howard. I would like to thank them for their assistance which also allows me an occasional Sunday off!

A Taizé Evensong took place in Lent which was well supported and in August a Hymns and Pimms afternoon was held which was to be in the open air but unfortunately, due to the inclement weather, had to be moved into the Church Hall. The number of people attending was lower than hoped for, no doubt due to the wet weather. Thanks to David Baker for organising and leading this event which ended with a 'Last Night of the Proms' section to round off a memorable afternoon.

The year ended with the traditional visits to Willowcroft, Harnham Croft and Brympton for carol singing and once again we held a Beer and Carols Evening in the Old Mill Hotel garden. The weather affected the number attending the latter also but those who came had a very enjoyable time. Thank you to those who helped with the music and singing for all these events. Also thank you to Revd Julian and Libby Poppleton for once again assembling the choir for the Parish Carol service and providing another uplifting service.

The two organs in the churches continue to give good service and are regularly attended and tuned by Andrew Cooper our organ tuner.

**Ian Davidson**

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## **Trainee LLM**

Last September I began training as a Licensed Lay Minister at Sarum College and I thought I would update you all on how this was progressing.

Over the last six months I have completed two modules and am now well into a third.

Each module is roughly six to eight weeks in length and requires attendance at weekly tutorials, a study weekend at Sarum College and also 'Formation Days' at Church House. Further meetings are held with my training minister to reflect on my progress and Local Learning Group to discuss the theme of each module. Assessment is centred around the grading of essays, two of which are written for each module, totalling 5000 words.

Since September my training has focused on various themes from basic theology and Bible study, to human identity and is now launching into Christian doctrine and church history.

There is a lot of work, but I feel very privileged to be travelling on this road.

The teaching at Sarum College and support from the parish and diocese has been exceptional. The studying is beginning to do what I hoped it would and that is to challenge my (many) assumptions and provide a more rounded appreciation of what it is to be a Christian and the role the church plays in that spiritual journey.

As my training progresses I hope to update you further through the parish magazine and future reports to the APCM.

**Matthew Stone**

## Curate's Report

Thank you to all who have worked so hard in the parish this year. Thank you especially to our Churchwardens and our administrator, for whom it has been a particularly busy year. Thank you also to our treasurer and PCC members who serve the parish. I am also very grateful for the retired clergy who have assisted us with covering many services, both on Sundays and during the week, especially while I was on Maternity Leave.

On that note, thank you also to the parish for your generosity when Isaac was born. He received lots of clothes and books, and with the money from the parish we bought a baby carrier, which has been very useful. Thank you also for your prayers, cards, and the harvest flowers, it meant a lot to us to know you were thinking of us.

This year began with spending four days at Sarum College on a Theological Reflection course. As part of the portfolio that I need to put together to complete my curacy I will be writing a total of seven reflections on different experiences that I encountered during curacy, and this course was helpful for thinking about how to approach that in a way that engages with scripture and Christian thought.

In February I had the opportunity to spend two weeks in a different context as part of my curacy training. Dominic and I chose to spend two weeks in Pilsdon, West Dorset. It was wonderful to experience life in a Christian community that offers a safe and gentle space for people to rebuild their lives after a time of crisis, and to see God at work there. It has an incredibly supportive and gentle rhythm to the day, and I particularly enjoyed helping in the garden. Our stay also covered several of the residents' birthdays, which meant lots of celebrations and cake!

An initial visit to Pilsdon at the end of 2016 inspired me to put together a programme of Lent talks focused on Social Justice. We reflected on the Minimum wage, Healthcare, Environment, I am grateful to those who spoke on these topics during Lent, and to those who have engaged with further conversation afterwards at the pub. It was also wonderful in Lent to be able to offer a Taize style prayer at All Saints. Thanks to the musicians for their help with that.

It was great to welcome the Junior School to All Saints for their Easter services. This year we took the theme of 'Resurrection' and each class prepared something to contribute towards the service. I also went up to Puddleducks to share the Easter story with the children there, and St George's toddlers had a service in St George's.

I continue to be an Alabaré chaplain to one of the Emmaus communities in Salisbury. These are communities for people with learning disabilities. I have particularly enjoyed contributing storytelling to their 'Faith Days.'

I also serve as a Young Vocations Champion in the Diocese, which involves some work in secondary schools, often encouraging young people to reflect on and celebrate their gifts and talents. Since January it has been a joy to settle back into the rhythm of the parish. Thank you to all who give in so many ways to help this parish to thrive.

