



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

Wednesday 3rd May 2017

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

We would like to thank all those who help in the smooth running of the church; without your support and help it would make our job so much harder. We really appreciate that everybody is so willing to give a hand.

During the year there have been 2 weddings, 19 baptisms, 5 funerals, 7 burials of ashes and 2 memorial services. There have also been a greater variety of services. We started with the patronal festival, then to the pet service which was shared with All Saints and then Harvest. We would like to thank Peter Evans for playing the last post at the Remembrance Day service, it is always a moving experience. During Advent there were a variety of carol services: Puddleducks, the Scouts, Brownies and Guides. The Alzheimers Society also held their "Singing for the Brain" annual service here.

We joined with All Saints to form a scratch choir for Harvest, "Cider and Hymns" at the Old Mill and again during Advent where along with carols we indulged in mince pies and mulled wine. The yew tree by the church door was useful this Christmas as passers-by and members of the congregation could write a memory or a prayer on a star and then hang them from the branches. All of them were used, quite a few by people who did not attend church.

The church was kept open during two weeks in February so that people of the parish could come in, sign the memorial book for Amelia, say a prayer and light a candle. Everyday somebody came and were grateful that we were there.

We regularly check the churchyard for dead flowers and objects that the regulations do not allow. Unfortunately during January and February the area around the bins became a little untidy due to our refuse bin going missing. This took several weeks to replace. Now however we are catching up with the detritus that had been left.

The congregation numbers remain constant between 40 and 60 and a similar number for joint services in the church hall.

Val Overton and Helen Evans - Churchwardens

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.

Julia Woodford is now a Chalice Assistant and we welcome Debbie Orriss as a reader. David Callard is now on the flower rota, Marina Carr is available to help with Sunday coffee and Sue Reeder collates and banks the collections. Thank you for coming forward to help. Peter & Jannie Redman stood down as sidepersons from July, and David & Anne Paterson wish to stand down as sidepersons at the end of April. Pat Sansome no longer does the flowers and Doreen Cartlidge decided to leave the purificator rota from January. Thank you all for all your service to All Saints.

Worship & Outreach

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

- There have been 11 baptisms, 1 wedding blessing, 1 wedding, 7 funerals, 5 burials and 2 burials of ashes this year.

- The May 2014 pattern of services has continued, with variations including Lenten Talks, a Rogationtide Evensong and an Advent Carol Service.
- By opening for Coffee on Saturday mornings we are gradually attracting people to 'drop – in' for a chat. However, more volunteers are needed. It was open for the Wiltshire Historic Churches Ride & Stride in September and remains available for learners to practice the Organ.
- By planning the means to make it suitable as a community venue in future.
- Thank you to the Revd Becky for her ministry with us and to Revd Julian and Revd Heather for supporting her. Also, we thank all the 'retired' clergy who help Becky in her work here; we could not what we do without you.

Church and Churchyard

The break-in on 19th March 2016 caused over £1000 worth of damage to 2 windows and also to the Vestry screen. Jane Greenaway has produced a revised and indexed Graveyard Register and a detailed re-survey of the churchyard is planned to identify any vacant burial plots. We have also re-drafted the Terrier. Following advice from the insurers the porch has remained locked since 11th March 2016. There have been 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.
- Researching the costs of a multi-media sound system.
- Enforcing the Churchyard Regulations.
- Arranging for the annual cut of the churchyard in January (with additional work funded by Isabel Waters).

Robert Salkeld, Jane Greenaway - Churchwardens

PCC Committee Reports

Church Hall and Re-development

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

At our first meeting in July 2016 we used a SWOT Analysis and we walked round the building and the outside area. We discussed the needs of all the Hall User Groups.

Chris King produced a plan of the proposed Church Hall Development with two elevations. We refined our plans over approx. five meetings and via email. PCC have given approval to the plans.

We talked through the plans with the Hall Users in Jan 2017 and have asked them to declutter the storeroom, look for other storage areas and asked each group to raise approximately £200 towards the project.

Revd Becky, Jane Greenaway and Linda Baker met with the treasurer, Michael Fisher, to discuss a realistic figure for the initial re-development "pot" to get the project moving. Figures would include quotes from a Quantity Surveyor and Chris King, the Planning Application fee, initial technical drawings and Building Regulations. The Treasurer discussed the restricted funds that may be available, charitable status, trustees, whether the bank could provide matched funding like Barclays. He would contact the diocese to seek their advice on the way forward with restricted funds.

Plans were sent (Mid January) to a Quantity Surveyor with the ultimate goal of obtaining a "Ball Park Figure" for the work to the hall. We have a figure but we still need to include redecoration of hall, materials, removal of asbestos, roof and kitchen fittings.

