



Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Tuesday 12th April 2016

at 7.30pm

Harnham Church Hall.

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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.

Vicar's Report

THANK YOU

Thank you to all who since April 2015 APCM have contributed so much to Harnham Parish in service taking on roles in the church that are noticed or quietly helping with things that often go unnoticed, in being part of a worshipping community and in the regular giving of money.

A special thank you to people who have stood down from their roles this year, after many years of committed service in the churches. These include: Mary Harper and Julian Jackson for their longstanding service in the Magazine team, Sarah Hawtry for her organisation of and serving of teas and coffees in All Saints, Peter Weatherburn for his many years counting and banking the different church collections money, Raymond Hawksworth, who has been committed to leading evensong for a number of years, David Paterson for his organisation of Christian Aid Collections, Matthew Stone and Tony Mercer who have finished their term on the PCC, Val Overton who has completed 6 years as a church warden, showing pastoral care to the St. George's community, being on the worship and property committees and keeping the congregation and church organised with all her lists, often taking time off work to ensure things have run smoothly.

INVITATION

Last year I spoke of the invitation of God to each of us to be in relationship with God and for us to be a people 'of invitation.'

In the last year, there have been many invitations given to the wider community through the St. George's 2015 - 900 year celebrations. The many varied events that involved talks on a variety of subjects, including historical digging, music, community teas, worship and many more have all been positively attended and raised our profile as a Parish which serves its community, as well as building links with local businesses and organisations. A special 'thank you' to all who were involved in the planning and staffing of these events and to all of you who invited people along. Our invitations have paid off, as in return we were invited to lead a Christmas carol service at the Old Mill Hotel, and through Messy Church and Puddleducks provide a charity Christmas decorations in the Rose and Crown Hotel.

We also invited Revd Heather Leppard to be part of our team here, as curate. Thank you to those who continue to make her feel welcome and who attended her ordination as deacon in the Cathedral last June. It is good to have her with us.

The amount of guest speakers invited to preach and share their experiences has increased over the last year and included sermons by congregation members as well as guests: Archdeacon Alan Jeans, Revd Charlie Allen and Revd Dominic Thornton, Salisbury Trust for the Homeless, Alabare, and Water Aid as well as Revd Ian, vicar of the close, at the African Sunday.

OUTREACH

In outreach, we share the invitation to know the love of God, in Jesus Christ.

There are currently, two specific 'services' for outreach to younger members of our community as well as our services in Willowcroft, Harnham Croft and Brympton. We continue to hold an informal service once a month at All Saints for families and Messy church once a month. Thank you to all who help and encourage these. Please continue to pray and support these links with younger families in our community and those older people who are more isolated.

Our links with families extend to Puddleducks Playgroup, and two toddler groups; 3Bs has now moved to the mornings to encourage higher attendance linked through Irene and the Mothers' Union. Revd Heather links in to St. George's toddler group who have welcomed her and the crafts and stories she has told through the church year.

Links with the Junior School have deepened, with many parents and children attending the SG 900 anniversary worship celebrations, the school choir singing. The children now attend All Saints church for Easter and Harvest as well as Christmas service in St Thomas. Some members of the church are supporting the new school bus café and serving teas and coffees whilst others are attending the Lent prayers on the bus. The children have had the opportunity to experience visits from Bishop Abdu from Port Sudan and Bishop Daniel Deng from Southern Sudan and Chaplain John, chaplain to the deaf who has taught them the Lord's prayer in sign language. Revd Heather is building links with the Infant School through assemblies.

We continued to invite people to worship with us through specific services in the SG 900 celebrations. We will repeat some again this year as they were a success. A service for pets at the Pet festival showed people's interest in worship and so we will also hold a service to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday at the beginning of our fete on June 11th.

Pastoral Services in 2015 total 36 Baptisms, 5 weddings, 16 funerals and 14 Burials of ashes or burials. The Deanery have supported the need for bereavement visitor training and this is being organised for this coming year. We have supported those who have been bereaved through friendship, our LPAs and clergy.

I am aware that as church communities we also grieve, as some members have left, others are now in nursing care, and still others are unable to come on a Sunday due to illness.

THE YEAR AHEAD

In the year ahead, our mission and outreach need to be a priority. The five marks of mission are vital in practice for the survival and growth of faith within our Parish.

Tell the good news

Teach and nurture new believers

Tend humans in loving service

Transform unjust structures and pursue peace

Treasure creation

As a PCC we are aware that we need to prioritise

- The use of our church buildings more fully
- The renovation of the Hall
- Stewardship
- Mission- through the prospective employment of a Music Missioner- for whom we have a majority of funding from the St Aldhelm's Mission fund, and who would work in our community on outreach through musical events.

We all look forward to Revd Heather's ordination to the priesthood.

Above all we look to grow as a Christian community in faith and worship, hope and love.

Revd Becky

St. George's Report

The churchwardens would like to thank everyone who makes St. George's a warm and welcoming place to worship and helps with its efficient running. We were very pleased to welcome Revd. Heather Leppard in joining that team.

The attendance has remained fairly constant throughout the year, the numbers varying between 40 and 60 with the exception of Christmas morning when it was 132! During the year we have had 10 baptisms; 2 funerals; 4 weddings and 11 burials of ashes. There have also been services for Puddleducks; Mother's Union; Harvest; Singing for the Brain and 3Bs as well as all the various Christmas services including the Guides, Brownies and Scouts.

2015 has been an exceptionally busy year due to the 900year celebrations. It started with 900 rings of the bell by the year 6 pupils from Harnham Junior School. A huge thank you to Pat Davidson for helping the children and if we're honest ringing most of the 900 rings herself. The 2015 Committee must also be thanked for the variety of events they organised some in the church and others elsewhere.

In April the fence between the churchyard and the field was replaced. Also in April we had the quinquennial inspection, there were no major concerns. The annual clearing of gutters, hoppers and drainpipes has been carried out. There have been 3 new car parking signs in the bay outside the church, the cost of which was helped by a member of the congregation.

January 2016 has seen the carpet in the Trinity Chapel replaced. This was donated by a member of the congregation in memory of his wife.

Val Overton, Helen Evans – Churchwardens.

All Saints

General

All Saints' Church building is a place of worship, learning and fellowship and we have aimed to maintain the fabric 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 sidespersons, 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.

Julia Woodford has been trained and is due to be licensed as a Chalice Assistant shortly and Jenny Collings & Jean Mercer have undertaken Server training, Peter Weatherburn has stood down both as a sidesperson and from his work collating the collections and Diana Arundale wishes to stand down as sidesperson at the end of April. We thank them both for their many years of combined service at All Saints. Finally, we welcome Philippa Smart as an assistant organist.

Worship & Outreach

We have continued to support Revd. Becky Roberts with her ministry in the parish. We continue to use the church building to show God's love, for instance: -

- At All Saints there have been 14 baptisms, 1 wedding blessing, no weddings, 5 funerals, 3 burials of ashes and 5 burials this year.
- The regular pattern of services established in May 2014 has continued unchanged, subject only disruption to fit in with St George's 900 Celebrations.

