

St. Mary's, South Baddesley

Annual Report to be presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At 6p.m. on Thursday 23rd April 2015

Benefice Mission Statement:

“To help everyone in this Benefice experience the love of God as expressed in Jesus Christ by giving them an unconditional welcome and by actively addressing the spiritual and social needs of the local and wider community.”

Administrative Information

St. Mary's is situated on South Baddesley Road, South Baddesley. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. St Mary's continues to enjoy its long established close links as a united benefice with St John's, Boldre with which it is part of a group ministry including Brockenhurst and Sway. Revd Neil Smart, Vicar of Brockenhurst is Vicar also of St Mary's while Revd Lynda Mead is Parish Priest, with pastoral responsibility for St. Mary's. The correspondence address is: The Benefice Office, St. Nicholas' Chapel, Pilley Street, Pilley, Lymington, Hampshire, SO41 5QG.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served since the last Annual Parish Meeting on 23rd April 2012 to the date of this report are:

Vicar:	Revd Neil Smart
Parish Priest & Chairman of the PCC:	Revd Lynda Mead
Joint Patrons:	Rt Revd the Bishop of Winchester,
Church Wardens:	Mr Andy Ward
	Miss Pat Mennie
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:	Mr Bernard Atkinson
	Mrs Felicity Pellow
Treasurer:	Miss Pat Mennie
Secretary:	Mr Bernard Atkinson
Elected members:	Mrs Annie Hardy-Gillingham
	Mrs Beth Cantrell
	Mrs Felicity Pellow
	Mrs Helen Woodgates
	Mrs Lynne Zottl

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attenders are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and activities for St Mary's Church in the past year

The mission of our church is aptly described in the mission statement shown at the head of this document. The PCC of St Mary the Virgin, South Baddesley has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar, Revd Neil Smart and Parish Priest, Revd Lynda Mead, in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. As part of the Group of associated parishes the PCC also has the responsibility to think and act as appropriate in conjunction with the other churches of the Group in areas of joint interest. The main activities of the PCC are reflected in its working groups: Mission, Families and Children, Finance, Social and Fundraising and Church Fabric.

Reports for 2014

Vicar's Report

Looking back over another year in South Baddesley gives me cause to give thanks for all the good things through which God is at work amongst us. There are, as always, so many people involved some at the very centre of everything and others right out on the fringe helping to make sure that things happen. The teams who allow church to function are always changing and developing as we seek to do all that we can to serve God in our community. It is only with the continued support of all who see St Mary's Church as important that the life of this church will continue.

The visit of Bishop Jonathan for our confirmation service in September was a real highlight. What a glorious day to be remembered by all. This year we have been engaged with the Diocese through the Lent Course and the development of a Deanery Mission Action Plan. There have also been tough negotiations over the amount of Parish Share that we contribute to the running of our churches across the Diocese.

I have continued to take regular collective worship at South Baddesley School as well as welcoming the school to St Mary's for their Easter, Leaver's, Harvest, Christingle and Christmas services. This year we have welcomed the new head teacher, Anne Moir, who made it along to an evensong service and is very happy to promote the link between church and school.

Our church has a valued place at the heart of our community. I hope that we can develop the four priorities that the Diocese has given us to grow authentic disciples, re-imagine church for those who seek God, transform our world and share our resources. If we do these things then we will build God's kingdom here, becoming an open and inclusive community of loving and generous people that is attractive to all.

Revd Neil Smart

Parish Priest's Report

This report is entitled 'Parish Priest's Report' but in reality it is the result of so many people's work during this past year, because I could not do my work here without them. There are of

course individuals -- Neil, Beth, Pat, Andy, Gordon, John, Leo, Bernard, and the many who make up all the groups who help make our Church so welcoming, so warm in nature and so much a haven for men, women and children at times of worship. I give you all my sincere thanks; we could not go on without each and every one of you, as a Church community, and I certainly could not. Your support, encouragement and presence in my life has been what has sustained me here. I believe us together to be a small but visible beacon of faith at South Baddesley, as everyone is made welcome here, and all who cross our threshold for whatever reason can feel a part of our family following the Lord Jesus.