The committee is now working on the "Vision" of this project. How are we to sell this project to the community, it's more than just a building project? The effect it will have on the community, how we are providing for the future? At the same time we will be seeking Planning Permission and starting work on preparing some of the grant applications.

Once we have Planning Permission we will then need to produce detailed Technical Drawings to submit to Building Regulations and with these detailed plans we can then seek quotes from local builders. With these figures we can then finish off our grant claims.

The project has started but there is still a lot to do and it will be a while yet before actual building work begins. In the meantime the re-development committee are in effect the old Hall committee and Linda and Jane are dealing with matters as they arise.

Jane Greenaway and Linda Baker

Property Committee

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

Change to the scope of the Committee's responsibilities

- Church Hall – This building has ceased to be the responsibility of the Property Committee of the PCC following the establishment of the Church Hall Project Committee to control the possible re-building of the Hall. As a consequence Linda Baker has left the Committee this year.

Works not proceeded with during 2016-7

- St. George's - Bollards – It has been found that the legal problems to be overcome before the PCC could take physical control of the parking spaces are virtually insurmountable, so the plan to put in new bollards has been abandoned.
- St. George's - The works to the boiler-room flat roof called for in the 2015 Quinquennial Inspection were found to be unnecessary.

Works Completed During 2016-7

- All Saints' – Repairs to two plain lead-glazed windows and the Vestry Screen following the break-in of the 19th March. Less the policy excess, these works were paid for by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Works in hand during 2016 -7

- St. George's – Treatment of Carpet Moth.

Other Works likely to take place during 2017 and thereafter

- General – Maintenance and minor repairs to both churches 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 – The copper-staining of the window stonework highlighted in the 2015 Quinquennial Report will be kept under review.
- All Saints' – Additional double-glazing and new cupboards in the Vestry to improve security and help turn the Vestry into a venue for meetings.
- All Saints' – Implementation of minor works to window vents, tool shed, front boundary wall, down-pipe hoppers and some ironwork highlighted in the 2014 Quinquennial Report. In the longer term some stonework repairs will be needed.

At the PCC on 18th January 2017 the Treasurer presented a document in which he stated that Restricted Funds could be used both for the works in the Vestry at All Saints and confirmed that other funds are still available to carry out any legislative, statutory, health & safety or emergency items works and that any planned maintenance tasks and that 'ad-hoc' events generally can still be considered for any built asset up to an annual budget value of £5k.

The repair of the degraded patches of the surfacing of the shared portion of Watersmeet Road was carried out by the Contractor during the summer.

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

Worship Committee

Committee: Revd Becky, Revd Heather, Revd Julian, William Alexander, Val Overton, Revd Penny Furby, Sister Theresa Mary, Jacqui Brown, Matthew Stone, Ian Davidson and Neil Turpin.

Seasonal Service Booklets

Since the last APCM the Worship Committee have discussed and introduced Seasonal Service Booklets. The first one was for Advent and subsequently we have produced one for Lent. A service booklet for Ordinary Time with the new Parish Logo has also been printed. Booklets have been produced professionally.

Services/Events

All Services are reviewed by the Worship Committee and notes made for future services. Harvest, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas had the usual services but more effort was made to involve other groups and people in the parish.

All Age Worship continues at All Saints on the first Sunday to which young families and those attending Messy Church are invited.

New services/events tried included:

- A Healing Service on 18th October. A moving service as we all gathered around Derek and Jane Waller to pray for them and South Sudan. Prayer and anointing was offered in the Trinity Chapel.
- Taize Services.
- Cider and Harvest Hymns.
- Advent Carol Service

At the time of writing this report plans were being made for Holy Week and Easter and where possible involving the families that attend Messy Church.

Icon

The Worship Committee have been organising an Icon of St. George for the Parish. The Iconographer has prepared the board and painting is underway. He will finish off in St. George's later this year, when warmer and lighter, so children from the Junior School can be involved. A donation has been received for an Icon Stand and the Churchwardens at St. George's are organising an Afternoon Tea to promote donations towards the Icon.

Linda Baker and Ian Davidson

Churches Together/Deanery Synod

Representatives: Joanna Woodd, Jane Pelly and Sue Reeder.

Salisbury Churches together is comprised of 32 Christian Churches representing the whole spectrum - exclusivism, inclusivism and pluralism, and we meet in each other's churches four times a year. Over the year considerable work has been carried out updating the website, and this remains ongoing.

Highlights

- Queen's Birthday Celebration, there was a beautiful Evensong on Saturday June 11th in the Cathedral. The close was available for everyone to use and enjoy, marking this occasion.
- Salisbury Churches 'Prayer Market' this was a call to all the Churches to come together and pray. They first gathered on 9th October with John Glenn MP at Wyvern College.
- The Rough Sleepers' initiative proved successful raising £500 in 2015, and the initiative was repeated during winter 2016.
- Carol singing this year took place on the steps of the Guildhall with the Salvation Army band providing the music. Cards with presents were given out alongside Gideon Bibles.

