

**MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING HELD IN ST MARY'S CHURCH, STORRINGTON  
ON THURSDAY 27 APRIL 2017 AT 7.30 P.M.**

The Rev. Kathryn Windslow (Rector) opened the meeting by welcoming all those present and said an opening prayer.

Apologies were received from Andrew and Sheila Boulton, Rebeka Hardy, Jackie and Stuart Lee, Jeannie and Lawrie Watten, Stella and Colin Hastings, Christine Tuson, Don and Hilary Fritche, Lee Smith and Revd. Christine Spencer.

There were 38 members of the congregation present.

### **Vestry Meeting**

#### Election of Churchwardens

Barbara Buchanan and Dennis Cowdrey were proposed and elected nem con.

### **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

The Minutes of the APCM of 2016 were approved.

1. There were no matters arising.
2. Electoral Roll – 414 in total: 230 Resident and 184 Non-Resident.
3. Rector's Report – as incorporated in the Trustees Annual Report. Gwen Fisher thanked Victoria Sturdy for her work on writing the charity policies. A question was asked about regarding the --- Service collection being allocated to the church expenses. The Rector said that the collections from the Carol Service and the Christingle are donated to the Children's Society; collections from other services over Christmas are donated to the Worthing Homeless Charity. The church also needs funds as it is a charity and does not run on air. Dai Somerville Jones said he thought we should make it clear to the parish that we start every year with a deficit.
4. Treasurer's Report – attached. Andrew Hammock briefly ran through the already circulated Report and answered any questions raised. Report accepted.
5. The Rector then paid tributes to both Andrew Hammock and Gwen Fisher who were resigning at this meeting, thanking them for their hard work and support. Presentations were made to them both.
6. Deanery Synod - The Rector has accepted the appointment as Rural Dean from August 2016. She thanked the curate and members of the retired clergy in the congregation for their support. We should have 6 representatives on the Synod. Currently there are 4, Brian Elphick and Gwen Fisher volunteered to become representatives.
7. As the other reports had been available for some time prior to the meeting they were taken as read and accepted.
8. Elections to the PCC - The following were elected to stand for 3 years: Sonia Fox, David Rice, Lee Smith.
9. Appointment of Sidesmen – Vera Blake advised that there are 19 people on the list. New volunteers were: Rodney Baker and Anna Forster. The Rector said that we do need more

10. Appointment of Independent Examiner – Alex Spofforth has stood down. A new person will be appointed after we have a new treasurer.
11. Projects for the future  
Closing prayers – The Rector closed the meeting with The Lord’s Prayer at 8.50 pm.

**Meeting of the new Parochial Church Council**

The PCC Meeting started at 9 pm.

1. Election of Lay Vice Chairman –Barbara Buchanan was elected.
2. Election of Secretary – Val Rice was elected.
3. Election of Treasurer – David Rice was nominated by Dennis Cowdrey and seconded by Barbara Buchanan. He was duly elected.
4. Bank signatories – David Rice nominated Barbara Buchanan and Dennis Cowdrey in addition to himself and the Rector.
5. Any other Business –
  - (a) Gwen Fisher has undertaken to organise the Christmas Bazaar on 9 December and is looking for volunteers to help. She is also looking for raffle prizes. The raffle licence is due for renewal in November.
  - (b) Safeguarding: The Rector read out and signed the Safeguarding Policy.
  - (c) Fire Safety Plan has now been approved and is displayed in the church and in the Parish Office.
  - (d) Administering Communion: Amanda Hislop is down for a training course and it was agreed that she would ask for David Rice to be included.
6. Dates of future meetings: 28 June, 28 September, 23 November, 15 February, 22 March, APCM 26 April.

The next PCC Meeting will be held in the Church on Wednesday 28 June at 7.30 p.m.

The Rector closed the meeting with The Grace at 9.25 pm.

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Chairman

Dated

## CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT DECEMBER 2016–DECEMBER 2017 for the APCM

This report provides an overview to the general running and activities held in our Church and are in chronological order for the above period. It does not include Health and Safety, Fabric, Churchyard, Safeguarding and Bell Acre: these matters will be reported separately.