This past year has once again seen a steady growth, not by numbers so much as genuine commitment to our Mission in this place, showing the love of God to everyone in our part of His kingdom. We have sadly lost dear friends, but cherish their memories. When we celebrated the life of Hilda Smith early this year, I think we all rejoiced that we shared the service with members of the Salvation Army in whose family Hilda was as well as St Mary's. We welcomed visits from Geoffrey Gee's son Michael and his wife, another reminder that St Mary's does not forget those who are no longer with us, and we embrace all who consider themselves one with us.

A reflection of the open-heartedness of the Church community, which we experienced to the full, last September when we hosted the Deanery Confirmation with Bishop Jonathan. A truly wonderful service which saw youngsters and adults from throughout Lyndhurst Deanery confirmed including two from St Mary's. And of course the splendid tea afterwards - we do refreshments exceedingly well on all occasions and we were blessed with beautiful weather too! Our close relationship with the School has continued to grow, thanks mainly to the loving commitment of Neil, Gordon, Beth and Maureen at Assemblies, talks and Jam Club, and we have seen more children come with parents to our Family services. One reason is, I am sure, of the smiling and genuine welcome they receive here.

As to my role as PCC Chair, guided, aided and abetted by Bernard (Secretary) and all the members, we have together addressed the situations and questions calmly and faithfully. I know from other clergy how contentious some P.C.C. meetings can be - ours are not. We have been joined by Ian Doherty who is sharing the Treasurer role with Pat and has greatly helped her and St Mary's in this way. As to my role as P.C.C. Chair, guided, aided and abetted by Bernard (Secretary) and

Services have continued, and we have introduced on a quarterly rota, a service of Holy Communion using the Celtic Liturgy and this has, I believe, proved to be something which is enabling individuals explore personal spirituality. As we journey as followers of the Lord Jesus, we must grow and develop and I pray that both as individuals and as a Church we go forward together in the name of the Lord Jesus and His Gospel, seeking always to bring the Good News to everyone.

Revd Lynda Mead

Churchwardens and Fabric Report

As Churchwarden and Verger, Andy, amongst his many duties, continues to ensure the church is open every day and the churchyard is in good order. The latter has looked particularly beautiful this spring with primroses and daffodils everywhere. The climax of the year for the churchwardens was the visit by Bishop Jonathan for the Deanery Confirmations. Fortunately they did not need to undertake any physical defence against a rowdy congregation using their staffs, as is in their brief, but instead ensured Bishop Jonathan availed himself of the wonderful tea laid on after an excellent service. Pat Mennie assumed her duties as Churchwarden having taken over from Ted Cantrell. Our sincere thanks go to him for his many years of service. Apart from the serious side of their duties the

Churchwardens appeared dressed as Santa's elves at the Christmas Day service to delight of the children and amazement of Lynda!

The external fabric of the Church is now in great need, which was quite apparent after a re-render of the Church extension had taken place. Internally towards the end of 2014 some masonry cracked and fell in the south transept, which may indicate problems with the roof beams as it was in a symmetrical pattern. In May 2015 a full examination will take place alongside the quinquennial review when a hole will be made in the ceiling. The render on the outside of the southern elevation is no longer adhering to the brickwork and thus no longer weather-proof. So it is clear that are going to be some large bills ahead. We will of course find as many grants as possible for the work when the totality of the work is known.

Andy Ward and Pat Mennie

Treasurer's Report

Financial statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2014, independently examined by John Graves, Chartered Accountant, to whom we give our sincere thanks, are included with this report.

