



All Saints Church, Clifton, Beds.

All Saints Church Clifton

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

14th March 2016

Rector: Vacancy

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All Saints Church Clifton

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners 14th March 2016 at 7.45 pm

Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting 14th March 2016 at 7:50 pm

Agenda

1. Prayers
2. Apologies
3. Minutes of 2015 APCM
4. Matters Arising
5. Election of 4 representatives to PCC
6. Consideration of the Electoral Roll
8. Election of Sides persons
9. Secretary's Report on the Proceedings of the PCC for 2015
10. Annual Report on the Financial Affairs of the Parish
 - a. Accounts for 2015
 - b. A Statement of the Funds and Properties
 - c. Budget for 2016
11. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
12. Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church
13. Deanery Synod Report
14. Adoption of MAP
15. Chairman's Report
16. Any Other Business

If you have any questions arising from the Parish Reports, please raise them with the Secretary before the meeting.

There will be a short meeting of the new PCC, in the Sanctuary, after the main meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on 9th March 2015

Two nominations for the office of Church Wardens had been received –Anne Sullivan and Margaret Cakebread. These persons were elected unanimously by the meeting.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 9th March 2015

Susan Welsford was in the Chair with 25 members present.

Prayers: Led by Revd. Anne

Apologies: Susan Sims, Sheila Collins, Barry Livesey, Jim and Jean Peacock, Pat Heath, Ruth and Kevin Gray, Arthur and Sylvia Clark, Eileen and Tony Tobitt, Keith and Mary Pledger, Joyce Billington.

Minutes: The minutes of the 2014 APCM had been circulated in the Parish booklet produced prior to the meeting. These were agreed unanimously and duly signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising: None

Election of 3 Members to PCC: There were three vacancies, each for a period of three years. Nominations were received for Pat Kemp and Jane Cooper. They were duly elected unanimously by the meeting. One position remains vacant.

Consideration of the Electoral Roll: There have been no changes to the roll since the last APCM giving a total of 99 on the list. Of these, 28 resided outside the village. The chairman thanked Linda Dawes for her work with the Electoral Roll.

Election of Sides persons: A list of those acting as sides persons at the church services had been displayed on the notice board prior to the meeting. The names were read by the Chairman and all those listed elected unanimously by the meeting. A copy of the list is on file.

Secretary's Report: Philippa Whittington outlined the composition of the PCC, welcomed the new members and thanked those standing down.

The church continues its close links with Clifton All Saints Academy and in June 2014, Brenda Howe resigned as Diocesan Governor due to pressure of work. Brenda was the school Safeguarding Governor and the Governors were pleased when Brenda agreed to continue as a Safeguarding Advisor to the school. In December Jean Peacock was confirmed as the new Diocesan Governor.

In the last year PCC have held discussions on many topics and received periodic reports from some of our committees. In May, the church received a very generous donation of a digital piano. The Academy offered the church a laptop and projector on long term loan and Jim and Jean Peacock have donated a projector screen. In the summer, the church supported the Celebrate 100 event held at Keysoe Agricultural College, though it was a pity that it was a very wet day.

Our Fabric Committee, led by Sue Welsford, do an excellent job in ensuring the fabric and ornaments of the Church are kept in good order. Some work and improvements require the Rector and Wardens to apply to the Diocese for a Faculty to allow the works to proceed and this has to be supported by a resolution from PCC. Further details are given in the Fabric Committee report.

Our committees and groups are working with quiet dedication to maintain and enhance the work of the church, both spiritually and socially. The committees are an extension of PCC and it is good to know that we can rely on their support. You do not need to be a member of PCC to join the

committees so if you feel you could contribute to any of the committees please contact the persons listed in the booklet. At this time, the Social committee is in particular need of new members.

Messy Church was first held in March 2014 and as can be seen from the Annual Report has been very successful. We are very grateful for the work that Ruth and Kevin Gray, Suzanne Stapleton and the other helpers have done to make this initiative a success.

During the year we reviewed the Child Protection Policy. Jane Cooper has taken on the role of Safeguarding Officer and we are grateful to her for the work she has done in reviewing this policy. The PCC has also adopted a Health and Safety Policy and Policy for Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

I would like to express my personal thanks to all the members of PCC for their support during the year, to Anne Sullivan who answered the many questions I have asked during the year, for those who helped out taking minutes when necessary, and to Don Gray for printing the booklets for the meeting.

A full copy of the report is on file.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Frank Rivett, stated that the financial statements for 2014 had been displayed on the notice board prior to the meeting and a summary of these was included in the Parish booklet. There had been no questions arising from these. While there was an increase in spending, the main contribution to the deficit was a reduction in income. The trend had been noted earlier in the year, and a group met and planned a financial stewardship campaign that was launched in the autumn. The appeals were met with a magnificent response from you, for which we must be truly grateful. Without the support of all our regular givers we would simply not be able to function as a church, your contributions form by far the greatest part of the income needed to pay the parish share, light, heat, music and running repairs. Regarding the forecasts for the coming year, we are moving in the right direction, but reserves of just £4,370 can make cash flow quite difficult. We need to remain prudent in our spending, enthusiastic in our fund raising, and committed to building our reserves so we can return to our previous level of charitable giving.

I wish to thank all who have played a part in the administration of the finances; the wardens for counting and recording the collections, John and Anne Good for banking and gift aid claims, Sue Welsford, Linda Dawes, and Jean Peacock for their assistance with the stewardship campaign, and Barry Livesey for being constantly available to authorise payments.

Anne Sullivan proposed that the accounts be accepted; this was seconded by Val Brace and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report and his work over the past year.

A full copy of the report is on file.

Appointment of an Independent Examiner: Frank Rivett proposed that Nico Rodenberg be appointed. This was seconded by Kathy Blackmore and agreed unanimously by the meeting.