- More volunteers are still needed to help with coffee on Saturday mornings.
- The church has continued to be used for organ practice by young players and it was open for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride & Stride in September.
- The porch has been used during the past year. A new Homeless Shelter Policy has been produced and has been approved by PCC at the March meeting.
- Thank you to the Revd.Rebecca Roberts for her ministry with us and to Revd.Julian & Revd.Heather for their support. Also, we thank all the 'retired' clergy who help Becky in her work here; we could not do what we do without you.

Church and Churchyard

No progress to date redrafting the Terrier , but a revised Graveyard Plan & Register may follow from searches for vacant burial plots. The All Saints Quinquennial works are still to be carried out because during the last year we have concentrated upon essential maintenance as follows: -

- The rising damp in the chancel wall continues to be monitored.
- A valuation of vestments is still needed for insurance purposes.
- The search for replacement wireless microphones continues.
- Other works included the replacement of two faulty heaters and a lamp.
- The Graveyard Regulations continue to be sensitively enforced.
- The annual cut of the churchyard hedges took place at the end of January.

Robert Salkeld, Jane Greenaway - Churchwardens

PCC Committee Reports

Church Hall

Committee: Linda Baker, Geoff Gilbert, William Alexander, Mary Harper, Helen Evans, Tony Mercer and various representatives from the regular Hall users.

SINCE THE LAST APCM

At the start of 2015 it was agreed by the PCC to put a hold on any major work to the hall until after 2015, so that time and energies could be concentrated on the celebrations. As a result of this the Hall Committee only met once in October 2015.

Only necessary work has been carried out on the hall. This has included a service of the hall and meeting room heating ready for the winter, the replacement of the disabled toilet alarm, new taps in the Gents toilets and a service of the microphone and loop system.

FUTURE PLANS

An overall assessment of the hall and surrounding rooms is priority, to ensure we are making the most of the area. This will also include a review of local halls and their facilities.

Once we know how best to make the most of the hall, to maintain the income and to benefit the community, we will prioritise and raise funds for work to be done on the hall. Work for example could be:

- Replacement of the hall roof, as current tiles are failing due to their age (at the time of writing this report up to date quotes are being sought).
- Improvement and upgrading of the hall kitchen.
- Re-decorating inside and outside.
- Storage, and improvement of the meeting room.

Linda Baker

Property Committee

Committee Members: Revd. Rebecca Roberts, Revd. Heather Leppard, Linda Baker, Jane Greenaway, Helen Evans, Tony Mercer & Robert Salkeld.

Works not proceeded with during 2015-6

- All Saints - Glass Doors: Installation of new lockable glass doors and internal porch inside main doors

Works Completed During 2015-6

- St George's – Renewal of fencing between the Churchyard and St George's Field.
- Church Hall - Meeting Room: Provision of lockable cupboards for computers and the Parish Archives.
- Church Hall - Window in west gable: Repair of the rotten sill.

Works in hand during 2015 -6

- St George's bollards: The 3 bollards have been removed and efforts are now being made to determine ownership of and access rights to the parking spaces. However, parking notices have been put up.

Other Works likely to take place during 2016 and thereafter

- General –Maintenance and minor repairs to all parish buildings that were held over because of the St George's 900 Celebrations during 2015.
- Church Hall - Major roof repair/ replacement covering.
- Church Hall - Provision of a solid temporary Ramp to the Meeting Room
- Church Hall – The lagging of exposed water pipes in the loft.
- St George's – The Quinquennial Inspection of St George's took place on 14/04/15 and the report was received 29/05/15 Works highlighted included copper-staining of the window stonework, the boiler-room's flat roof and the use of the windows to improve ventilation.
- All Saint's – Works highlighted in the 2014 Quinquennial Report; the most urgent of these are repairs to window vents, the tool shed, small notice board, the front boundary wall, down-pipe hoppers and some ironwork. In the longer term some stonework repairs will be needed.

The Committee has been making arrangements to visit local "Reema" church halls to see what could be done to improve or extend our existing building.

At present spending for any legislative, statutory, health & safety or emergency items and any planned maintenance tasks and 'ad-hoc' events generally can be considered up to an annual budget value of £5k.

The repair and resurfacing of the shared portion of Watersmeet Road was undertaken during the second week of September 2015. The work was completed satisfactorily, but there has since been some patch degradation of the surfacing. The Contractor has agreed to remedy this at his own expense.

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

Worship

Committee: Revd Becky, Val Overton, Ian Davidson, Jacqui Brown, William Alexander, Jane Pelly, Revd Julian Poppleton, Sister Theresa Mary and Jannie Redman.

Members

Firstly, some 'Thank yous' to all who contribute to the worship in our churches and Messy Church. These include intercessors, and readers, chalice assistants, servers and of course our readers, Sister Theresa Mary - our parish worker and retired clergy, LPAs, Churchwardens, and those who set up the churches, sides-persons, flower arrangers and cleaners and all who pray for the life of the parish, and lead Bible study groups.

Our thanks go to Raymond Hawksworth, licensed reader, who will continue to attend Evensong but has decided to step down from leading and preaching. We thank him for his long term commitment to the parish, his thoughtfulness and sense of humour in his sermons.

Our thanks also go to Reader - Jane Pelly, who continues to lead evensong in Willowcroft, and leads occasionally on a Sunday morning. She preached her last sermon in St. George's main Sunday worship, earlier in the year. We appreciated her many sermons, that used her experiences of worshipping overseas and highlighted justice for those less fortunate.

This year we have welcomed Revd. Canon Simon Wilkinson to Harnham, who has assisted at Thursday morning communions and occasional Sundays. Revd Becky held a thank you tea for all the clergy who assist in the parish- which include Revd. Canon David Durston, Revd. Canon David Callard, and Revd. Peter Matthews.

The worship committee has been active this year supporting SG2015 services; reviewing and improving existing weekly and pastoral services.

Worship for outreach

In 2015 this has included a Christingle held in the Junior school, 900 minutes of prayer in St. George's church, Jazz praise, Service of Thanksgiving for 900 years, Harnham United service held in the Junior School, Messy Church special celebration for those christened over the last 3 years. Carol services were held for Puddleducks, the Junior School, 3Bs, in nursing homes, the Old Mill hotel and children's Nativity services, and Parish carol service. Blue Christmas 'a service for those who find Christmas difficult' was a new venture and 6 people attended. Revd. Becky received a long letter of thanks from one congregation member who attended stating how worthwhile she found it. One lady returned to church after over a year off church for this service.

All Age worship continues once a month in All Saints and usually has a couple of families as well as other congregation members.

Sunday worship

Congregation members, including Pam Pointer, Neil Turpin, Matthew Stone, Joanna Woodd have all preached and Val Overton. Neil Turpin, Joanna Woodd, as well as clergy have led a Celtic evening worship on the third Sunday of the month at St. George's. Liturgy was adapted for celebratory events such as Patronal Festivals, Harvest and Mothering Sunday.