Financial Review

Our bank current and deposit accounts at 31st December are showing a combined balance of £48,805, most of which is restricted as to use. This can be seen from the Financial Statement. In 2014 we were able to include in that the surplus of receipts over payments of £1,496; this is a much smaller outcome than in previous years - such is the tightness of our budget. Sadly interest on the deposit account is small. With an annual expenditure of approx.£32,000 it costs nearly £90 every day of the year to run St Mary's Church and therefore regular donations, fund-raising (see below) and one-off giving are vital to our continued existence. Unfortunately planned giving saw a 6% reduction this year which also hit the amount gained from the Government's gift aid scheme, although more has now been claimed since December 31st. However, we remain fortunate that a very high proportion of our congregation use envelopes or regular electronic payments enabling us to set realistic budgets. In the next month we will explain the Parish Giving Scheme which has been set up in the Diocese to help individual churches. This will mean less work for the Treasurer and a way of being able to index link our current standing orders if we wish....more anon!

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds of £10,000 to cover emergency situations, with an additional £3000 to cover fluctuations. The actual balance is £41,535 because of the excellent fund raising which we undertake as a church. This year will be the year of building repairs, (see the fabric report) and we know some serious money is going to have to be spent as it also coincides with our quinquennial review by a buildings inspector and architect to tell us of necessary repairs. We have always had a desire to make the external aspect of the Church a little more attractive as well as more weather proof than it is currently, which will no doubt dig deeply in to our reserves as we feel it will be a little too much to cope with by our regular receipts. We are fortunate to have received an anonymous donation of £10,000 for building repairs, however more will be needed.

Donations

We were pleased to give £500 to each of the charities: Medicins Sans Frontieres, Night Stop and Basics Bank as well as the purchase of Bibles for all leavers at South Baddesley School. This year has seen our Parish Share to the Diocese increase considerably under the new system using an allocated parish affluence factor as well as average numbers worshipping.

Given our tight budget we asked if the increase could be spread over 3 years so we are paying an extra £900 in 2015. This was accepted on condition that we join the Parish Giving Scheme and undertake a Stewardship Campaign to which we agreed. More will appear soon of the detail.

Fund-raising and Church Running Costs

Again, tribute must go to the continued efforts of our fund-raisers under the skilled helm of Felicity Pellow. Over £4000 was raised by Colin and Jean Lyon over the year (ably assisted by Joss Covell) with their marmalade making and market stalls! Sadly, due to health problems, Jean and Colin have decided that they must bow out at this remarkable climax. The Summer Fete and Christmas Fair continue to bring in an amazing amount given the size of our small community. Together, our fund raising activities make up nearly a third of our income! Our positive financial outcome for 2014 year is also a tribute to those who contribute their skills to the running of the Church. As Treasurer I am often privy to knowing those who will not take recompense for their out of pocket expenses as well as those who give of their time....there are many – thank you all.

The Treasury Team

We now have a team organising our finances as Pat has tried to gain some distance having taken on the additional role of Churchwarden. Ian Doherty has kindly taken on the day to day treasurer's role as well as preparing the end of year accounts. Our thanks also go to Felicity Pellow and Nick Walford for taking on the collection/banking and gift aid respectively. Pat will still provide the weekly link and renewal of envelopes.

Pat Mennie

Finance Committee

The Committee had only two meetings in 2014, thanks in large measure to the professional way that Pat Mennie has handled the Treasurership. The workload once Pat took on the role of Churchwarden clearly needed addressing and this issue was discussed mid-year. At the same time it was agreed that the likely level of Parish Share for 2015 would risk driving us into a revenue loss for the coming year and that a recommendation should be made to the PCC that we apply for an abatement of Share for 2015; the following factors were seen to be critical:

- +The proposed Affluence Grade applied to St Marys seemed irrationally high.
- + As a small church we have a high fixed cost to income ratio.
- + With a non-stipendiary minister we get minimal benefit from the 70% of our Share with which the Diocese funds parish ministry.
- + High building repair costs are anticipated in coming years.

In November the Committee welcomed Ian Docherty who, until recently has practised as a Chartered Accountant, and has offered to assist the Treasurer in a day-to-day book keeping capacity and with the preparation and presentation of accounts.

It was agreed to recommend to the PCC that the level requiring two signatures on cheques should be raised to £500 to reflect current financial reality.