Church Wardens Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church:

Sue Welsford as the chair of the Fabric Committee reported that as our Quinquennial report had revealed only non-urgent issues to address, that we now have good heating and lighting in the Church building, they made a decision to investigate the redecoration of the interior of the church.

However, the wet winter of 2014 identified a problem with damp which is quite visible on the south wall of the nave. Investigation revealed that the drainage around the building was the main culprit and has been a low level issue for several years. The water is not clearing away in certain soakaways and is often at ground level.

With this in mind we then had the report from the roof repair contractor only to find the roof tiles that had come off were due to rotten battens. We have no idea whether the whole roof is in the

same state but certain sections are not good. Fortunately, the roof is still fairly water-tight and we are postponing the redecoration until the drainage is replaced and the roof is repaired. Applications for grants are being made for this work at the moment and my thanks go to Frank Rivett for dealing with much of the paperwork and to Peter Blackmore for providing technical support.

Other Fabric matters have included two successful working parties: - one to clear the front Churchyard and re-lay a path to the back door and the other to give the inside of the building a good clean. Many thanks to Jane Pavey for organising the latter and for keeping the Church clean with her team of volunteers.

The low boundary wall at the front of the Church has been repaired, a water heater has replaced the urn in the kitchen and part of the back vestry has been re-furnished. Outstanding issues with electrical circuits have also been resolved and all the electrics updated to comply with new regulations. My thanks go to Anne Sullivan for organising the contractors and dealing with the paperwork.

I have mentioned several people in my report but I would like to thank all of you who volunteer, who help when asked or do jobs that no-one has asked you to do. All these things support the upkeep of the Church building and its congregation

Finally, my personal thanks go to the Warden team, those on the Fabric committee and PCC, Philippa, Frank, Rev Anne and Robin for their support over the past year.

A copy of the full report is on file.

Deanery Synod Report:

Jane Pavey reported:

Keith Pledger and I were your PCC representatives on the Deanery of Ampthill and Shefford Synod for the past year. The Deanery was formed in 2011 when the two Deaneries of Ampthill and Shefford were combined to make one. There is an ongoing discussion not yet resolved as to what we should be called but as yet no conclusion. It is however felt that a new name together with time would weld us into one. We are now a fairly large Deanery consisting of 35 Parishes and cover the area from Arlesey/ Astwick to Woburn/Woburn Sands.

There are three meetings per year: March, June, and October at which representatives of the Parishes meet and discuss the issues that are raised, the agenda being formed from issues raised by the clergy and the lay members of the group.

It has been a settling down period with the new Rural Dean. Several matters have been discussed, and are reported on below by meeting.

At the **March 2014** meeting we had a talk by Revd Chris Beales and Toby Parsons from the Parish of Woburn Sands who gave a presentation on transforming the Parish of Woburn Sands. Rev Chris Beales began by talking about Weaning its members off spiritual baby food and onto the hard stuff (Hebrews 5: 12-14).

Revd Canon Lynda Klimas also gave a talk about the Diocesan links with the Caribbean – in particular Guyana, Leeward Islands and Windward Islands.

At the **June 2014** meeting Revd Michael Trodden gave an entertaining talk on the activities in Ampthill Parish, Elizabeth Overfield gave a report on the activities at Arlesey Parish Church and Revd Stephen Holroyd reported on Bishop's Presidential Address which had been on the lines of economics and the text can be found on the Diocesan Web Site. www.stalbans.anglican.org

At the **October 2014** meeting an Update was given on applying for a Curate. Ampthill and Shefford is the biggest Deanery in the Diocese and does not have a stipendiary Curate. Revd Anne gave a talk and update on Applications for a Pastoral Aid Support Grant.

I also attend the Deanery Pastoral meetings which are about three per year. The committee is now chaired by Rev Anne and looks at issues such as the Parish Share and the Pastoral Aid Support Grants. The Bishop has also asked that we do a Deanery MAP.

There was a very successful Deanery Evensong held at Silsoe on Sunday 8th March 2015

I would also add that Sue Simms is our Secretary and is very efficient with Dates and Minutes

A copy of the full report is on file.

Rector's Report:

It is my pleasure to begin this report by expressing my sheer gratitude for the support and encouragement at the service of Induction. This marks a greater security for the benefice, knowing now that the boundaries won't change nor that any more parishes will be added to us.

This year has seen considerable movement forward in our growth in a variety of ways.

Much work has been conducted behind the scenes, ensuring the good order of our building. The wardens and fabric committee have tirelessly dedicated themselves to investigating the deterioration of the roof, rising damp on the south wall, overhaul of the electrics, and various churchyard matters. The issues needing rectifying cost considerable amounts, and to that end, many letters have been sent to various trusts for grants. Bearing that in mind, we are also obliged to pay our parish share and general utilities and running costs. I am most grateful to Frank and a team who prepared a stewardship campaign, highlighting the realities. The response from congregation members has been very encouraging, and as always, we are mindful of continuing the trend to keep our income consistent with rising costs. Frank, as ever, has been particularly devoted to rigorously keeping tabs of our finances, as well as monitoring those of the Friends. Keith has been appointed as our friends' champion and has further social events in mind. Our aim is to continue promoting this to those who express interest in our church.

The administration seems to present a constant challenge, but I am extremely grateful to Philippa and Peter who have generated systems which help to enable this to operate in a smoother way, and for Arthur who faithfully prepares the pew sheet and photocopying. Pat Wisby and Ray have been beavering away on the rotas and are always keen to be kept informed of any who would like to have a go at intercessions or reading. That is a mighty task which they fulfil in a most efficient way.

At this point it is worth mentioning the sterling job done by our volunteer cleaners and our flower arrangers. Without their dedication the church would look neglected and drab. On behalf of Suzanne and Jane I send a plea for any who would be willing to offer their services for these tasks.