**December 2016:** was a busy and joyful advent month with well attended services plus a successful Afternoon Tea affair held on the 10<sup>th</sup> in Church. It is planned for this event to be repeated alternative years therefore the next being held in December 2018. We are grateful and appreciative to Jillian Arthur and students for providing such heart-warming entertainment as it clearly was the icing on the cake. And thanks must go as always to all those who donated a range of wonderful raffle prizes!

The Carol Service on the 18<sup>th</sup> December was well attended with sherry served in the Old School following giving people an opportunity to meet and mix. The Christingle Service was as popular as ever with the proceeds going to a charitable cause. Thanks must go to Pat and Alan Jenkins whose management of this enormous task year after year is simply superb.

**January 2017:** Began quietly with a sense of anticipation for the forthcoming year and a PCC Meeting was held on the 26<sup>th</sup> January where church business felt to be progressing. David Rice was identified as the new treasurer as Andrew Hammock was to step down in the spring having given several years to the Church in the treasurer role. 2017 was identified to be the year of the bible and members of the PCC discussed possible projects to celebrate the fact. A break-in to the Church on the 30<sup>th</sup>/31<sup>st</sup> the precise time has never been established became a priority. Damage was to the south porch window, sacristy door broken, cables cut/broken, offertory box and evidence of movement of a fire extinguisher and a broken sensor outside the choir vestry door. A police forensic officer did attend but to date no one has been charged with the crime. Refer to the Fabric Report.

**February 2017:** Lent groups sprang to attention with a selection of days and times overall a total of 70 people across the parish attending a lent group. Training for the Parish Visiting team was coming to a closure. Sessions had been over a period of six weeks and led by Rev. Christine Spencer these were extremely rewarding, insightful and challenging. As a member of the parish team I personally felt the training had developed and enhanced my understanding of being a representative of our Christian faith.

**March 2017:** Began a gradual handover of two keys roles: firstly Gwen Fisher was to step down from the role of churchwarden having given St Mary's seven years commitment and hard work. Stepping down also of Andrew Hammock our treasurer for the past five years was an added loss. At this time Den Cowdrey stepped forward and with hopefully not too much persuasion Den agreed to take over from Gwen. It was at the PCC meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> that the Parish Giving Scheme was discussed and the connection to mission and ministry. The parish had several clergy vacancies to fill and the impact of these vacancies would impose upon Revd. Windsor as the Rural Dean (responsible to cover the vacancies) and all of the clergy team. This situation continued to have a major impact upon St Mary's clergy team with only showing signs of resolve into 2018.

Den would work alongside Gwen until he was officially sworn in as churchwarden in May 2017. David would take over as treasurer from the APCM in April.

During this month the Church Terrier and Churchwardens Logs were both completed with no outstanding issues or concerns. The matter of 'selling on' some identified broken and unused silver items remained unanswered by the diocese panel until later on in the year.

**April 2017:** St Mary's hosted a Deanery service on the 2<sup>nd</sup> there was also a very successful Lent gathering held at the Priory hosted by Revd. Hadley and Felicity Hadley on the 9<sup>th</sup> (Palm Sunday). This offered all the lent group attendees from across all four parish churches to celebrate the success of the lent groups. A wonderful afternoon tea, prayer and debate took place but most importantly it brought warmth and belonging to all the Christian churches within our parish. It is with thanks to Revd. Hadley and Felicity that their tireless commitment brings people together with love and prayer. Holy week came with a depth of prayer; purpose and peace all services over Easter were well attended. Easter Sunday service saw verger John Taylor being presented with a gift and card having been a bell ringer for 50 years! John is the Captain of the bell ringers and has been ringing bells since a young lad. On the 27<sup>th</sup> the APCM took place where a fond farewell and huge thank you was said to Gwen and to Andrew with respective gifts and cards given. Gwen gave a heartfelt speech and spoke of the many delights of being a churchwarden! However although both Gwen and Andrew have taken a back seat they are still extremely active within our community and their knowledge and skills are still used and sought to this day and beyond.

April also saw the commissioning of the Parish Visiting Team whose members had been trained following an accredited course under the direction of assistant curate Rev. Christine Spencer. It is programmed that visits to the frail, needy and lonely will be under the umbrella of St Mary's with our faith and Christian values.

**May 2017:** Was a quiet month with the official service for churchwardens take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at St Mary's and the Ven. Fiona Windsor Archdeacon of Horsham Officiated with Den Cowdrey and Barbara Buchanan both sworn in.