**Revd Heather Leppard**

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## Associate Priest's Report

It has been a busy year as School Chaplain at King Edward VI School and Stroud School as well as assisting in the parish.

One of the most enriching of experiences was running one of the charitable projects at the School whilst a colleague was on maternity leave. This project is the oldest of many, involving sixteen Lower and Upper Sixth students fundraising and training in order to take sixteen young carers away for a respite camping holiday in the New Forest. The carers are selected by Southampton social service. This responsibility began in September 2016 and concluded in July. It was hugely moving at many points: the selection process by the Upper Sixth of the new recruits who will serve for two years made it abundantly clear the



passion of all involved; the great commitment to the young carers, the searching questions of the many applicants, the very high expectations. Throughout the year there were events to pay for the campsite, food, spare clothes and activities. Many of these were imaginative and good fun. We also joined the support evenings for young carers run by the council service. The week itself was demanding, with many of the carers coming with complex needs. The weather was kind except for the last night when very severe thunder storms swept across the region, turning the camp into torrent. For anxious children, thunder and midnight flooding required considerable maturity and capacity from the VIth formers. I took away a great sense of hope and of the power of goodness and love from the experience. Evident in both the children and the VIth form students was a wonderful and potent presence of generosity and kindness. Playing my part in this was one of the greatest of privileges and certainly a highpoint in my teaching career.

I am pleased to be leading another, slightly more modest, project this year, working with a primary school in Sholing - again with a mix of our students with Year 5 pupils. I am sure they will teach me a great deal. I was pleased to be able to use resources from Salisbury to meet daily with colleagues to pray during Lent and have continued to meet with a number through the year.

Other highlights have been working with pupils to prepare and lead the Schools' carol services in Romsey Abbey, as well as the annual Service of Thanksgiving. The baptising of a colleague's child and helping others prepare for marriage was a joy. The summer term was clouded by the sudden death of one of our students, Ben, whilst out for an evening run. This tragedy was just as he and his companions were beginning to sit their GCSEs. As you can imagine, there was a need for support for his family, his peers and teachers. I was pleased to be able to assist in some of the practicalities as well as spending time with many, leading services and to be in conversation with individuals and agencies. Of course, Ben, his family and friends are very much in my prayers.

This year I am particularly grateful for the support and care of many in the parish on the death at ninety-three of my mother who had lived next to us for seventeen years. She died on Mothering Sunday peacefully, shortly after being pleased to receive the gift of flowers from the parish. Canon David Callard led a lovely funeral service. Along with countless others, our family are much in his debt. It is very important for me in my School ministry to have the sacramental and prayerful links with Harnham. Over and above the prayers and good wishes, the pattern of worship and fellowship is vital in supporting what can be a solitary activity in a context outside the normal structures of Church. Sharing in the rhythm of festivals, scripture and friendship is a joy. What could be more fun than a sunny afternoon at the fete? Libby's work with the South Wilts A Cappella Choir, and mine by proxy and as a member of the choir, allows us to speak of faith, to unpack scripture when preparing the youngsters to sing evensongs or services. The SWGS carol service in the Cathedral is a privilege to shape and gladdens the heart to be a part of. Similarly, performing sacred music in concert affords a chance to reflect on the beliefs being expressed there. It is a particular joy to facilitate the Parish Carol service, with youngsters, parishioners and friends gathering on the afternoon to rehearse and then lead the service. Libby and I have tried over the years to incorporate children from the parish and the city, particularly those known to us through our work and our own children. As a result many alumni ask to be involved year after year, some for more than ten years - and for many Christmas isn't really complete without this connection with our parish.

It is greatly enriching to share in the worship through the seasons at All Saints and St George's. I think the eight o' clock communion service at All Saints is a particular favourite to attend and lead. The simplicity and calm where one can experience God's presence is potent. The fellowship and faithfulness of the congregation across the different services and activities to serve the community are inspiring. I am grateful and have enjoyed receiving the ministry of other ministers in Revd. Becky's absence and Revd. Heather's maternity leave. I hope I have been able to be a resource and sounding board for Linda and the Churchwardens in managing a difficult situation, complicated by the vagaries of boilers and staffing changes in the deanery.

**Revd Julian Poppleton - Associate Priest**