Messy Church has witnessed a tremendous response, for which I would personally like to thank Ruth, Suzanne and every member of that enthusiastic team. They are planning for the future and the spiritual and numerical growth through its outreach and mission. Speaking of Spiritual and Numerical growth, I have been on a year long course with that title and been stimulated by the content and the collegiality. I hope the learning will continue to translate into positive suggestions for our own church. On the topic of discipling, Robin and I are eager to continue to promote the Faith-Full Course we have developed. Those who have engaged with it are truly appreciative of its content and effectiveness. My hope and prayer is that more will be prompted to attend when we begin the course again in September, with some choosing to be confirmed following it. This course is intended to inject a spirit-filled engagement with Jesus and His Church.

We have all witnessed the consistency in faithfulness of our choir members and Susan our Organist, enhancing worship with a varied and most spiritually stimulating repertoire.

The healing ministry is a vital aspect of church life, and the Diocesan Group for the Ministry of Healing are coming to Clifton on 19th September to lead an introductory day. At Clifton we offer Prayer and Care Living Well services and Healing Eucharist Living Well services.

The development of the Drama ministry has been spearheaded by Ray and Lesley who have been inspirational. The links with School continue to strengthen, and the working relationship

with Carol, Philippa, Governors and Staff is strong and mutually co-operative. The pupils are taking an active part in our special services and it is a delight to see their involvement in the Academy Eucharist and other church services.

Clifton Mappers - Robin, Kathy, Jane, Anthony, Ruth and I have been beavering away behind the scenes, prayerfully, and generating a New Look MAP. This is an exciting development, and will be brought to the PCC in its complete form very soon. The Mission Tenet - Nothing's Impossible with God - has already been taken to people's hearts.

The Pastoral Team continues to work to find ways of meeting the needs of others, and among the latest developments, our Friendship Circle meals have proved very popular.

The baptism team has been kept very busy, and we are beginning to see families link in with Messy Church as well. Our families receive Soul Food, baptism Teddies (thanks to the MU), olive wood crosses for adults, an invitation to Messy Church, Light of the World picture and prayer, and a baptism candle. We seem to happily be in a culture of mutual respect and courtesy, so all services are a joy to conduct.

The bereavement team have had a quiet year, so we are thankful that people seem in good health, but when a funeral does occur, members step into action in a wonderfully compassionate way.

With Joyce's forthcoming relocation to Yorkshire, we shall miss her dedicated and thorough prayerful preparation for worship and occasional services. Joyce has been stalwart and we shall miss her enormously. I am very grateful to Dorothy and Peter Hodges for stepping into the breach and learning from Joyce how to be vergers at wedding services and to offer any support Gladys might need at Funerals.

The mission and ministry here is greatly indebted to Robin, our Reader, with his top quality contributions and utter devotion to the parishes and support of myself. We are applying for a curate for 2016, so we simply wait and see.

This is an active, thriving parish with input from very many individuals, whose hard work and contributions have not gone unnoticed. I would finally like to thank Sue Welsford in particular for her warden duties over the last 4 years, and the way she has tackled all those grant application forms with Frank, and other administrative functions, as well as hands-on graft.

A copy of the full report is on file.

Any Other Business:

None

The chairman thanked Chris and Don Killick for providing refreshments after the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:25 pm with the Grace.

Reports for the Work of the Parish in 2015

Reader Report

Over the past year, I have, for the most part, fulfilled the promises I made at my licensing. I believe I have also more than adhered to the requirements agreed in my statement of arrangements. Until very recently I have preached at least twice during each month and have led services where appropriate. Additionally, I have again supported Healing Services, New Worship, Messy Church, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, All Souls and Christmas Services, and have continued to provide input to the Worship Committee and the MAP team.

Outside of Church Services I assisted Reverend Anne in the delivery of the Faithful Course. Again this year I found this to be exceptionally rewarding. It is a real privilege to join the journey attendees take on that course, and I found the input of this year's attendees prompted a good deal of reflection on my part, and I feel the richer for it. The course culminated in four of its attendees being confirmed in December. It is a real encouragement that a good number have subsequently asked that a follow on course be run, which I will be commencing in Southill at the start of Lent.

In the summer I completed my four years of post-licensing continuing ministry education and development. In this year it has taken me on courses about safeguarding, all age worship and hospice chaplaincy. As I am no longer linked to this formal pattern of training events I will now need to forge my own development path. I have concerns that I will find this difficult without the guidance of an incumbent.

I have continued to read as much as I can and once again have found myself drawing deeply from the works of Walter Brueggemann and Barbara Brown Taylor as well as numerous commentaries; oh - and of course the Bible.

The unexpected departure of Reverend Anne was a very real and hard blow for me. I would reiterate the points I made at her leaving presentation – that no Reader could wish for such an inclusive, supportive and nurturing approach from their incumbent. People assume that as we are now in vacancy my workload will be increased. So far that seems to not be the case at all, because we are thankfully blessed by a very well organised pattern of assistance by visiting Priests and our much loved “retired” Reverend Paul.

The annual Training Day in September for all Readers in the diocese was focused very much on how mission should be a key feature of Reader ministry. That day has made me reflect on how much it does or does not form a part of mine. I absolutely love my involvement in Messy Church and find it wonderful to see young families who would not normally countenance going to “church” engaging with the good news of Jesus.

It remains my hope that when our new incumbent takes office I am able to fully support them generously and joyfully, with imagination and courage to help grow God's kingdom here, perhaps most particularly in mission. But I believe I also need to remain open to God prompting as He sees best, and be ready to respond.