Progress reports: -

- The Salisbury Cinnamon Network is slowly gathering information, and eventually there will be data detailing any duplication or gaps in the churches' outreach work into the communities. However more work is needed, but this is a useful tool for when applying for grants. In Salisbury during the year 2015, 167 projects were counted, with 16,871 beneficiary interactions, through the hard work of 1,284 volunteer roles and valued at £1.3 million all being provided by faith groups.
- Youth Camps, the South West Youth Ministry is very keen to organise camps in south Wiltshire. Wiltshire Council only has 7 youth workers for the whole of the County, so more is required from churches and voluntary organisation to meet the needs of the youth in the County.
- The Old Sarum Initiative has progressed with a business plan, a house found and finances looking positive.
- The Syrian Refugee families in Salisbury have been supported by Alabare along with the Churches, and other voluntary organisations. This is demanding, long term work, and more volunteers are required. Training and support is provided.

On-Going Events

- The mobile Fairtrade stall at the Methodist Church is open weekly.
- Ride and Stride in September continues to go from strength to strength.
- Christian Aid continues to need volunteers and the support from all the churches.
- Congregational exchanges took place on 22nd January 2017.
- Good Friday procession 14th April 2017.

New Initiatives

- Dementia Friends Churches. Wiltshire Council is only able to offer a reduced service for those suffering from dementia, so it is going to fall to voluntary groups, including the churches to provide care/advice for such members of our communities. It is proposed there is a named person for each church.
- Thy Kingdom Come. The invitation from Archbishop Justin Welby to Anglicans has now grown into a global prayer movement, inviting all Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Future Events

- AGM will be held in on 7th June at Colourview.
- May Mayor-making.

Joanna Woodd

Youth and Children:

Messy Church



We continue to meet eleven months of the year either as a Messy Church or by being present at an event e.g. Church fete in June and the Pet Service. The meeting times remain from 3.00 – 5.00pm on the second Sunday in each month using the Church Hall. Part of this is now spent in St. George's church for a time of celebration and worship.

The families enjoy games, crafts and songs all relating to Godly Play. Godly play is a creative and imaginative approach to Christian nurture, it uses a curriculum of Bible stories, with a focus on symbols and objects as well as words. The way the story is told values openness and discovery and encourages people to make meaning for themselves. It invites listeners into the Bible stories and encourages them to connect the stories with personal experience. This new format was started in January this year and to date we have explored: Creation; The Flood and the Ark, as well as The Great Family. It is very thought provoking for both adults and children.

If anyone would like to see how this is done, the parish has a Complete Guide to Godly Play. It can also be found and seen on www.livingthegoodnews.com or by using Google or YouTube and typing in 'Godly Play'.

We have got to know our regular families better over the last year and they are often joined by additional family members - grandparents, other family members and friends who are visiting. It is their choice of worship for those who come to Messy Church.

Everyone enjoys eating tea together before going home which is really appreciated and provided by a different team of volunteers who take it in turns to prepare and serve it and of course the more help the better. So a big 'thank you' to all who help.

Revd Becky and Revd Heather lead Harnham Messy Church alternately and we are blessed to still have a committed few to ensure Messy Church continues to grow.

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 in Harnham and something you could get involved with perhaps through prayer, preparing activities at home (eg. cutting out), providing occasional cake / sandwiches or join in with the fun and learning when you can, please talk to Jean Mercer at All Saints or Katharine Callard at St. George's.

Jean Mercer

Harnham Junior School

Our **School Community** at present consists of 333 Children in 12 Classes, 17 Teachers, 14 Teaching Assistants, 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. Revd Becky as Vicar is the ex-officio Foundation Governor.

Ofsted, SIAMS and Academic Achievement. This year the School received an Ofsted inspection in June and a SIAMS inspection in September.

The Ofsted inspectors found that the school continued to be a **Good** school. They considered that the school leadership maintained a good quality of education and that they found the school to be a joyful place where pupils behave sensibly and are eager to participate in the interesting activities that await them.

The SIAMS inspection also rated the school as a **Good** school under the new SIAMS rules, a disappointing fall from a previous Outstanding under the previous rules. The inspector praised all that he saw at the school and recognised that the school's character is shaped by its Christian values, but still felt unable to maintain its Outstanding position. This decision was very disappointing as it appeared to overlook the considerable work that had been put in by staff and Revd Becky. A later post-inspection meeting in December allowed the school leadership and governors to express honest and constructive comments on the inspection.