Midweek worship

With the arrival of Revd Heather, daily prayer in public, has expanded from St. Georges to All Saints and evening prayer hosted at Revd. Heather's and Revd. Canon David Slaters. St. George's Communion on a Thursday morning has welcomed new members and has an average of 8 attending. Communion at Brympton, Willocroft and Harnham Croft continue once a month. LPAs continue to distribute home communions to those who cannot attend church.

Revision of the organisation of worship particularly at All Saints, has meant new people have been licensed as Chalice assistants.

Christenings The christening liturgy has been revised in the light of General Synod's vote. This has been tried and improved. Christening families are now invited to All Saints coffee morning to book their place encouraging families to step inside churches and feel more comfortable meeting the clergy and other members of the congregations.

Weddings There were 5 weddings at St George's in 2015, and a wedding blessing at All Saints.

The worship committee are still considering- *Can worship songs / hymns be used more during intercessions? Can new Taize songs be introduced for communion services to deepen meditation? How to attract younger people to worship. Where growth is happening and why. An invitation to an Iconographer to paint an Icon for Saint Georges.*

Churches Together

Representatives: Joanna Woodd, Jane Pelly and Sue Reeder.

1. It has been both a busy and inspirational year for Churches together in Salisbury.
2. **Highlights include:** -
3. The Old Sarum Initiative, with the appointment of Penny Joyce, the production of a business plan, growth of messy church, the development of ecumenical Christian households meeting, cross parish workings and an Alpha Course. The Ascension day service
4. The launch of the Salisbury Cinnamon Trust at Lambeth Palace. Following an audit the churches are able to share some of the work they offer, e.g. drug advice/holiday clubs etc.so the Council and others are able to 'dip in' to the benefit of their communities, and the churches are not duplicating work.
5. The commitment of the churches to work alongside other charitable organisations, the Council and John Glenn MP to address needs of and offer hospitality to Syrian Refugee families.
6. The mobile Fairtrade stall at the Methodist Church open weekly
7. The Big Farm day out held on Sept 5th so as to avoid the clash with Ride and Stride, huge success with even more families enjoying themselves, over 1600 attendees.
8. Appointment of Peter Clarke as the new Treasurer, and Alison Goodman as secretary
9. Message of appreciation and support for our Moslem neighbours, who are valued.
10. Rough sleepers project involving 15 churches.
11. Waitrose Carol Singing
12. Pulpit swapping
13. Good Friday procession
14. AGM held in the Salvation Army.
15. Local Houses of Prayer, had grown out of the previous year of prayer (2014) and the churches had become more inspirational, integrated and supportive of each other. Training is being offered.
16. Prayer and Worship Night 24 hours of prayer held on 11th October
17. Election Hustings organised and help in the Guildhall chaired by the Dean
18. New management structure. The executive has decided to forego a chairperson, and the charring is shared between the executive members
19. **Lowlights**
20. Closure of the night café following a pilot. However, a new venue has been found, in the Old Council offices on Milford St, and volunteers from St Francis are willing to start 'Tea and Toast'. Start date was November, but to date nothing has happened.
21. Farewell to Peter and Suzanne Clark who moved onto Falkirk. However there was a presentation of a picture of Salisbury and prayers were offered with God's blessing and the laying on of hands for their future ministry.

Deanery Synod

Representatives: Jane Pelly, Sue Reeder and Joanna Woodd.

Since 2014 Deanery Synod in Salisbury now meets as a standing committee and unites with Churches Together Salisbury. 'Anglican' business and a review of the progress of the united meetings took place separately.

One of the main emphases at Deanery Standing Committee is how churches are working together in a context in which housing developments are growing and no new clergy posts are being created. Mission in different forms is taking place in Bemerton Heath and Old Sarum for example "Community Knit and natter", Prayer Groups, Football and Street Games. Houses of prayer are being developed across denominations in Salisbury as a way of outreach and sustaining prayer. Parishes have been asked to discuss sharing information about how many Christians who attend their church, live in their area or in other Parishes, in order that activities and outreach can be shared across all Christian denominations in Salisbury.

The Deanery has been very supportive of our desire to employ a Music Missioner, recommending our grant application and giving advice.

Anglican matters of concern has been the need for hard evidence of the categories which each Parish chooses for its part in Fairer Share. In 2015 we were category C and have been asked to review this.

Youth and Children

Messy Church



Messy Church continues to run from 3 – 5pm once a month in the Church Hall and involves games; stories; crafts; songs and celebration around a Bible theme. Everyone eating tea together before going home, is a big part of the fellowship that has grown between all ages over the past year.

There are several families who come on a casual basis but we also have eight regular families and for these Messy Church is their choice of worship. Sometimes there are up to 19 children along with parents, carers and grandparents. The theme for last year was "Bible Super Heroes". We also had a presence at the Pet Service and the Fete to show families we are part of a wider church and will do so again in 2016.

Harnham Messy Church is led by both Revd. Becky and Revd. Heather and we are blessed to still have a dedicated team of 7 volunteers along with another 5 who take it in turns to oversee the teas.

It would encourage us with our planning of activities if we could share the tasks with a few more people. If you feel this is an important part of our church life and might like to be involved with it through prayer, preparing activities at home, providing occasional cake / sandwiches or join in with the fun one month or when you can, please talk to Jean Mercer at All Saints or Katharine Callard at St. George's.

Jean Mercer



**Harnham Junior School
Foundation Governors' Report to the 2016
Annual PC Meeting.**



Our School Community at present consists of 333 Children in 12 Classes, 15 Teachers, 14 TAs, 16 Support Staff & 14 Governors, plus, of course, 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.

Once again this year the School has not had been visited by either Ofsted or SIAMS inspectors, however this has not led to any lessening of the search for improved progress and achievement for the children. The examples below are from the year ending July 2015.

The School has many reasons for celebration. Here are just a few:

- 94% of children without SEN (Special Educational Need) support achieved level 4, equal to the national average in mathematics.
- 58% of all children achieved above the national average (48%) in reading. This becomes 73%, when considering only children without SEN support. Significantly above the national average of 59%.
- 44% of all children achieved a level 5 in writing compared with a national average of 36%.

Against these and many other achievements, the School team were not satisfied with all the results. Some children with SEN support did not make the progress expected, whilst other children whose prior history of attainment indicated a raised expectation, did not make the progress expected. Adjusted strategies have now been put in place to focus more intently on the children in areas of concern to enable them to be more successful.

Major changes have taken place in this academic year in the world of education. The National Curriculum has been changed, with a Government expectation that some areas of the curriculum should be taught earlier than previously, this has left some school years having to work particularly hard to catch up in these curriculum areas.

At the same time the Government has changed the way in which children's achievement and progress are assessed and described. Previously children had been assessed as reaching a particular Level; these levels were well understood by teachers and enabled them to teach children appropriately. The new format for assessment requires relating a child's attainment to its age related expected progress. Guidance as to how the new system works in many areas of the curriculum has been left to be decided locally, while other instructions have been very prescriptive. This leaves a considerable degree of uncertainty for staff and parents as to how to understand children's progress.