Robin

Baptism Group

Another successful year with an unusual number of baptisms- 24. (15 children and 9 adults). Again most of the adults were unbaptised people who wished to become godparents. We do have the occasional baptism service integrated with the 10.30 service. However, most families prefer a 2.00 p.m. service as this is shorter and simpler and gives more time for travelling for distant guests. However, we are finding that, with Anne gone, it is becoming very

difficult to obtain a visiting priest for the 2.00p.m. service and it may be that we will be forced back to the 10.30 integrated service.

With Anne's departure, the work-load on the baptism visitors has increased significantly. I have been a visitor for many years but I hadn't realised how much paperwork took place behind the scenes- I do now!

We continue to give out teddy bears and to advertise the activities the church can offer. We also continue to send out anniversary cards.

Colin Brown.

Bellringers

We rang in the New Year, as usual.

Learners from Potton, Northill, Southill, Husborne Crawley and Biggleswade continue to come to the early evening practice on Fridays, run by Philippa and helpers from other local towers and are making progress..

Two peals were rung this year, one on the 2nd May to mark the 300th anniversary of the first ever peal which was rung at St. Peter Mancroft in Norwich, and which was also to celebrate the birth of a daughter for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. The second peal was rung by The Society of Royal Cumberland Youths. Ten quarter peals were rung.

Notable quarters were:

March 9th for the Induction of Rev. Anne as Rector of Southill and Clifton

May 17th a 70th birthday compliment for Frank

August 16th for the Baptism of Amelie Peacock

September 9th as a 60th birthday compliment for Robin and also to mark the 60 years of HM the Queen's Reign, which makes her the longest serving monarch.

October 21st an 80th birthday compliment to Sheila

If anyone has a significant occasion for which they would like a quarter peal rung, we would be pleased to ring for it.

The annual outing was on August Bank Holiday Monday and for the second consecutive year it was very wet! We went to Northamptonshire and visited Paulerspury, Potterspury, Greens Norton, Cold Higham and Pattishall, all 6 bell towers. Very wet and bedraggled we were welcomed at The Butcher's Arms, Greens Norton to an excellent carvery lunch. The non-ringers with us were pleased that all the bells were rung from the ground floor so that we could all be together in the church.

Visiting ringers came to Clifton from Marsworth and Watford and three retired groups of ringers came to ring quarter peals.

We rang for almost all Sunday services and special services throughout the year and I would like to thank everyone for their support, coming to ring whatever the weather, also Philippa and Frank for their help with teaching the learners.

Stan Ashton, Tower Captain

Bereavement Group

We are a small group under the umbrella of the Pastoral care, with a specific responsibility for bereaved members of the congregation and the Parish.

The group comprises of Robin Welsford, Chris Killick, Jean Peacock, Elisabeth Smith and myself and we meet about 4 times a year. The group was formed by Rev Anne and will continue in the interregnum visiting bereaved families.

The usual pattern is to visit the family fairly recently after the death. The information is given to me through the procedure that is in place for the funerals and I nominate a visitor from the group. A card is then sent and a visit arranged. There is a follow up card sent on the first anniversary and an invitation is given to the family to come to the All Souls Service where the name of the bereaved is read out and a candle lit. This has been a particular important Service for family members of the bereaved and we had at the last Service many who came to remember their loved ones in a quiet and moving service. We also send out cards where a loved one can be remembered on the

Christmas tree. This has been particularly touching and we have had a number of the families come to Church to put their cards and memories on the tree. The tree looked particularly festive this year with so many cards.

The memory tree is designed for anyone to remember a loved one and not just the recently bereaved.

Should you wish to know more about our group or know of someone who would like a visit please contact either Robin or me.

Jane Pavey
Member of Bereavement Group.

Choir and Church Music

Since September temporary arrangements have been in place to ensure that there is continuity in the provision of music for the church. The contribution of Susan Sims as Organist and Choir Director was very much appreciated by all as she moved on to her new post at Maulden. However, it is good that we still keep in touch with her, since she coordinates the regular Deanery Evensongs.

A priority of the choir has been to ensure that there is an effective choral lead for each sung service. It continues to meet regularly on Thursday evenings to rehearse the liturgical music, including hymns, psalms and anthems. During the latter part of the autumn it prepared music for the Advent and Christmas carol services. In traditional formats, these were well received by the congregations - the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols was particularly well-attended. As spring gets under way we are preparing for a special service on Palm Sunday as well as for occasions such as Mothering Sunday.

It is to be regretted that we no longer have a regular junior section, although we were very pleased to welcome children from the Lower school at Christmas - indeed we hope to do so again in future. However, the most effective way of developing younger singers on a longer term basis is no doubt to recruit them from church families. Singing in a church choir provides a wonderful music education for children, where they can sing all kinds of music, learn to read music, gain new friends and contribute to the worship just as much as adults. So in reading this report, do consider ways in which you may be able to encourage any youngsters to join the choir. We are also looking for additional adults, especially sopranos. If you know of anyone, or are interested yourself, do please contact a member of the choir for further information.

We are most grateful to all members of the choir who sing with dedication and loyalty. We are particularly thankful that Peter Maundrell has been so willing to help out with the music and to other organists for accompanying the services.

The motto of the Royal School of Church Music, to which we are affiliated is, "we will sing with the spirit and understanding also". We will continue to sustain our choral tradition at All Saints and ensure that music is sung to the very best of our ability.

John Witchell
Acting Choir Director

Chronicles

It has been another successful year for the Clifton Chronicles produced and delivered each month by a team of 40+ people. Quick sums suggest that we have delivered about 15,500 copies of the Clifton Chronicles to door mats throughout the village in the last year.

This year has seen the continuation of steady growth in circulation which I reported on last year and we have indeed reached over 1400 copies per month. With the building of new houses unlikely

to be halted in the next year or two I wonder just how many Chronicles we will be delivering at this time next year and beyond.