Progress and achievement remains, as always, a focus for us all. Examples below are from the year ending July 2016 and indicate just some of the success the school has achieved and has reason to celebrate.

- Attainment for Maths was 72% at the end of Key stage 2. Above the national percentage.
- Attainment for Writing was 94% well above the national percentage of 74%.
- 83% of disadvantaged learners made the progress expected.

The Purple Bus continues as a focus for numerous activities both for the Juniors and Puddleducks. The children also celebrated the Queen's 90th Birthday with a garden party.

Residential visits to New Barn and Osmington Bay continue as important development 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 continues to enjoy a full sporting life taking part in numerous away events. At the 2016 School's Mini Marathon Harnham Juniors were placed 1st in the under 9 boys and 2nd in the under 9 girls. The school

also took advantage of a visit from Bath Rugby Club coaches to introduce and hone rugby skills in the children.

For the BBC Children in Need Appeal a choir from Years 5 & 6 joined with children from other schools in the area to form a Children in Need Choir that then broadcast on the day of the appeal.

The School and our Church community. On September 28th and 29th it was planned that each year group should celebrate Harvest at All Saints' Church; unfortunately it was only possible to hold services on the 28th as the weather intervened and the service for the 29th was held at the School. The children once again celebrated Harvest by supporting the Trussell Trust with gifts of food.

On the 19th October the School Choir visited Brympton for their Harvest Songs of Praise, where they were warmly welcomed and gave much pleasure.

During Advent the Posada figures once more visited the school and were entertained by each class. The School Carol Service at St. Thomas' was again a memorable occasion with impressive reading from the children and notable performances by the School Choir. This popular occasion always pack this large church and staff and children always seem to make this regular event different each year.

This brief Newsletter has, rightfully, noted the many positive recollections of the past twelve months; however, these recollections would be incomplete if we did not mention the recent sad loss of a much loved pupil after a long illness. The staff and Revd Becky, in her pastoral role to the school, worked closely to maintain an atmosphere of normality whilst supporting and allowing the opportunity for the children to express their feelings. St. George's was kept open on between 3.00 – 5.00pm for a number of days to allow children and parents to remember their friend and light a candle. Your Foundation Governors were privileged to be present when the staff visited - a moving experience.

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

3B's and St. George's Toddlers

After a slow beginning with numbers dropping it was decided to change the meeting time for 3B's from afternoon to morning. This has led to an increase in numbers and the group is becoming more popular. St. George's has grown and Wednesday mornings are quite hectic and full of fun. We have an average of 12/15 adults and 30/40 children.

There are activities for the children which are often linked to festivals. We have attended St. George's church three times for a short service.

At the beginning of this year we increased weekly donations to £1.50 to cover rent payments and to enable us to continue with the healthy snacks that we provide for the children.

Both groups have led to parents/carers receiving support, and meeting each other for more child based activities.

Thanks go to Revd Heather for her continued support, Paula and Sarah for their artistic and storage skills and the ladies from Mothers Union who help to provide very welcome hot drinks on cold mornings.

Irene Wells

Social Committee

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

An African lunch took place in January and our task for this event was to serve coffee and tea in the meeting room after the church service at St. George's Church. This went well with lovely food, a most unusual meal, and much enjoyed by all.

Next event was Shrove Tuesday which everyone seemed to much appreciate.

St. George's lunch was a success with the added celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday which we celebrated with a toast to the Queen.

In May the Rogation Walk took place after the morning service at St. Georges, and ending at All Saints' for tea and cake before an early Evensong service held at the church and led by Neil.

At the Sudan garden party, Tony Mercer ran a game he had made which involved wooden spinning tops.

In June, after Revd Heather's first communion service, we celebrated with a ploughman's lunch and chocolate brownies (especially requested by Heather) in the Church Hall. This event went well and was enjoyed by everyone. Also in June the social Committee provided the teas at the Fete which was, as usual, very busy from the catering point of view.

September found us providing teas for the Pet Festival. Lots of people to cater for, so very busy.

The Harvest Lunch was a faith lunch. It is always amazing how well bring and share lunches seem to go with plenty of different kinds of food for everyone to enjoy.

All Saints' Patronal Lunch in the Memorial Hall in October was a great success because Richard Amey from Sarum College was asked to make the main course with others making the puddings. We sold tickets for this event which cost £8 per head. Very good value we all felt especially as we didn't have to do some of the washing up!!

No Christmas Social this year.

The Christmas Carol service was held on 22nd December; the Social Committee provided mini mince pies and small stollens which seemed to go down well though we had over catered – always difficult to know how many people to cater for!