Our headteacher Mr Coles has recently written to all parent and guardians explaining the difficulties in the changes but reassuring them that all the School staff will do their best to help both them and the children understand how their children are getting on.



Our Church & Our School.

St George's 2015, As predicted in last year's report, the children became very involved in a number of activities relating to the 2015 celebrations. They took part in the opening 900 Bell Ring and created a decorative dragon for the Flower Festival, while the School Choir sang at the Thanksgiving Service last October.

In late September 2015, as part of their science and local history education, children visited the Harnham Watermeadows. They were given a guided tour by Watermeadows Trust volunteers and accompanied by staff, parents and your foundation governors.

Rev Becky and other members of the Church staff continue to support the School by leading assemblies, supporting the ethical mission of the School and providing opportunities for learning, experience and celebration. They also support the welfare of children, parents and staff. We ought also to acknowledge Pastor Keith Jewel, of the Harnham Free Church, and his role in leading some assemblies.

During early October 2015 the School celebrated Harvest at All Saints Church and also made a produce collection to donate to the Trussell Trust. For the children, visiting All Saints in 2015 for their Harvest celebration was new and a sign of the growing relationship between our Church and our School.

During Advent 2015 classes at the School acted as hosts to the Posada figures and some photographs of which appear on the School Website.

In December the School Carol Service was once again held at St Thomas's Church with a memorable presentation of the Nativity and talk by Rev Becky. The church was, as usual, packed with children, parent, grandparents and staff.

In July 2015 the School hall was once again used for a joint service with our friends at the Harnham Free Church.

During Lent 2016 'The Purple Bus' hosted the Tuesday Morning Prayer, giving us the opportunity to worship at the heart of our School community and see the latest innovation in assisting the education of the children.

2015 also saw a change in SIAMS personnel; Katherine Dolphin has taken on the role of co-ordinator while we thank Gill Bull for her long service as she starts a well earned retirement.

Since September 2015 School assemblies have been inspired by a new set of values, chosen and described by the children. These values help the children to understand the ethos of the School in a tangible way and how it supports the lives of all members of the School Community. Currently we are working to produce a values leaflet in which we will share the School Values with the wider community; we hope this will be available in the near future.



**Rev Becky Roberts, David Stone, & Helen Evans
Foundation Governors**

3B's January 2015 – December 2015



The last year has seen a significant decrease in attendance leading to some concerns about the future of the group. After talking to parents and carers it became apparent the timing was causing problems. We spoke to Revd Becky and Linda Baker and a decision was made to move 3B's from the afternoon sessions to the morning and this will begin at the end of February 2016, after half term.

Since changing to mornings there have been around 8 adults and about 15 children. This is just over twice the amount we were getting in the afternoon.

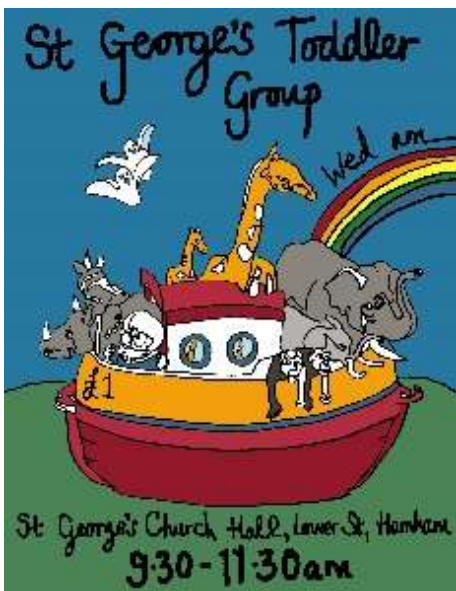
We had a short end of term service in St. George's at Easter and Summer and Revd. Becky came in to tell the children a story for Christmas.

Thank you as always to the ladies from the Mothers Union who continue to provide refreshments.

We look forward to seeing new growth and have a determination to see a long standing group regenerate.

Irene Wells.

St. George's Toddlers January 2015-January 2016



St George's Toddlers have gone from strength to strength. Numbers attending are rising, on a good week we have 22 adults with 1-3 children each. I could not manage without Sarah and Irene's help! Many thanks to them both.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents and carers are enjoying a cup of tea or coffee made for them by Irene, who does an amazing job. Sometimes we are joined by other members of the community for a cuppa such as PCSO Simon Ward or senior members of Harnham who can tell us a thing or two! If any of you fancy a cup do drop in! Sometimes we have homemade cakes and cookies brought in by Sharon Garrick.

We have developed a snack donation system by putting out a fruit bowl for donations of healthy snacks. We get apples bananas, raisins, cheese, bread sticks to name but a few items. We set out tables and chairs and all the children sit down

together for a snack. Not only is this a good social occasion for them but they are also learning to share and have good table manners!

By popular demand we have opened in the holidays. Parents and carers value this and we allow older siblings to come which not all groups will do this and we make sure relevant activities are set up.

We have forged links with Spurgeons City Children's Centre, who come in once a month and support us with activities and equipment. Our link with them is Dom, he is wonderful with the children and has lots of useful information such as car seat safety, healthy eating etc. He has just told me he will be a first time Dad in March, lucky baby!

Events from last year include;

Jan-May

Chinese New Year, Valentines Day, Shrove Tuesday, Easter/spring, Easter egg hunts, church service, visit to Riverbourne Farm.

June-Aug

A visit to the Fire Station where we used the hose and had fire engine rides, PCSO Simon Ward and colleague with their squad car, Sports Day, Tumble Track, visit to the Library once a month for story and singing.

Sept-Dec

Revd Heather has become a very valuable member of the group, mucking in wherever is needed and leading the singing and giving us just the right length church services for the little ones! Thank you Heather! We had Harvest Festival and donations went to the Woman's Refuge and Trussell Trust. We created a Facebook page to advertise 3B's and St George's group. Two new mums have come through this. Poppies and Pudsey! We made poppies and had a minute silence and listened to Big Ben and the gun salute on Spire FM, we made donations to Pudsey Bear and raised £31.

Christmas!! We had a tree in St Thomas' Church display again, made decorations for our church Christmas tree, posted letters to Father Christmas and replies came back the following week on party day, church service by Revd.Heather and Irene.

An action packed year, here's looking forward to another eventful one!

Many Thanks

Paula Price

Social Committee

Committee Members: Josa Snow, Robert Salkeld, Sue Witt, Ayesha Nickol, Anne Perry and Anne Paterson

Our first event following the APCM was St George's 900th Festival Lunch of 2015, which had been planned in December. Sarum College produced a lovely 2 course buffet lunch for 92 people, with Linda very kindly taking bookings. It all seemed to go very well, with a lot of hard work from everyone involved.

Other annual events included Beating the Bounds, the Sudan Garden Party at which the Human Fruit Machine had been requested to put in an appearance and the Church Fete, a very well attended event, much enjoyed by all held on a lovely sunny afternoon.