There is no change to the Chronicles team: Kathy Blackmore is our editor, link with all contributors and general coordinator for the team; Don Gray is our main link with advertisers and our printer in chief; John Good organises our happy band of collators and liaises with our distributors; Sue Welsford continues to be our Treasurer; Peter Blackmore manages advertising revenue and Don Killick continues to order and maintain supplies of consumables. Thanks to all of them for their continued support. We have been pleased to welcome new members on the collation and delivery teams and these teams work hard to keep pace with the increased circulation.

The improved systems for chasing up and progressing payments due which we implemented last year have proved very effective and we had gathered in all our advertising revenue before the end of the first quarter.

The cost of consumables has inevitably increased this year and we have incurred some costs for repair and maintenance of the machine. We are maintaining our capital fund to enable us to replace our print machine when the need arises. We have decided to hold our advertising rates for the third year in spite of the increased value enjoyed by our advertisers resulting from the move to 11 editions. We hope that they will continue to support us that we can continue to benefit advertisers, organisations and readers throughout our community.

Kathy Blackmore
chronicles@clifton-beds.co.uk

Church Cleaning

It has been an uneventful year for the Dustettes who have given faithful service in cleaning the Church every week. There is a quiet satisfaction in entering the Church and seeing it clean and cared for. Thank you to everyone who gives so freely of their time

We always welcome new members to the team. Could you consider giving an hour to the Church every 2 to 3 months we would be pleased to see you. Perhaps as 'offering your gifts' you would consider this as an offering. If you would like to talk to me about what is involved, I will be happy to chat to you.

Jane Pavey
01462 813179

Church Hall

Another successful year for the Church Hall with it being hired on virtually every weekday evening and during the day at times. Various forms of dancing continue to be our main users, benefitting from our sprung wooden floor. The repairs to the floor we had done in 2014 have developed a nice patina and now blend in nicely.

The water heater and dishwasher, also installed in 2014 have proved to be very popular in the kitchen area.

In 2015 we have concentrated on the general look of the building and have had extensive internal and external painting done and we are part way through electrical maintenance work. We have also tidied up the back room and installed storage cupboards for use by Church Hall and users. Messy Church paid for and use half of the cupboards.

We ended the year with income exceeding expenses by £1359 and are looking at ways to improve facilities during 2016.

We are extremely fortunate in retaining the services of Bob Anderson who continues to keep the whole premises immaculately clean and tidy.

Towards the end of the year, our long serving Treasurer, Joan Dann, decided that her ill health was forcing her to resign and Arthur Clarke has taken over the role. Joan has looked after our finances for more years than most of us can remember and we are all most grateful for the wonderful service she has given. We will miss her.

Arthur Clarke

Flowers

The church Flower Rota has 15 people, who for 2 weeks throughout the year generously give their time, skills and donations to decorate our church and enhance our worship. We are fortunate that 5 of these arrangers can usually be relied on to go 'the extra mile' and decorate for major church services such as Easter, Christmas, Remembrance and harvest. The same few people are called upon to decorate the church for weddings if extra flowers are required. I realise that family and work commitments cause demands on many but a little more help to support these arrangers would be very welcome. Anyone interested in joining us to exploring their artistic skills please contact me.

2015 has been a quiet year with only 3 weddings, 2016 promises to be a lot busier with 7 weddings booked so far, so we look forward to enjoying their flower choices.

The floral highlight of the year was the floral celebration of the Magna Carta anniversary as part of the open gardens and churches event. This was very successful despite being a challenging theme and we welcomed many visitors who made very positive comments.

The flower account remains solvent due to generous donations of the congregation and small profits from weddings and festivals.

It only remains to say how grateful I am to all the arrangers for their help and support throughout the year. Thankyou.

Suzanne Stapleton

MAP

The MAP team met on a number of occasions early in the year and were pleased to find that we had produced what we all considered to be a good starting document by the time Reverend Anne went on Extended Study Leave. The MAP was presented to the PCC in May, where it was well received.

It is designed to be a living document reflecting how we are progressing with varying initiatives, incorporating new items and removing old in line with developments in the Mission based activity in the Parish. As we are now in a Vacancy, in line with the pattern we are required to follow of maintaining the patterns set by the last incumbent, we won't be introducing new initiatives or closing down old ones. However, we will be meeting occasionally to track progress and update the MAP so it still reflects where we are.

The MAP will also prove to be a useful resource for prospective candidates for the position of our new incumbent, who we hope will provide every bit as much value, vigour and vision to the MAP as we were pleased to receive from Reverend Anne.

The MAP team – Kathy, Ruth, Jane, Anthony and Robin

Messy Church

Our Messy Church is in its second year and continues to thrive with lots of families attending our Sunday morning worship once a month. Messy Church is primarily for families who are non-churched (have never been to a Church) or de-churched (have been to Church in the past or on

an irregular basis perhaps to the main annual Church festivals, only). Although we have one or two families who attend other Church services it is, for most, the only opportunity that some families take to attend Church on a regular basis and this alone should be sufficient justification for its existence.

Messy Church is Christ-centred and provides a dynamic environment for parents and children to learn together about God, explore ways of living out the love of God in their daily lives and to learn how to reflect, pray and worship. The dynamic of our Messy Church comes through the action based worship which launches and concludes each session along with 8 activities linked to the theme of the day. The introduction (10 minutes) provides an opportunity to set the scene, pose questions, to consider what the morning might bring and to also sing our regular worship song "Our God is a great big God". The introductory worship concludes with prayer and our families then move around the Church Hall completing activities (1 hour) with a booklet to enable them to track their progress. Many of them will make things relating to the theme that go home, allowing them to, recall what they have achieved, why they did it and providing an opportunity for parents to pick up at home some of the learning that they have encountered together. When the activity session is complete the families come together again for further collective worship (20 minutes) which comprises reflection on the activities, a talk ("the sermon slot") another song linked to the theme, further prayer. We conclude our morning with the Messy Grace before lunch.