A letter is written to the Reverend of Cricket Malherbie in Somerset requesting the return to our parish of the chalice/cup which had been lent to their church on a long-term loan. The chalice officially belongs to the diocese of Chichester and instructions from the diocese were for this item of considerable value to be returned to our possession.

**June 2017:** saw the arrival of a homeless person into our churchyard who felt a need to set up a home/tent in the midst of graves and with the entrance to the tent 'stepping onto' a grave. Upon discussion with Revd. Windslow it was agreed to contact the relevant services and professionals in order to help and support this vulnerable person. It was also felt best to leave things as they were in the hope that suitable accommodation would be found via the services and professionals available. At no point was the person told they could remain but always reminded that "the churchyard was not a place to live and the person would have to move on". Many people offered help and support – both professionals and local community. Properties were offered to this homeless person (also accommodating a pet cat) but all were refused and it was not until the month of February 2018 that this person was able to move on. Unfortunately, the Revd. Windslow and Churchwardens had no other choice but to seek a court order. Therefore after eight months the court judge gave a possession order to Revd. Windslow which gave permission for the Church to move the homeless person on.

At the PCC Meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> members were informed by Jackie Lee our Safeguarding Officer of the need for all churches to comply with SQP – Simple Quality Protects – this will be addressed within the safeguarding report.

Another new opportunity was also raised this being SPACE – Somewhere for People to make Art or Crafts and Escape from home for a few hours! The group meet twice monthly and is a great way to encourage fellowship. Thanks were given and continue to be said to Christine Turrell and Jane Kendall (sadly now moved from the area) for creating such a popular and successful group. SPACE has become an integral part of our Church community life.

**July 2017:** A quiet month with regard to the Church calendar. Most activity this month was working alongside the housing services and homeless services in the hope to support and help the homeless person. Lee Smith did a well in requesting to organise a Vicar's Tea afternoon each Saturday through the month of August. On hearing Lee's plans it was felt a too good an opportunity to miss.

**August 2017:** Holiday month which unfortunately brought some heavy downpours of rain but these did not dampen the spirit of Lee and his Vicar's tea, coffee, cake and chat with the clergy days. Lee was able to motivate an energy whereby volunteers gave time and donations were generously given and the Saturdays through this month proved a real success. It was due to these days that encouraged the creation of our Cafe in Church. Thanks are extended to Lee and all of his vicar day team.

August saw the return of the Chalice/Cup from Cricket Malherbie. Any future loans will require a faculty request.

**September 2017:** On the 7<sup>th</sup> a meeting was held with Horsham District Council and Storrington Parish Council to discuss the future selling of the Bell Acre land: a matter which has been unresolved for many years. Revd. Windslow and Churchwardens attended. Marcel Hoad of Fowlers Estate Agents continues to act on behalf of St Mary's Church in the negotiation of the sale of this land to, or in conjunction with Horsham District Council or other interested parties. This is work in progress with continual input from all parties involved. Refer to separate report.

Storrington Parish Council accept responsibility for the damage made to the strimming of trees in preparation for the Churchyard Awards judged in July – St Mary's was awarded a bronze award which was well deserved. However it was a concern that certain trees had been damaged but these have now been replaced.

A letter is received from Chichester diocese informing Churchwardens that the request to sell on broken and few unused silver items would not be granted unless further evidence can be provided on why St Mary's would benefit from such sales. The matter is still outstanding and remains with Revd. Windslow to clarify our position. These items remain on our inventory and can be made known to anyone who might wish to know descriptions and logic behind the request.

**October 2017:** Harvest service started off on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month with a very successful Harvest Supper organised and managed by Viv Stuart and her team of helpers. Everyone who attended spoke highly of how well the evening had gone and how excellent the food was.

Churchwardens attend on the 10th a workshop at St Nicholas Church, Arundel on the important matter of fund raising. This workshop was extremely informative and helpful in particular to the fact that we plan to take forward a stewardship project with plans to improve St Mary's both inside and outside environment.

**November 2017:** Remembrance Service was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> with the Sheriff of West Sussex in attendance. Children and youths from the local Brownies, Beavers and Scouts groups played an integral part of the service as did the Air Cadets and Officers.