The Harvest Lunch was a "Bring and Share" meal for a change which also went well.

All Saints Patronal Lunch in the Memorial Hall was a success but quite a few people who had put their names on the list didn't come, it does make catering rather difficult and we need to address this issue.

The Christmas Social was held on 5th December organised principally by Sue Witt at which the Winterslow Singers performed. Jonathon Baker did magic tricks and there was also readings by Rosemary and Robert. Light refreshments were offered.

To start 2016 on 31st January an African meal followed the joint service also in the hall. This event went very well and was much enjoyed by everyone with lovely food cooked by the Mission and Vision Committee. The Social Committee served coffee in the Meeting room after the service.

Shrove Tuesday was our next event. Linda had organised various picture quizzes, identifying photos of Salisbury, Harnham and logos. An exhibition of photos that had been entered into a competition were also displayed for all to see. Pancakes were served with the usual extras -

lemons, jam and syrup, all supplied and cooked by the Social Committee. It was a successful evening with 2 visiting Bishops from the Sudan joining us. Any money left over after expenses, was donated to the Bridge Project.

Future plans include the usual Patronal and Harvest lunches, Fete teas, and a possible parish outing but if you have any ideas for future events or would like to join the committee we would love to hear from you.

Josa Snow



Committee Members:

Revd Becky, Revd Heather, Linda Baker, Matthew Stone, Jane Greenaway, Jane Pelly, Joanna Woodd, David Paterson.

The committee seeks to build stronger relationships with the world beyond our church community. This focus motivated the tasks we considered during the last year, which included, the Music Missioner initiative and our parish link with Sudan.

Music Missioner

Throughout the year the committee discussed the employment of a Music Missioner whose purpose will be to engage with people outside our churches through music. Essential elements of this initiative were considered, including job description and advertising

for the post.

This year saw PCC approval for the post and Deanery support was also received. A bid for funding from the Aldhelm Fund was partially successful, with the first year fully funded and the remaining two years receiving partial funding.

Links with Sudan

The parish has formed a link with the Yei Diocese, where our CMS partners, Derek and Jane Waller are working. This link with the region will encompass a wider commitment to prayer. The themed service and lunch, 'A Taste of Africa', was inspired by this idea and the committee helped plan the event which took place on 31st January 2016.

900 Minutes of Prayer

The committee helped plan the '900 Minutes of Prayer' at St George's which was part of the 2015 celebrations. Contributors from many different areas of Harnham life were asked to contribute to the day-long focus on prayer which took place on 4th July.

Christenings & Dedications

The committee considered the merits of offering a 'Dedication' or 'Thanksgiving' service to parents as well as the traditional christening, with the hope that this greater choice and flexibility would be better received by modern families. The wording of the christening service has now been updated to make it more accessible.

The alternative wording was used for the first time during the christening of Clara Stone on 6th September.

Church Welcome

Discussions concerning the welcome newcomers receive when entering our churches for the first time, led to changes at the Sunday morning services at All Saints. The main idea behind them was to relieve sidespersons of some of their workload so they had more time to welcome new people.

Into the Future

The committee's new 'year' of business will continue to concentrate on the Music Missioner; with partial funding in place, the remaining funds will need to be found so the full three years of this initiative can be realised. The committee will seek to address this issue and also provide support to the Missioner once they are in place.

Reaching out to the wider community with a new stewardship campaign will be another significant need which the committee will address in the coming year. After last year's exciting celebrations at St George's, the new-year brings with it a chance to consolidate and a renewed effort to improve the parish finances will be one manifestation of that focus.

Looking further into the future, we will again embrace the 'vision' side of our raison d'être, as we revisit the 'Mission Action Plan' (MAP) and consider what our parish will look like and its direction in the years to come.

Matthew Stone

Communications



Committee members:

Ian Davidson (Magazine) Charles Woodd (Church Links)
Revd Becky, David Stone, Jean Mercer, Linda Baker
(Admin)

Signage

The committee has agreed signage designs and wording to be produced by Sign Scott for both churches and for the hall car park. We are currently investigating council recommendations on planning permission as the boards are larger than 1.2 metres.

Welcome Pack

The committee has reviewed the pack and amended a majority of the contents. Church Links, who deliver the pack, will add an up-to-date magazine to the pack and a 'family' leaflet. New packs with the Parish Logo on will be available as soon as possible.

Parish Magazine

Many thanks to Ian, who continues to work hard to compile a very interesting magazine each month, and to print it ready for collation. Approximately 8 people are needed each month to collate the magazine. Many thanks to those who come along to help and to those people who drive the magazines to those who deliver them.

Our thanks have been expressed to Mary Harper who has stepped down from her many different roles linked to the magazine including organising the collation. She was given a large bouquet of flowers. Julian Jackson, who has stepped down from an important logistical role in the collation process, was thanked with a book token. Many thanks to Sandra Parker, who has taken on this role.

Thanks also to Grace Hickman who continues to collect the monies for the magazines.

NEEDED!

- Someone to organise the collation and manage the circulation/ subscription lists
- More collators are needed on one Tuesday of each month to aid this important job

This year there we have delivered approximately 315 magazines each month for personal subscriptions. We also deliver to our schools, the Social Club, the Library, Church House and to those who have had a christening, wedding or a bereavement. We have three new subscriptions at the beginning of 2016.

Christmas cards and Easter cards

Harnham Parish delivers over 3000 Christmas and Easter cards each year, in partnership with Harnham Free Church. Our thanks go to those who deliver them.

Church Links

Charles Woodd continues to lead our many Church Links who deliver christening and wedding anniversary cards, check up on neighbours and deliver magazines. See Church Links report.

Website, Facebook, Twitter

Our website has been live for one year. It continues to be updated by Linda, with new PDF files that can be used by baptism and wedding couples as well as our APCM documents. She has worked hard to update photos and on the upkeep of the online diary. Amendments are still being made. Some baptism and wedding couples have come prepared to meetings with downloads of forms from the website so we know the site is being used beneficially!

We had over 150 followers of the Saint George's 2015 Facebook page with messages and photos being posted about events- often seen by over 300 people. We are hoping that our Facebook community will continue to be engaged via the 2015 page which will be transferred into a Parish name. In 2016 year we have included information and pictures of the visits by the Sudanese bishops and the pancake party.

Revd Becky and Revd Heather continue to post on Twitter accounts with their comments, pictures and events often being retweeted by Archdeacon Alan Jeans and other congregations.

Streetlife website has also raised the profile of the church especially with practical activities such as donating recycled Christmas cards.

The Communications Committee.



St. George's 2015

Committee Members:

Neil Turpin, Linda Baker, Chris Baker, Nick Brown, George Mussellwhite, David Stone, William Alexander, Martin & Jane Filipe and Linda Carville.