Hospitality and the welcome of refreshments on arrival and a hot lunch is part of the Messy Church pattern reflecting the many occasions Jesus Christ ate with his disciples. It provides an informal opportunity to mix with our families and get to know them and to support them. We have a mixture of family groups attending Messy Church, with some Dads bringing their children, Mums with children, Grandparents and carers. We even have more than one family that comes with 3 generations, Grandma, Mum + Dad, and children! We are really getting to know our families now and call their parents by name as well as the children.

We could suggest that measure of success is the continued number of families that return and the high level of attendance and to a large extent that is true. Attendance levels seem to depend on the time of year but in general the numbers increased slightly over our first year. May was our quietest month (with 12 attendees) (as it is the Bank holiday and half term) and November (with 50 attendees Messy Christmas), January (69 attendees) and last March (49 attendees at our Messy Easter) are our busiest months. But really success is not just in the numbers but in the one to one encounters that all our helpers have with our families, the opportunity to talk to them about God, whether God is in their lives and help them to reflect. And many families tell us how much they look forward to Messy Church; as one parent remarked when coming into the Hall, that their son had "been singing "Our God is a great big God" ever since he got out of bed this morning".

We have made some changes through the year to strengthen the worship pattern. Each month we produce a notice sheet which has the Church + Academy social events (to promulgate the sense of being part of a wider Church community) and to set out the Bible passage supporting the session in "Bedtime reading" format so that parents can read to their children if they wish (and we always point it out when we hand it out). We have also used a variety of worship approaches often dramatizing stories and seeking audience participation (which always goes down well). We try and introduce a variety of songs that have actions and direct links to the theme of the day. To strengthen the worship of our helpers we are now introducing the Bible reading into our prayer and reflection time just before the start of each session.

We have worked hard this year to ensure that our activities suit all age groups and genders so that we don't become too craft focused, so we have had some Extreme Messy Church activities and some very, very messy activities! We now have a dedicated activity planning team doing a fantastic job who meet bi-monthly to plan the detail of activities and to organise the purchase of materials. We are also pleased that Skye Turner and Charlotte Roper (two of our older children) have felt confident enough to join the helper's team on activity tables.

Our catering team continues to meet bi-monthly to plan meals and ensure that all dietary requirements are catered for as well as providing really delicious and nutritious hot food for each session which always sees a pile of clean plates. There is always plenty of food regardless of numbers and that is due in no small part to the catering expertise of our team.

Our planning team continues to meet bi-monthly to pray for God's guidance in our Messy Church, to develop our strategy, discuss problems, and pull together the activity, catering and worship elements for each session.

Thankfully, as a consequence of generous donations from our families, an anonymous donation of £250 from a couple in our congregation, and a donation from the Clifton Residents Association, our Messy Church is currently self-financing. We continue to thank God for the abundant generosity of these donations that enable us to continue our work without putting any pressure on general Church resources.

We are extremely grateful for all the support we get from all our helpers involved in Messy Church. It is so affirming of the Messy Church mission that so many gifts and talents have been brought forward, so unstintingly and in such a dedicated way. Without the team we would not be succeeding in being there for all those families who take up the offer to come, learn and maybe encounter the love of God.

Ruth Gray

Missions Committee

Usually the PCC allocate £1500 for mission giving excluding the annual donation of £400 to All Saints School Clifton. In view of financial stringencies this year the £1500 included the school payment leaving £1,100 for distribution to which we added the proceeds of our fund raising as follows;

Moggerhanger; £261.60p being the proceeds of the plant and produce stall at the Open Gardens. We were very grateful for the munificent donations.

Alzheimers Society; £300

Church repair and restoration fund; £300

Save the Children refugee appeal; £300 plus a special collection of £215

Age UK; £200 which included £60 from the cake stall which we ran after the service when the local shop manager spoke about the work of the charity

We manned the toiletries stall at the Christmas Fayre in aid of the general fund, continued to supply Prebend Street Day Centre with underwear and also delivered to it the Harvest Produce.

An appeal for Nepal raised £240.

In March we lunched and browsed at Emmaus and in November we assisted at the Christingle service.

We are carrying over £60 to 2016.

My thanks to the enthusiastic committee members.

Marjorie Cakebread

Monday Craft and Chat

For many years the Church has been open on Monday mornings with a rota of volunteers remaining in the building for 2hrs. It was a solitary job with only the occasional visitor. However, the Rev Anne Hindle suggested we turned it into a Craft and Chat time.

It has proved very successful, attracting non-church members to a social and thoroughly enjoyable morning from 10.00 till 12.00 with – of course – the inevitable coffee or tea and biscuits. Knowledge of Crafts is shared and friendships made. We are expecting to exhibit some of the Crafts at a Craft Show in the village in March. Another enjoyable aspect is the occasional lunch outings. We are always pleased to see anyone who cares to 'drop in'.

Chris Killick

Mothers Union

This has been the first year we have been Diocesan Members instead of a Branch of Clifton Church. It has made no difference to our meetings in the Church Hall and throughout the year have had some very interesting speakers.

Our subjects for the speakers were History of Stondon Museum, Working at a nursery school in Scotland, Places to visit in Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, Holiday in Alaska, and Christmas Flower Arrangements.

We had an outing to Swiss Gardens, and a visit to the Lavender Gardens. During the year we have had invitations from other MU Branches in the Diocese and attended several services. We held two coffee mornings, one in aid of the Church funds and the other for the Church Hall. We continue to provide Birthday Cards to all the people at Wren Park, Mother's Day Cards to the Congregation and 'little teddies' for Baptism children. We make the tea and coffee after the Wednesday morning service in Church.