Shrove Tuesday was great fun with lots of pancakes, wine and soft drinks that was attended by over 50 people. The Events Committee decided that a speaker would be a change from the usual format and found "Jeff the Chef", who had many amusing tales to tell while demonstrating how to jazz up pancakes. He suggested different fillings, coating them in breadcrumbs with a fruit filling, also making stack of small pancakes layered with chicken, cheese and ham in a ramekin with cream and baked which all looked very inviting. Donations went to Wiltshire Air Ambulance after expenses were taken out.

Josa Snow

Mission and Vision Committee

Committee Members: Revd Becky, Revd Heather, Linda Baker, Matthew Stone, Jane Greenaway, Jane Pelly, Joanna Woodd, David Paterson and Revd Penny Furby.

Music Missioner

Following the APCM 2016, preparations were made to advertise the post of Music Missioner. Interviews were held on Wednesday 29th June.

Revd Becky and selection panel were very pleased with the interview day even though no one was selected. It brought together different parts of the community. Both candidates were musically trained but were less able to voice their Christian faith. Plans to repeat the process and advertise again are being made for later this year.

What Makes Churches Grow

Using a powerpoint presentation and handouts, Matthew Stone showed what he had learnt from reading "What Makes Churches Grow" - a prophetic and inspiration handbook by church growth expert Bob Jackson. Matthew showed us how the author explored a variety of growing churches to identify what is making the difference between them and churches which are static or declining.

Stewardship Campaign

During the Autumn the group organised a Stewardship Campaign among the congregation and those on the Electoral Role. The talks by different church members, which took place during the main Sunday services, as to why they gave to their church were very moving and provoked thought. The wider community would be the next stage. At the time of writing this report, the outcome of the campaign was not known.

Away Giving

We discussed away giving and agreed the charities we contributed to were widespread covering evangelism, service and mission. We currently divide our Away Giving between Church Army (Evangelistic), Church Urban Fund (Poverty), Church Mission Society charity (Evangelistic and our Mission Partners), and the Bridge Project (youth). Articles on each were written by different committee members for the parish magazine.

Mission and Vision Days.

The Group discussed the need for a Vision Day this year, the growth and decline in our churches in line with Matthew's presentation of Church Growth. We named specific areas of growth in our congregations as those who have been bereaved and those who attend Messy Church. We recognised the fact that we need to be more focussed on families. We discussed the decline in numbers at All Saints, recognising that the older members of the congregation are leaving.

We also discussed how to reach new people and the changes that may be needed in order for this to happen. Some ideas were social outreach to the vulnerable, praying on the streets, ensuring that a family communion was at an appropriate time for families and that a Messy Church outreach took place at least once a month. The committee were asked to think of questions that the congregations could consider that would enable growth. This is still an item under discussion.

Linda Baker and Jane Greenaway

Events Committee

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

The events committee was formed in October 2016 to build on the successes of St. George's 2015. Our remit is to:

- 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.
- Seek to involve new people.
- Raise funds for the church.

Our first event was Beer and Carols at the Old Mill. Now in its second year, over 90 people attended from both the church and local community. The event was good fun and a great success; thanks to the comperes for the night – Anthony Bird, Jane Greenaway and Keith White; and thank you to Ian Davidson and all the musicians. £181.43 was raised, and divided between the church and the DEC Yemen appeal.

In January we held a Curry and Quiz night in the Church Hall. There were 11 teams entered, again drawn from both the churches, and the wider community. Thank you to Linda Baker and family for the quiz, and to all who helped out on the night. A fantastic £400 was raised for the church.

In February, we worked with the Social Committee, to organise a guest speaker for the pancake evening this year. "Jeff the Chef" came and gave a cookery demonstration, which went down well, and £150 was raised for Wiltshire Air Ambulance. Thank you to all who worked to make the evening a success.

The fete this year will be on Saturday 17th June, 2.00-5.00pm, and the Pet Festival will be on Sunday 3rd September. Please do save the dates!

Revd Heather

Other Church Groups



Last year was a very special year as our branch celebrated 121 years of service to this parish, and the Movement had reached 140 years of age. Both celebrations were memorable in their different ways. The Archbishop of Canterbury presided at the Service in Winchester Cathedral and a wonderfully joyful choir from Zambia led the singing! Thirteen of us went, joining a congregation from across the world. Our own celebrations in June were also a very happy occasion with several of our indoor members joining us as well as our Diocesan President for a service followed by songs to illustrate the development of the Mothers' Union over those past 121 years. Lots of memories were shared over tea and when browsing through the photos and memorabilia.

We had some very interesting speakers through the year. Simon Wilkinson inspired us to practise the prayer of silence, Heather Leppard shared with us her experiences of Taize and its influence on young people. We gave the red stole we had made for her ordination. David Baker wowed us with tales of his great, great grandmother Lady Florence Baker. We learnt more about Sudan and were very moved by Jenny Collings' talk about her work as a hippotherapist in Riding for the Disabled. Finally Nabbo Ghauri told us about her branch of Islam which takes as its motto "Love everyone, Hate No one".