St George's 2015 was, by any reckoning, a successful year. The aims during the planning stages were to engage with the community in which we are set, to put St George's 'on the map' and to seek to make "Salisbury's Best Kept

Secret" a little less secret! The range of events which were put on both in St George's and across the Parish and the numbers of people coming into the church, many for the first time, exceeded our expectations. The table (appendix 1) gives a breakdown of the events and a brief précis. The committee are extremely grateful to everyone who helped us to put on everything across the year, and for the enthusiasm with which members of the congregations and the wider community engaged in so many different events – without which our task would have been very much harder.

Neil Turpin, Chair

Other Church Groups



Looking back it has been a full and eventful year with quite a lot of involvement in the St George's 900th Anniversary Celebrations.

We also had 2 sessions with the Virtual Babies in Sarum Academy, the first in the Summer term with 24 girls taking part, and then in September when we actually had 3 boys wanting to share the experience along with 13 girls. We had the babies on our MU stall at the Church Fete and they were a great attraction and talking point.

In July we joined the Caravan cleaning team and 5 of us spent a very happy day down at Rockley Sands. Anyone can use the caravan when free. The calendar showing its availability is up on the notice board and I update it regularly. The money we raise from the coffee and cakes at the Card Sale in February goes towards helping families to have a much needed holiday who could not afford it.

Those of us who were able to visit the Diocesan Education Centre last July were very impressed both by its eco-friendly design and even more so by the wide range of courses it offers to schools and groups around the Diocese.

The Soup and Sweets Lunch in May was fun, eventful and a challenge! We had been asked to serve refreshments in the morning for the Great Dig and when the heavens opened about 11.30 we were inundated with drenched diggers needing hot drinks and at the same time early comers for the soup and sweets were pouring in! We reckoned we served 90 people with lunch. We also served refreshments for the flower arranging workshop and took part in the 900 minutes of Prayer.

In October it was a great joy to welcome Debbie Mussellwhite and Ruth Neame into full membership and also Jannie Redman and Gillie Baker who had come from other branches. Pam Goodman received her certificate for 60 years service! Then in December Margaret Downing fell and broke her hip and is now in Braemar Lodge and shortly after Christmas Celia Mercer died. She had been a member for many years.

So to this year. We are 121 years old this year, just 19 years younger than the MU itself, who are celebrating 140 years this year. Our branch was founded by Bishop Wordsworth in 1895 and has Hilda Moody's Mother's Certificate of 50 years service as proof, which she received in 1945!

The Committee felt it would be good to mark this year in different ways and I have discussed the various ideas with Becky.

1. Altar kneelers for St. George's
2. A 121st Tea party on June 23rd when we invite all past members plus the other branches in the Deanery and the Branch from Old Alresford.
3. Copying a Church in Somerset which celebrated its 800th centenary by challenging the congregation to perform 800 acts of kindness in the community. These were acts over and above one's normal kind deeds and something that all of us whatever age could do. So we will have a box at meetings with counters. For each deed a counter would be put in the box so it would be totally anonymous and no one needs to know what the deed was. It would be good to achieve 121 by the end of the year.

In September 2016 we will join with Mothers' Union members from all over the UK and beyond in Winchester Cathedral to celebrate 140 years of service.

Ann Howard, our Diocesan President has retired after 6 very demanding years of service. She has been a wonderfully encouraging, innovative and inspirational leader and we owe her a lot. Our new President is Rosie Stiven who lives in our Parish.

The theme for this year is the Celebration of Faith and the programme has been planned with that in mind. We do welcome any visitors to our meetings and all details are in the Parish magazine.

Katharine Callard - Branch Leader

Bible Study (Tuesday)

The Tuesday Bible Study Group meets weekly in the Church Meeting Room. Since the last APCM the group have decided to forgo the shared lunch and meet at 1pm for an informal Bible discussion over coffee. During Lent and Advent they follow a specific course and for the rest of the year they select a book of the Bible and share insights. There are currently 5 members and others are always welcome.



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 and when the preacher has kindly provided the sermon notes from the same day, that has also been discussed and found to be helpful.

Prayer Meetings

The Thursday morning Prayer Group continues to meet on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:45am in different members' houses. There are about 7 in the group and we pray both for the parish and worldwide concerns. We were sorry to lose Celia Mercer RIP this year.

Morning Prayer is said at 8am on a Tuesday in All Saints, and 9am on a Wednesday in St Georges. We pray with liturgy from the Daily Office. During Lent, the Tuesday Morning Prayer took place on the bus at the Junior School, and used a liturgy from the Iona Community.

Two evening Prayer Groups meet. One at Reverend Heather's house on a Tuesdays at 5pm, and we pray with Taizé music, scripture, silence and open prayer. On Wednesday evenings at 5pm, we meet at Canon David Slater's house and pray with a Celtic liturgy from the Northumbria Community.

At both Morning and Evening prayer there are usually between 3 and 5 people gathered. We would warmly welcome any who would like to join us at any of the prayer groups.

Revd. Heather

Pause for a Pint



Pause for a Pint...has been meeting on the first Wednesday of the month in the Oak Bar at the Rose & Crown Hotel (although from March 2016 this is moving to the second Wednesday). It is an opportunity for the men of the Parish to meet together over a drink; to chat socially; and to think about and mull over issues affecting the church, the neighbourhood and the world. We have discussed issues ranging from care for creation through to assisted dying; from silence to the place and point of the liturgy.

We are an open and honest group always willing listen to each other's views and opinions on a wide range of subjects and are very happy to welcome new members.

Neil Turpin, Co-ordinator

Coffee, Cake and Christ

Coffee, Cake and Christ meets weekly during term time to study the Bible in an informal home setting. In the spring and summer terms of 2014 we used a DVD from the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity entitled, "Fruitfulness on the Frontline," which helped us to see how we can be witnesses for Jesus Christ wherever our 'frontline' might be - at the bus stop, in the supermarket, at work, in our street, etc. The DVD was amusing, challenging and practical. In the autumn term we each had copies of a book by Whitney Kuniholm, "The Essential Question: How can I make a difference for God?" The book has daily Bible readings and comments from the Acts of the Apostles, then questions on the week's readings which we discussed when we met together. We've started this spring term 2016 with a series of four studies on the book of Ruth and, during Lent, will be doing five studies on themes from the Queen's Christmas speeches: Light and Darkness, Reconciliation, Reflection, Humble Service, and Hope. This is in collaboration with the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity who, along with Bible Society, are producing a variety of material, including a book, "The Servant Queen and the King she serves," to mark the Queen's 90th birthday.

Pam Pointer

Church Links

Three new Church Links have joined the team this year, enabling limited increased coverage, and the sharing of one large area. The challenge remains to find Links for the 18 roads that the scheme does not currently serve. This is not easy, as in principle we must identify people to take on the responsibility who live in the roads concerned. Please let me know if you think you may be able to help (or know someone who could).

Meanwhile, our 30 Church Links have gone about their business in a diligent and unassuming way, taking on wherever possible the delivery of Christmas and Easter cards in their roads, and calling on those celebrating baptism or wedding anniversaries, or marking the anniversary of a bereavement, with a card and good wishes from the parish. They have welcomed new residents with a copy of the parish's Welcome Pack (shortly to be available in an updated version), and they have also kept their eyes open for any residents with a church connection in their patch who might have a pastoral need, so that the Vicar and the parish's pastoral team can be alerted.