The programme is full for 2016. Our thanks to Clifton Church for all their continued support.

Betsy Gray

Pastoral Support Team

The team has continued to meet with Rev'd Anne. At each meeting, we share updates of those people with whom we are concerned and it was agreed that we would cease our use of the Google database. In its place, we keep our own confidential notes regarding those for whom we have particular care. Where previously we each had a variety of prayer cards to use when appropriate, Rev'd Anne has compiled a pastoral prayer leaflet comprising 'Prayers for help and grace' which could be used instead of an individual prayer.

Sheila has continued to visit Wren Park on the last Thursday of each month to take communion. She is mostly assisted by Kathy and they usually have between 10 and 12 communicants. As a rule, the service consists of 2 hymns and a short reading, following which communion is given, with family visitors often joining in. Rev'd Anne passed on various CDs, service sheets and hymns at our last meeting to support this.

Jane and Sheila have continued to provide home communions on an individual basis while Kathy and Sheila spoke about the work of the team at a Praise Offering.

New in 2014 was the development of 3 Friendship Groups and these were renamed as All Saints Friendship Circle at the beginning of 2015. Members of the Pastoral Group personally invite individuals to lunches (these have become increasingly popular) and sort out lifts. A general invitation is placed in the Pew sheet inviting others to join us should they so wish. Lunches are continuing in 2016 with Jordan's being a popular venue although not exclusively so.

Pat Wisby

Prayer Group

This group meets regularly on the third Monday of each month at 8pm. We start with a short reading, spend some time in silent meditation and then pray for the church, the world, the village and particularly all who are sick, troubled or distressed.

The group has been meeting for over thirty-five years and some of its original members are still very active in the group. At the moment there are fourteen members. If anyone is interested in joining us, please speak to a warden.

Sheila Collins.

Refreshments Team

Coffee and Biscuits after Morning Service continues to be well received by the congregation. Most people are able to stay and enjoy this social time. We often have celebration cake(s) provided by those enjoying special Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries etc.

It is particularly pleasing to see new members and visitors enjoying this time with us and being made to feel welcome. Refreshments continue to be free of charge with the PCC providing fair trade tea, coffee and soft drinks. Helpers are willing and happy to provide milk and biscuits.

The Rota is organised and circulated by Glad Dawson and her daughter Marion Edmundson. This social time is a small but important part of worship and fellowship at All Saints. A very big thank you to everyone involved.

Chris Killick.

Social Committee

We are quite a small committee with a dedicated band of people working hard to provide a programme of social events and to raise much needed funds to run our lovely church. We were however delighted to welcome Philippa Whittington to our midst during the year, especially rejoicing that she brought with her Frank helping from the side-lines. We continue to be grateful to Jim Peacock who although not 'officially' on the committee continues to be a fantastic support in running bars, selling tickets, selling advertising and reminding us of all the other things we need to do. We should also thank Jean Peacock and Peter Blackmore for their unfailing support and willingness to fill any alarming gaps!

We started off the year with a very enjoyable and financially successful Pre-Lent Supper which had an Italian theme and entertainment by Revd Richard Linslade. In May we held our ever popular Christian Aid Quiz where all proceeds went to Christian Aid, we are grateful to Marjorie and Steve Cakebread who do an amazing job designing the questions each year.

Our 'big event' this year was open gardens and we were successful in getting support from the surrounding area on both days. We certainly benefitted from having the gardens of The Grange open on Saturday and were given permission to hold a barbecue for Social Committee and the participants in the Orangery on Saturday evening, which was delightful.

We held the first of two events during this year with the PTA from All Saints Academy in July, just at the end of term, with a Barn Dance. We are grateful to Donald and Valerie Brace and Clifton Bury Farm for allowing us to use their premises for this ever popular event with Bricks and Brussels.

With a departure from our usual pattern we held an informal buffet in church at the end of the service on the day of the Harvest Festival Service and this was very enjoyable and raised money for the Bishop's Harvest Appeal.

Also in October we had the Vauxhall Male Voice Choir return to perform, again this event was very well supported. In December we held another concert this time by The Hitchin Orpheus Choir with a Christmas repertoire. We would not have planned to hold two concerts close to each other but their previous venue had let them down and since one of their soloists is part of our church family we had no hesitation in saying 'come here'! We had mulled wine and mice pies and it was a really lovely festive evening.

At the end of November we held our 2nd joint event with the PTA the inevitable Christmas Fayre – the name may have changed but we all know it is still the same old Bazaar!

Close on the heels of the Orpheus Christmas Concert we organised a cheese and wine 'leaving do' for the Revd Anne at the request of the Churchwardens.

In all these events we rely on lots of people outside our small group to help us get things together, we are a good team. I would like however to pay special thanks to Rachel who is the power and organisation behind all our catering enterprises, I know we all play our parts, but it is Rachel who is there quietly getting everything done, often in the background.

Details of the money raised for church funds and Missions can be found in Frank's money pages but the bottom line shows that we raised a total of £5404 for church funds and £809 for Missions – quite a result!

Kathy Blackmore

On behalf of Social Committee: Rachel Stephenson, Philippa Whittington, Julie-Anne Clarke, Suzanne Stapleton, Sue Welsford, Jean Wyer, Kevin Gray

Worship Committee

Responsibility for the format and content of services in our church lies with the Clergy Team. The role of the Worship Committee is to act as a link between the congregation and Clergy offering feedback, ideas and a laity view. This role will obviously change somewhat during the interregnum.

The Committee meets about four times a year, looks back at the previous period and assists in planning for the next few months. It follows that the work of members is concerned with soliciting and listening to feedback from other members of the congregation and also with editing and printing the service booklets. Thus committee members are active pre and post meetings.

Feedback from the congregation is an important part of our preparation for Worship services and we would encourage all to talk to committee members.