Bernard Atkinson

Church Flowers and Cleaning

Flowers: The arrangers were Mrs Doherty, Mrs Covell, Dr Griffiths, Ms Hardy-Gillingham, Mrs Hartwell, Mrs Jakes, Mrs Lyon, Miss Mennie, Mrs Rogers, Mrs Ross, Mrs Vernon, Mrs Ward and Mrs Zottl. We are grateful to them all for their time and skill.

Cleaning: A small group from the following volunteers meets at St Mary's at 9am, normally on the first Saturday of each month, to vacuum, polish, and dust the church and clean the kitchen, lavatory and passage etc: Mrs Cantrell (Vestry), Mrs Covell, Mrs Doherty, Mrs Gibb, Mrs Lyon, Mrs Vernon and the Very Revd Gordon Wynne. Their work is much appreciated and extra helpers are always welcomed. (Please telephone 01590 626215)

Elizabeth Vernon

Social and Fundraising

Fundraising is an essential requirement in all parishes these days and the St Mary's Social and Fundraising group aims to make money for the church but make it fun too. Whether it be a Beetle Drive, Pancake Party or Desert Island Discs, we treat each event as an opportunity to share fellowship with others in the community.

The marmalade making by Jean and Colin Lyon made over £600 and cake/produce stalls in the market run by Jean and Colin with Joss Covell brought in lots more. As ever the Garden Fete at Pylewell, thanks to the wonderful setting and masses of hard work by many people both before and on the day itself, excels as both a social and fundraising event par excellence.

Here is what we did last year:

January – Jumble Sale

February – School Pancake Party

March – Lent Lunches

June – Pylewell Fete

July – Cream Teas at the Copper Beech, Portmore

August – Forest Walk and pub lunch

October – Harvest Lunch

November – Christmas Fair

Many thanks to the brilliant team: Helen Woodgates, Malcolm Ross, Andy and Maureen Ward, Colin Lyon and Joss and Rob Covell. Also thanks to Jean Gibbins who comes over from Boldre to help at the Cream Teas and the Fete.

Felicity Pellow

Music at St. Mary's

Music at St. Mary's remains strong and an important contribution to worship. The number of choristers fluctuates from service to service and at different seasons. Christmas services were well 'voiced', especially our Carol Service, which was blessed with additional members from the St. Nicholas Singers, and our delightful young soloist Poppy, a student at South Baddesley School. Peter Roper-Curzon played the organ for us on Christmas Eve and for the carols. How lucky we are to have such talent in our midst! David Woodgates has been generous with his professional support too, conducting our anthems at Evensong, and switching to the role of organist in my few absences. Our team may be small in number, but the enthusiasm and musicality we represent is, I think, appreciated by the congregation. As ever we are looking forward to a feast of other joyous occasions on which we shall lift our voices.

Two choristers took part in the Winchester Choirs Festival in November. It is always a busy time, just before Remembrance Sunday, but preferable to the dates of previous years – the day of the Pylewell fete! Whenever we can, we join choirs in our 'group' at Evensong and welcome them too at our own evening services. A hymn 'survey' is to be planned for the near future, in which parishioners' favourite hymns are made known: both their melodies and words, with their choices not restricted to our present hymn book. A healthy exercise for any choir and congregation is to review the choice of hymn book used. We are planning such a review in the near future, aided by analysis of the choices and comments resulting from the 'survey'.

A dislodged particle in the organ's mechanism gave us some concern earlier in the year. Surely, that could not be the Queen Mary entering Southampton Water? The unexpected sound was soon eliminated, the specialist explaining that it may have been caused by a stray wood shaving surviving from the organ's building! All was soon well after some dismantling and judicious 'dusting'. Visiting organists, (Martin Penrose and Bob Cook to name but two) always express their delight in playing our instrument, despite its limitations.

The choir practises on the last Thursday of each month at 7.00pm in the church. Visitors are always appreciated and prospective new choristers, whatever voice and level of experience, will be met with open arms.

Interest in and criticism of our music is always encouraged; we hope that individual likes and dislikes will continue to be made known. As servants of the Lord, I do think we enjoy one of the more pleasurable and uplifting duties.