At the Card Coffee mornings we raised £145 for the Holiday Fund, and £150 for the Women's Refuge. The Soup and Sweets lunch made £260 for Overseas work.

5 of us cleaned the mobile home in Poole in July taking a welcome food parcel for the family due in later that day. 2 members served refreshments at the Harnham Schools Christmas Fair, and a team ran the Virtual Baby project in Sarum Academy during the Autumn term. The Court House Cafe is much appreciated by all who attend the Law Courts.

Plans are going ahead for the making of 3 altar kneelers for St. George's. We are just awaiting permission to go ahead.

I have completed my 6 years as leader and sadly no one feels they can take on this role so we are going to be a committee run branch with different members taking the meetings and being responsible for the various areas of branch life. I will continue to act as co-ordinator and the link with Church and Deanery.

Katharine Callard - Branch Leader

Bible Study (Tuesday)

The Tuesday Bible Study group meets weekly in the Meeting Room at 1pm. (On Magazine Collation Day at 116 Harnham Road). 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 also has a monthly Evensong with hymns. 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 is said at 8.00am on a Tuesday in All Saints', and at 8.00am on a Wednesday in

St. George's. We pray with liturgy from the Franciscan Daily Office. Attendance at these has remained strong with a core group of regulars, as well as those who join us occasionally. There are usually up to 5 people gathered on any morning, and we would warmly welcome any who would like to join us.

Two evening prayer groups met for much of 2016. One at Revd Heather's house on a Tuesday at 5.00pm, where we prayed with Taizé music, scripture, silence and open prayer. The other on a Wednesday evening at 5.00pm, at Canon David Slater's house, where a Celtic liturgy from the Northumbria Community was used. These offered a valued quiet space towards the end of the day. However, both groups are currently taking a break for 2017. We would be open to looking at restarting them if there is sufficient interest, perhaps on a different day, and new locations may need to be found.

Revd Heather

Pause for a Pint - Harnham Parish Men's Group

During Lent 2014, one of the Lent group options was a weekly meeting for the men of the parish which was intended to be a 'low-key' pause for thought over a pint. It met in the Oak Bar at the Rose & Crown on Harnham Road.



As Lent drew to a close, the group agreed that it would be good to continue to meet and so the monthly "Pause for a Pint" discussion group was formed and has continued since. We now meet at 8pm on the second Wednesday of each month in the Oak Bar. The format of the meetings tends to be 30-40 minutes of catching up with each other's news – sharing the highs and lows of working and/or retired life – after which one of our group introduces a main stream or 'curved-ball' theme for our discussion; some have been directly related to the life of the church and others have been more around a Christian approach to a topical issue. So, for example, we have looked at subjects as diverse as death and dying, prayer, spirituality and Brexit. As a group we bring different skills, life experience, church experience, churchmanship and theological leanings to the discussions. And our calendar year has, for the last three years, been rounded off with a Christmas meal together in a local hostelry!

Our numbers have fluctuated from as few as two and up to ten; new regular, occasional or infrequent members would always be made welcome.

For more details please speak to me or email buglestreetneil@hotmail.co.uk

Neil Turpin

Coffee, Cake and Christ

Coffee, Cake and Christ is a women's Bible study home group that meets weekly during term time. In summer 2016 it reached its 10th birthday with more than half the members having been there since the start. The group meets in the parish, but members come from four different churches in the area. Recent studies have included the following subjects: Jesus and prayer, The joy of hymn writers, and The God of all comfort. The group is at full capacity at the moment but please contact Pam Pointer if you would like to find out more about Coffee, Cake and Christ please email: pampointer26@yahoo.co.uk

Pam Pointer

Church Links Report

The Church Links scheme has continued very much as before this year, though with some changes of personnel. We were very sad to lose Mary Poynton, who died last autumn. Felicity Snelling stepped down after many years, while Jill and Rita Jacob joined the team. We are very grateful to them, and to all the current 28 Links for continuing to carry out their responsibilities in a diligent yet unassuming way.

Wherever possible, Links take on the delivery of Christmas and Easter cards in their roads, and call 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 updated and expanded Welcome Pack - incidentally, if you know of a new resident who might appreciate a pack, do let me know. 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.

At the same time, we have realised that there will be variation in what can be expected of individual Links according to each person's circumstances and the nature of their patch - but ultimately, a Link in place is better than no Link!

We still face a major challenge in finding Links for the 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).

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.

Saturday Morning Coffee Report



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, Revd Heather or Linda Baker have 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 and looking at the website.