Six-monthly meetings have enabled us to share experience, and keep up to date with relevant developments. This year we have also reviewed our process for recruiting new Church Links and sharing personal information, so as to conform to the parish's safeguarding policy.

Charles Woodd - Church Links Co-ordinator.

All Saints is OPEN on Saturday mornings.

Since 2008 between 10am and 12noon on Saturday mornings, All Saints has welcomed visitors and regulars to a safe place each week offering 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 and most importantly our regulars from both our churches who enjoy being together and getting to know each other more.



Often they are joined by flower arrangers, church wardens and others in the church doing necessary tasks. There are so many reasons why over 200 people / each 3 month period have gone into All Saints on Saturday mornings. Donations are collected and put into PCC funds.

During the past few months either Revd. Becky or Revd. Heather 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 enquiring through the parish office.

Regular volunteers are involved with both the churches to be part of the wider Harnham community. A rota to ensure we can continue with this outreach is kept in All Saints.

To all who are very dedicated to keeping the church open on a Saturday morning, a huge THANK YOU - especially when I have twisted arms to fill gaps on the rota.

Jean Mercer

MUSIC REPORT

*Let every instrument be tuned for praise! Let all rejoice, who have a voice to raise!
And may God give us faith to sing always: Alleluia!*

Revd Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000) Methodist Minister and hymn writer

There was a request after last year's APCM for more appreciation of our Church music and so this year we have a music report. Music is an integral and important part of Anglican worship before, during and after the service. Please use it as an opportunity to pray and praise God.

There are few parishes that have five competent organists resident within their boundaries, who each have something extra to offer as well, and with other musicians in the background to call on when required. I would like to put on record my thanks to my organist colleagues for their willingness to be involved in our Churches in Harnham allowing me to have the occasional Sunday off!

William Alexander is not only an excellent organist (he has even been heard to play Widor's Toccata on the little single-manual organ at St. George's, which many people would say is impossible) but he is very knowledgeable about the technical side of organs and is always ready to do anything to help me keep them in good order. Malcolm Sturgess plays fairly often, more usually at St. George's. He brings his wide knowledge of hymnody and has also led a number of services from the lectern. Frances Howard plays the occasional Evensong and, when not playing, leads the congregation with her wonderful singing. During the last year she sang at a wedding, as a soloist, here in Harnham. The latest to join the team is Philippa Smart, who has wide experience of worship songs which she often plays after communion at All Saints and is more than welcome. Church organists everywhere put their Sunday duties first, making other social events more difficult - not dropping everything on a lovely sunny Sunday to go to the beach! For them a one-hour service takes near enough two hours, as they have to arrive just about first and leave just about last - except when dashing between churches! We owe them more than we realise.

And so to a review of the past year's music:

All Age Worship at All Saints on the first Sunday of the month has a mixture of traditional hymns and children's choruses - a favourite being 'Jesus' love is very wonderful.' Myself or William play the piano for this service.

St George's 2015 events brought a wide range of music.

In May, Revd Julian Poppleton led a service of Jazz Praise, with music provided by Howard Tranter and the Worship Band from St Michael's on Bemerton Heath joined by Andrew Fisher and Peter Evans. The theme of the service explored the Black American experience of slavery out of which many of the jazz gospel songs we know today came. It was poignant and joyful worship which attracted many people.

In July, Malcolm led an anniversary evensong at which we welcomed Revd Heather and Revd Dominic. A visiting choir of friends along with Julian and accompanied by Harry Brockway, sang an anthem and led the hymns.

In September, at an outdoor more informal service, hymns and songs were sung at the Pet Festival. These included the classic children's song 'I went to the Animal Fair' and 'All things Bright and Beautiful'.

Peter Evans played the cornet for the second year running at our Remembrance Sunday Service in St George's adding a poignancy to the Last Post and Reveille. Close Harmony were invited to lead the singing at the Remembrance Service held at Brympton.

At the Harnham Community Festival in November there was a variety of music and dancing on the Saturday evening and the following day Harnham Junior School choir, directed by Jon Bunn, had been invited to sing at our St G 2015 closing Thanksgiving Service. They brought joy and meaning to the service with an 'anthem' introduction to the Peace through the popular song 'Lean on me.' They also sang one of our favourites during communion 'Brother, sister, let me serve you.' Adam Filipe, who had performed along with four other young people at the St G 2015 event 'A Night of a Thousand Stars' was invited to return and sing 'Boi Doi' a song from the musical 'Miss Saigon' which speaks of the need to remember children around the world, especially after war.

December brought the regular carol singing at Harnham Croft, Brympton and Willowcroft and a new opportunity which was to sing carols at the Old Mill Hotel. This was led by Revd Heather and accompanied by myself on keyboard, Heather on clarinet, Clive Russell on trombone, Andrew Fisher on violin with Anthony Bird providing sound and technical. Some of our congregation members formed a small choir and a large number of people attended. We have been invited back for Harvest. This new venture is a vital part of the mission of our Parish.

Revd Julian organised the carol service which took place on a Tuesday evening this year and St. George's was packed. Five congregational carols were interwoven with choral pieces sung by a choir made up of many guests, including some returning from University. As usual they sang to a very high standard after just one afternoon's rehearsal together. Thank you to Libby Poppleton for accompanying the choir.

Each week, in our Church Hall, 'Singing for the Brain' is led by Gary Turner on behalf of the Alzheimer's Society and they also celebrated Christmas with a Carol Service in St George's.

There is much music that Salisbury offers. Harnham Parish offers not only music on a Sunday but also hosts practice time on All Saints organ for others who enjoy playing. The Mission and Vision Committee would like our Churches to be used more for musical concerts and so if you know of anyone who would like to perform please do let us know. Perhaps during 2016 we could also look outwards and take parties from our Churches to concerts by, among others, Salisbury Musical Society, Salisbury Orchestral Society, St. John Singers (founder/conductor John Powell's last concert is in July), or an organ recital in the Cathedral, etc. Look out for posters or in the Parish Magazine for details.

Ian Davidson

We are very fortunate to have Ian leading the team. Before you actually hear him playing on a Sunday he has spent time, amounting over the years to countless hours, preparing hymn lists and rotas, with careful consideration of the Liturgy and the Lectionary; he chairs meetings of the organists where duties are decided, slotting people in when they are not committed to the other village Parishes where they regularly play, and keeping them up to date with other developments. Ian plays at most of the Harnham Parish funerals and at weddings, sometimes for an extended time as we await the bride's arrival! Ian has also led occasional community music including Christmas Services for groups such as Puddleducks and the Uniformed Organisations, and carols at the Old Mill Hotel. He co-ordinates the organ tuning and attends the Worship Committee. We thank him for his continued loyalty and hard work.