Leo Gibb

Intercessions and Lesson Reading

As ever we continue to be blessed with a great team of Lesson Readers and Intercessors whose participation adds significantly to the inclusivity and character of our services. Their contribution requires commitment in two aspects: thoughtful preparation and professional presentation. This is an important and worthwhile job, bringing satisfaction to readers and listeners alike and we would always welcome anyone who wishes to join us as a reader, an intercessor or both. A list of members who read lessons or intercede, and our Sidesmen who meet and welcome us as we enter the church is attached to this report. These teams play a vital role in our services and on behalf of all members of St Mary's I thank them for another memorable year of achievement.

Bernard Atkinson

Mission Committee Report

Committee members: Bernard Atkinson, Beth and Ted Cantrell, Maureen Ward

While we continue to struggle to find an agreed and wider definition of 'mission' appropriate to our situation we are conscious that many, if not the majority of our church community, give generously of their time and skills to a range of activities directed towards and beneficial to the wider community. The committee noted with interest the appointment to the Diocese of Ven. Dr Paul Moore as Archdeacon for Mission Development. As a PCC we have been considering the output on mission from the Diocese and note the guidance on mission in connection with the Deanery Mission Action Plan, dMAP, which will lead to a similar plan at parish level, pMAP in 2015

As a result, of careful research the Committee made recommendations for donations to be made by the PCC to Medecins sans Frontieres, Nightstop (Community First N.F.) and Lymington Basics Bank.

Beth Cantrell

Deanery Synod

The Quarterly Deanery Synod meetings were dominated by two Diocesan initiatives:
 1. Mission Action Planning to be carried out by Deaneries after consultation and discussion and which will lead later to similar plans created by each parish, and
 2. A new system for the calculation of Parish Share

An announcement was made in connection with point 1, that an Archdeacon had been appointed, as detailed in the above Mission Committee Report. Our churches have to impact on the society around them and to engage actively with the needs of local people; this will call for churches to rediscover their purpose in an age when social needs are great and when, even in the New Forest, the numbers of people claiming to be Christians is falling rapidly. We will be called upon to re-imagine how our churches can fulfil the mission of Jesus in an increasingly secular society.

During 2014 a new approach to the calculation of Parish Share was devised by the Diocese aimed at being more fairly based on statistics relevant to individual churches. This involves each church stating the number of those in its average worshipping community; this is then applied to an 'Affluence factor' derived from the relevant local components of nationally produced statistics to arrive at the Share for each parish. The method is consistent for all, which is good, but will need time to 'bed in'. In terms of Share payment efficiency Lyndhurst Deanery, of which we are a part has been running at 0.1 months' arrears compared with the Deanery overall of 0.6 months' arrears.

Bernard Atkinson

Lesson Readers, Sidespersons and Intercessors

Lesson Readers:

Bernard Atkinson
Rupert Bogarde
Beth Cantrell
Ted Cantrell
Jane Cockeram
Rob Covell
Joss Covell
Diana Doherty
Arthur French
Leo Gibb
Phil Gruber
Annie Hardy- Gillingham
Pam Hughes
Clifford Jakes
Pat Mennie
Felicity Pellow
David Roper-Curzon
Malcolm Ross
John Vernon
Nicholas Walford
Helen Woodgates
David Woodgates
Gordon Wynne
Lynne Zottl

Intercessors:

Beth Cantrell
Ted Cantrell
Joss Covell
Rob Covell
Arthur French
Leo Gibb
Annie Hardy-Gillingham
Nicholas Walford
Helen Woodgates
David Woodgates

Sidespersons

Bernard Atkinson
Arthur French
Phil Gruber
Jane Hartwell
Malcolm Ross
Nicholas Walford
Sandy Walford
Maureen Ward
Andy Ward
Anne Wynne
Gordon Wynne

Bernard Atkinson -- PCC Secretary

Agreed by the PCC on 23rd April 2015 and signed on its behalf:

Signed.....(Chairman, PCC)