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 everything that has breath praise the Lord. (Psalm 150)

This is a somewhat shorter report than last year's but no less musical events and opportunities took place most of which required participation by one of the music team. William Alexander, Malcolm Sturgess, Frances Howard and Philippa Smart again helped me by playing on some of these occasions. In April 2016 Philippa decided that she could no longer make a regular commitment to help so a special thanks to her for what she has done. Of the 113 Sunday services in 2016, 30% were played for by this group. My grateful thanks to William, Malcolm and Frances for their continued support.

William and myself attend Worship Committee meetings at which all aspects of worship in the parish are discussed.

So to highlight a few things:

A new venture was the Taizé service held at St. George's on Pentecost Sunday evening. It was well attended and appeared to be enjoyed by the majority, if not all, present. Another Taizé evensong is being held in Lent 2017.

Following the successful Beer and Carols evening at The Old Mill Hotel in December 2015, a request was received for a similar event at Harvest-tide. So on Harvest Festival Sunday, instead of an evening service in St. George's, Cider and Harvest Hymns took place in the garden of the Old Mill. A small group of musicians and an ad hoc choir led another well supported event. Thank you to those people and also those who came along.

The singing at the monthly All Age Worship at All Saints on the First Sunday continues to be led from the piano which works very well for the type of hymns/songs that are usually chosen. At the Fifth Sunday United Service in the Church Hall the electronic keyboard is used which allows piano or organ accompaniment as appropriate.

In December another Beer and Carols evening was held in the Old Mill garden led by an instrumental ensemble and choir. An even larger attendance than the previous year was in good voice and the mulled wine and mince pies were enjoyed on a chilly evening when some of the al fresco heating was not working!

In October the team took on playing at the monthly Willowcroft evensongs.

The Parish Carol Service, once again organised by Revd Julian Poppleton, was another joyous occasion. The choir, assembled from singers invited by Julian and Libby Poppleton included many familiar faces and they sang superbly.

It was good at this service to have representatives of the local community to give the readings. Thank you to Revd Julian, Libby and the choir for their contribution to our Christmas celebrations.

In closing, just to mention that the St. George's and the All Saints' organs are in good order and regularly tuned, although the latter instrument is affected by changing climatic conditions. So if you hear the occasional strange noise coming from the gallery it's (usually) not the organist's fault!

Ian Davidson

Curate's Report

Thank you to all who came to support Dominic and I as we were ordained priests in Salisbury Cathedral last summer, and joined with me at All Saints as I presided at the Eucharist for the first time. It was a wonderful and joyful weekend, despite the heavy rain!

I am grateful to continue to serve alongside Revd Becky, the assistant clergy, Linda and amongst you all here in Harnham. There is certainly a lot that goes on in the parish! As a priest it is a privilege to continue to build on those things that I did as a deacon: funerals (in both St. George's and All Saints' as well as many at the crematorium), burials of ashes, baptisms, and preaching and deaconing at the Eucharist. My thanks to all who verge and assist with these services in so many ways. In addition it is an honour to now take weddings and preside at the Eucharist; and this year we received requests for two house blessings. It is a privilege to visit people in their homes, and to take communion to the housebound.

The year began with a wonderful opportunity to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Land with curates from across this diocese. It brought alive reading scripture in a new way for me, and gave many seeds for reflection. Part of our trip also included meeting those who live in the Holy Land and hearing their stories from bereaved parents on either side of the conflict who work together for peace, 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.

In May, all churches were encouraged by the Archbishops to support a week of prayer leading up to Pentecost. We opened St. George's for an afternoon with prayer stations set up, and one evening Revd. Simon Wilkinson led a time of prayer before the sacrament. At the end of the week it was wonderful to hold a Pentecost Taize prayer in All Saints'. In June the Church Fete offered a variety of stalls, food, drink, live music and a bouncy castle! Thanks to all who volunteered at the fete, it is a great community event.

The Pet Festival last September was once again a fantastic afternoon, and I enjoyed leading the worship – along with my glove puppet assistant Billy Bird, who was a hit with those there. It is also good to continue to link with the St. George's Toddler Group, Harnham Infant School, and to be involved with Messy Church. At Messy Church I have worked on developing the worship element to mirror aspects of the Sunday morning worship and school assemblies – we have been learning some opening responses, the Lord's Prayer, and the Peruvian Gloria. On a similar vein, I have been working with Revd Becky, Neil Turpin and Matthew Stone on developing new seasonal service booklets for use in the churches, and the first one was introduced for Advent. It has been lovely to welcome new people at both St. George's and All Saints' this past year, and in September I organized a drinks evening for newcomers so we had a chance to get to know one another a little better.