Revd Becky

Curate's Report

I am very grateful to have the opportunity to serve my curacy in Harnham. It was wonderful that so many of you were able to be at my ordination to the diaconate last June, and thank you for the welcome Dominic and I have received here. I am particularly thankful to Reverend Becky for her encouragement and guidance, and to Linda and the whole parish for all their support.

I value deeply the opportunity to pray with others in the prayer groups that meet in the parish. Liturgically I enjoy deaconing at the Eucharist, as well as preaching. I have also had the privilege of conducting baptisms, funerals and burial of ashes.

I have been regularly visiting St George's Toddlers to support the link between the church and the toddler group, and contributing to the end of term services for the toddlers. I also now visit Harnham Infant School to take year group assemblies, and hope to strengthen our link there.

A fan of ale and singing, one of my highlights was organising Beer and Carols at the Old Mill in Advent. There was a fantastic atmosphere and a very positive response from the Old Mill. Thanks to the musicians, and all who came along to sing. I hope we can do similar events again.

Diocesan wide I was approached about becoming a 'Young Vocations Champion,' working mainly in secondary schools and sixth forms within the Salisbury Deanery. I have begun shadowing some of the current work, and will be more involved from September.

Having lived in a house of hospitality for people with learning disabilities while in Cambridge, I have been exploring links with Alabaré and am hoping to be a volunteer chaplain with them at one of their supported living houses for people with learning disabilities here in Harnham.

In November I was invited to attend three days of 'Shared Conversations' around human sexuality, with a group of clergy and laity from Salisbury, Winchester and Portsmouth Dioceses. These conversations include people of different viewpoints and are taking place across the Church of England to think about how the church responds to changes in our culture regarding human sexuality.

Within the diocese, I regularly attend training for curates (IME), and had the wonderful opportunity of going on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with curates from across this diocese in January. It has brought alive reading scripture in a new way for me, and given many seeds for reflection. Part of our trip also included meeting those who live in the Holy Land and hearing their stories of life there today, which was incredibly moving. I incorporated some reflections from the Holy Land into the Parish quiet day that I led at St Nicholas' hospital in March.

The ordinations to the priesthood in this diocese are taking place on Saturday 25th June at 4:30pm, at the cathedral. All being well, God (and the Bishop!) willing, Dominic and I will be among those priested, and we would like to invite you all to join us for this very special occasion. I look forward to continuing to serve in this parish.

Revd Heather Leppard

Assistant Priest

It has continued to be a great blessing to be part of the worshipping community at Harnham, supporting both Libby and me and in my School Chaplaincy at King Edward VI Southampton. It is very enriching to receive the inspiration and encouragement from Becky and Heather, and to have the prayerful support of the congregation. I find sharing the sacrament aspect of our shared life very valuable, be it as celebrant or as a member of the congregation.

School ministry remains a fascinating area to be in. In a multi-faith and multicultural school I try to be aware of many different traditions, beliefs and sensitivities whilst being a faithful witness for the Gospel. The whole community is my responsibility whatever their background, and so, in a fundamentally Anglican way, I try to support everyone in their spiritual lives and in whatever pastoral way is sought and welcomed.

I have the opportunity to speak to the school community regularly in assemblies and periodic services to mark significant moments in our school or public calendar. The rise of sectarian violence and distrust is a backdrop to our own diverse community. Thankfully, we are a cohesive and tolerant body and this is actively promoted. The government's reaction to some issues in schools and the threat to society have meant we have had to work with new requirements for safeguarding and protection. The Prevent programme places a requirement on schools to be vigilant for signs of extremism and intolerance; the promotion of British Values is obligatory, though there seems a legitimate question over what they are and if Britain has the monopoly of ethical behaviour – I think some of our neighbours and allies might reasonably question that assertion. A further change is the abandonment of all the Religious Studies examination syllabi and their hurried, and as yet incomplete redesign – with a view to teaching these GCSE and A level courses in September. It is interesting that Christianity is still held to be the prevailing cultural norm in these deliberations despite media reports of its demise.

As a school, we promote freedom, tolerance, service and community - the fundamentals of the inherent worth of all human beings - and I make very explicit connections with how this is core to the Christian faith. Of course, whilst differently expressed, very much the same is found in other faith traditions and it is good that members of those within the school are happy to share a platform or occasion to say so.

I was lucky enough to share in a number of really wonderful experiences through school this year and these offered chances to witness the development of the children and to walk alongside them. Camping with a hundred and forty twelve year olds in the New Forest was great fun, but threw up an interesting challenge with a pupil endeavouring to maintain the Ramadan fast while away from home. I was pleased to be able to support the child and staff when this became a health and pastoral issue. Again I worked with a team of sixth formers and staff in giving young carers a little summer holiday and respite from their responsibilities. Some of their stories and circumstances are most distressing. I was privileged to take the school exchange to North Carolina once again, arriving just in time for Halloween. I think it fair to say this has lost much association with remembering the faithful and saints. My hosts gave me a rich range of experiences, including attending a Black American Baptist church and visiting the home of Billy Graham. The children opted to forego some of the excesses of Halloween in order to immerse themselves in the Bar Mitzvah of one of their exchange partners. Experiencing an American Football game as the team edged towards the finals and in the run up to Veterans' day gave real insight to the very different culture of the US to ours.

Routine work at school involves supporting staff and children in meeting the challenges and pressures of a demanding and highly successful educational establishment. With a new part-time contract, I have been able to reduce the amount of formal teaching and increase pastoral time and

to be involved in projects across the curriculum and all year groups. I have accompanied science trips and visits to cathedrals and other places of worship.

The personal and spiritual anxieties and joys of student and staff also are the diet of each week. I am pleased that a number of staff and students are confident about their faith and are happy to lead and speak at events and services. I spend time in supporting staff running the CU and in building relationships with the Prep school, taking Sixth form students to help at the nursery Forest School every week, and leading assemblies at key points in the year. Harvest, Christmas and Easter are great opportunities to involve the children and communicate key ideas and stories from the Gospel. In March it was a very great pleasure to welcome Bishop David Stancliffe to preach at our service of Thanksgiving, held in Winchester Cathedral. I am pleased the governors and Head Master value the Christian heritage and foundation such that the disruption and very considerable cost of this event is gladly met every three years.

I was pleased to devise the Carol services for the prep school and for King Edward's, both held in the beautiful setting of Romsey Abbey. Supporting South Wilts Grammar School in a similar way has become an unofficial extension of my work. It has had the benefit of drawing many youngsters into the Harnham fold through the annual Parish Carol Service; something both Libby and I value doing and that generates a lot of interest from those youngsters who don't want to miss out even though they have left home.

Being able to share in the life of the parish is important as a chaplain's ministry to his Head and community can be a lonely one. Attending a Chaplaincy conference in Liverpool was encouraging and challenging. Connecting with the faithful rhythm of the parish's witness and discipleship is core. I was delighted to make a small contribution to the St George's celebrations, especially during the concluding weekend worship. Equally, marking Christmas and events like Sudan Sunday alongside Becky, Heather and the team is a powerful and sustaining experience for which I am grateful.

Revd. Julian Poppleton Associate Priest