A key aspect of our worship as a church has been the continued success of Messy Church. This has brought a large number of families, adults and children, to the worship of God as well as enabling regular members of our congregation to worship in a different form. There is now a core of regular and casual attendees some of whom have also been to main church services, the Crib service in particular.

We continue to appreciate the use we are able to make of the Clifton Chronicles print facility for the Benefice weekly pew notices and readings.

Arthur Clarke

All Saints' Church Clifton Accounts 2015

UNRESTRICTED UNDESIGNATED FUNDS

INCOMING RESOURCES	2015 £	Previous Year £
Planned giving	30,344	25,050
Collections at all services	3,742	3,320
Donations	1,608	1,614
Income Tax recoverable	8,428	6,797
Fund Raising (net of costs)	5,853	4,932
Bank Interest	17	20
Fees Income	4,379	3,059
Grants from other bodies	100	100
	54,471	44,892

RESOURCES EXPENDED	2015 £	Previous Year £
Mission Giving	1,100	1,500
Church School	400	545
Parish Share - to Diocese	35,813	37,413
Clergy Expenses	844	1,296
Church running expenses	5,540	7,109
Cost of generating voluntary income	37	237
Church Music	3,958	4,467
	47,692	52,567

BALANCES	2015 £
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	6,779
BALANCE B/FWD 1st JANUARY 2015	4,370
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	
TO Chronicles Magazine	(250)
TO FLOWER FUND (Flower Festival)	(100)
BALANCE 31st DECEMBER	£10,799

UNRESTRICTED - DESIGNATED FUNDS

TRADING ACTIVITIES	HALL £	CHRONICLES £	FAIR TRADE £
ORDINARY INCOME	11,590	5,116	302
INTEREST	nil	nil	nil
ORDINARY COSTS	(9,710)	(3,583)	(240)
SURPLUS IN YEAR	1,880	1,533	62
BALANCE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	5,547	3,159	109
FUND RAISING	508		
IMPROVEMENTS TO HALL	(1,028)		
BAD DEBT WRITTEN OFF		(369)	
TRANSFER TO RESERVE FUND		(2,000)	
TOTAL ORDINARY FUNDS IN HAND	6,907	2,323	171
TRANSFER TO RESERVE FUND		2,000	
RESERVE FUND BROUGHT FORWARD		5,000	
TOTAL RESERVE FUNDS IN HAND	0	7,000	0
TOTAL FUNDS IN HAND AT YEAR END	6,907	9,323	171

MISSION & CHARITABLE GIVING	£
From Undesignated Funds	
Age UK	200
Save the Children	300
Repair & Restoration Fund	300
Clifton All Saints Academy Governors	400
Alzheimer's Society	300
TOTAL FROM UNDESIGNATED	1,500
From Other Fundraising	
Christian Aid Quiz	355
Christian Aid House Collection	694
Bishop's Harvest Appeal	192
Save the Children	215
British Legion	214
Childrens Society	343
St Johns Moggerhanger	262
DEC Nepal Disaster	240
TOTAL FROM OTHER FUNDRAISING	2,515
	4,015

All Saints' Church Clifton Accounts 2015

FUND BALANCES

RESTRICTED FUNDS	Balances at 31st December	
	2015 £	Prev Year £
Church Repairs & Improvements	3,357	1,696
Flower Fund	288	207
Fabric & Kneeler Fund	229	204
Young People	913	1,428
Bells & Belfry Fund	1,914	2,063
Churchyard	1,988	-194

SUMMARY OF ALL FUNDS AT 31st DECEMBER 2015

	Undesignated £	Designated £	Restricted £
INCOMING	56,166	18,525	8,243
OUTGOING	(49,387)	(16,179)	(5,008)
NET CHANGE	6,779	2,346	3,235
B/FWD	4,370	13,937	5,404
RE-ALLOCATE	(350)	300	50
IN HAND	10,799	16,583	8,689

ASSOCIATED FUND BALANCES	£
Repair & Restoration Charity	63,201

SUMMARY OF PROJECTED INCOME and EXPENDITURE for 2016

UNRESTRICTED UNDESIGNATED FUNDS

	Last Year Actual 2015	Projection for 2016	NOTES
INCOMING			
Giving	35,694	35,694	[1]
Tax refunds	8,428	8,428	[1]
Grants	100	100	[1]
Fees	4,379	4,610	[2]
Fundraising (net)	5,853	3,305	[3]
Bank interest	17	17	[1]
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES	54,471	52,154	
OUTGOING			
Cost Generating Voluntary Income	37	39	[4]
Parish share	35,813	33,652	[5]
Clergy / office expenses	844	2,934	[6]
Grants & Mission	1,500	2,300	[7]
Church Music	3,958	4,025	[8]
Church Maintenance	270	500	[9]
Church Running	5,270	5,477	[4]
TOTAL OUTGOING RESOURCES	47,692	48,927	
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) TO FIND	6,779	3,227	

The projections indicate a probable surplus over the year amounting to £3,227. Our unrestricted undesignated reserves stand at £10,799 as at 31st December 2015. This represents approximately two and a half month's expenditure.

NOTES:

- 1 Unchanged from last year as no assumptions can be made.
- 2 Fees income calculated using the number of known weddings and an estimated number of funerals.
- 3 Calculated using the scheduled fundraising events to be held during the year, and approximating proceeds based on previous results.
- 4 Same as last year plus 5% for possible price increases.
- 5 Parish share reduced because of interregnum.
- 6 Clergy expenses calculated using a scenario of paying fees for every Sunday HC service from January to September, and subsequently paying normal expenses to a Rector.
- 7 Grants as agreed by PCC.
- 8 Based on previous year plus 5%, and the changed pattern of services.
- 9 Minor items of maintenance in the church - impossible to know what will be needed.