I have now set up and chair an Events Committee, which is continuing to build on the brilliant work of St. George's 2015 (see separate report). Prior to forming the events committee, we were invited back to the Old Mill, following the success of Beer and Carols 2015, and so I offered to lead 'Cider and Harvest Hymns.' Along with Beer and Carols, Cider and Harvest Hymns, was very well received, a lot of fun, and connected well with the wider community. These events also served as a fundraiser both for this parish and for the Disaster's Emergency Committee Yemen Appeal. Many thanks to the musicians and comperes, and all who supported these events. In future our links with the Old Mill will come under the remit of the Events Committee, along with the Fete and Pet Festival.

Within the Diocese I have taken up the role of a 'Young Vocations Champion' and this has involved meeting with young people who are exploring vocation to support them. I love hearing people talk about how God is moving in their lives! In addition I have been taking part in leading workshops in secondary schools to encourage young people to think about vocation in its broadest sense.

I also serve as a chaplain to one of the Emmaus communities within Alabare, which support people with learning disabilities. I particularly enjoy helping to lead the activity afternoon that we run four times a year, following a similar format to Messy Church.

Finally, I continue to attend curate's training, and to write theological reflections for the Diocese on my curacy.

It has certainly been a rich, varied, and full year, and I thank you for your prayers and support. I look forward to the new challenges and joys that the coming year will bring. I will be away on Maternity Leave from June 2017 till the end of the year, and look forward to being back with you all again in January 2018.

Revd Heather Leppard

Associate Priest's Report

It has been another stimulating and varied year, both in the parish and at school. It has been very good to welcome Heather as a priest and to be enriched by her ministry within the parish. My regular chance to celebrate at the eight o'clock communions at All Saints' is an important sacramental and prayerful foundation for the work I do in Southampton, and I am grateful to Revd Becky for that vital connection with the body of Christ in Harnham. It was a fascinating experience to explore the music missioner together and to try to tease out how God is calling us to serve in this place.

I have enjoyed being able to be involved in baptisms in the parish and for colleagues in Southampton, and an honour to organise and speak at the funeral for a long service member of staff. Being asked for support by staff in preparing for funerals and in handling bereavement both personally and professionally within school is a frequent aspect of my work. It is also common to be asked for resources and guidance about weddings, and a privilege to officiate at them from time to time.

It is always helpful to have opportunities to learn and grow, so the annual clergy conference is a good experience, not least as it affords me time with colleagues and theological learning and challenge. I have also found an extended course on Mindfulness most interesting and stimulating. School affords many interesting experiences and opportunities to speak and travel along with a great diversity of children, young people and adults. I have taken over responsibility for our oldest charitable group, taking young carers chosen by the City Council for a respite holiday in the New Forest in July. A wonderful team of VI form students raise money and organise the holiday, taking on sponsored runs, cake sales, endurance challenges and running competitions, discos and talents contests. They are truly an inspiration and a joy to support.

I have also been lucky to take a group of younger students to Charlotte North Carolina once again for an exchange. We were there just before the presidential election and I was delighted to hear President Obama speak at a rally. Our American guests returned to visit in February, to a rather wet and cold UK. They greatly enjoyed visiting Salisbury and the Cathedral. I also visit the prep school most weeks, helping with Forest School, again alongside VI form students working with five year olds. I play a role in assemblies, especially Easter, Harvest and in their carol service in Romsey Abbey.

History reminds us of the lessons we have failed learn far too often. We are continuing to mark the anniversaries of the Great War at School, and it was a powerful experience to host Freddie Knoller, a holocaust survivor, once again.

As a multi-faith school we strive hard to learn and honour people of all backgrounds, faiths, sexuality and convictions. We work hard to build good relationships with the local Muslim, Hindu and Sikh communities, visiting their places of worship and helping our children know something of their traditions and devotions alongside developing their own thinking and beliefs.

The School is developing a strong relationship with St. Nicolas' Church on the edge of Southampton, next to our sports ground. We have held an Advent carol concert there and will have a service in March with their new incumbent. The School is making some of the facilities in the pavilion available for social events in the absence of a parish hall. I hope this will develop further.

It is always a joy to devise special services and I was delighted to offer something to SWGS alongside King Edwards for their Carol services as well as welcoming youngsters to sing at the parish service. These events are a real opportunity to connect with children and adults who may have little other involvement in church. The combination of music, words, friendship and hospitality seem to make for powerful outcomes and enduring relationships and with nurturing faith.

As I write we approach Lent and I am pleased a number of school colleagues are joining me in the praying initiative Bishop Nicholas has encouraged us to pursue this year. I trust this will lead to us all growing in faith and finding new ways to serve both our communities and our Lord.

Revd Julian Poppleton - Associate Priest