**December 2017:** Christmas Bazaar on the 9<sup>th</sup> proved to be a great success under the direction of Gwen Fisher and members of the 'bazaar team'. This was an all-day event with significant funds raised so a huge thank you goes to Gwen and all her team. On the 10<sup>th</sup> the Sunday Luncheon Club gave a complimentary Christmas lunch to its members of the four churches. Carols were sung prior to the lunch thanks to Chrystalle Kersley and her musical talent! A festive coffee morning in the Church on the 13<sup>th</sup> was a success with the children of Storrington Primary School providing a selection of sung carols. A well attended Carol service was held on the 17<sup>th</sup> followed by sherry and mince pies. With an even bigger attendance for the ever popular Christingle service held on 24<sup>th</sup>. As always thanks must be extended to Jacquie Lee for providing the children and their talents for the successful play and to Pat and Alun Jenkins in the organising and distribution of countless Christingle oranges.

Christmas Day brought a joyous morning service followed by a Christmas Lunch in the Old School organised by Christine and Stephen Turrell and their team of volunteer helpers. Providing and giving on such an important day too many who would otherwise be alone warrants a special thank you to all who gave their time unconditionally.

Other matters: The Inventory for 2018 will be undertaken in April 2018 and reported in the 2017–2018 Church Wardens' report.

9, Longland Ave will be reported on within the Fabric Report.

Finally we go forward into 2018 in the knowledge that there is much to achieve and strive towards in particular the Tower project which we hope will progress from simply being a vision into something that is real and right for the improvement of our Church and community.

Barbara Buchanan

Church Warden

## Health & Safety Report 2017

This document reports on Health & Safety issues for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

### Health & Safety Policy

A new Health & Safety policy document was prepared and issued in May 2017. This replaced the previous document dated November 2011. The new document includes a revised list of responsible persons for all aspects of health and safety within the church and the church grounds.

### Fire Safety

A new and updated Fire Safety Checklist was prepared and laminated copies posted in the church at all fire exits. All sides-persons have been advised of the checklist and briefed of the evacuation procedures in the event of a fire in the church.

A routine check of all fire extinguishers in the church has been introduced on a weekly basis in accordance with the section 2.1 of the health and safety policy.

### Reported Accidents & Incidents

There were five entries recorded in the Accident & Incident Report Book during the report period. Three were accidents, see table below, and two were incidents where a member of the congregation felt unwell during a church service.

#### Accidents

Date Reported	Details	Resolution	RIDDOR
5 February 2017	A member of the choir sustained superficial injuries to knee and knuckles following a fall on the north steps when leaving the church in darkness. The external lights were not working at the time.	The timer controlling the external lights was checked and re-programmed to ensure adequate lighting on external steps during the hours of darkness. White markings on the edge of the steps were re-painted.	No
30 April 2017	A young member of Footsteps poked a pipe cleaner in his eye	No action required.	No
5 May 2017	Member of the congregation tripped and fell on protruding hinge on floor grating in the church aisle. No injuries sustained.	The protruding hinge was modified to reduce the trip hazard.	No

**Bell Acre**, Ryecroft Lane: unused land available for sale.

This is a parcel of land held in trust by the Chichester Diocesan Fund & Board of Finance for St Mary's Church, Storrington. The Storrington PCC are the managing trustees, and as such can decide that this land can be offered for sale.

Marcel Hoad of Fowlers Estate Agents is acting on behalf of St Mary's Church in negotiating a possible sale of this land for residential development. In February 2018 the PCC unanimously agreed to authorise Fowlers to go ahead with discussions about a possible sale of the land for such development.

The Rector, Churchwardens and PCC are grateful to Marcel Hoad for the continuing efforts he is making towards securing a satisfactory sale of this land

Any proposals for the sale of the Bell Acre continue to be fully considered by the PCC and can only proceed with full Church of England approval and necessary permissions.

Gwen Fisher

March 2018

### **St Mary's, Storrington Fundraising events 2017**

**The Christmas Grand Draw** raised £830 towards the Tower repair and improvement fund. We were grateful to everyone who donated prizes and sold tickets. This was drawn at the **Christmas Bazaar** held in the church on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2017 which raised £1,637.83 for general church funds. The Bazaar Committee did a splendid job in organising the event and we are grateful to all the stallholders and supporters who collected, made and donated items for sale.

Gwen Fisher

February 2018

# ST. LUKE'S TEAM

## *PRAYER FOR HEALING*

We continue to meet each month on the Monday after the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday for a time of prayer and to discuss how we can move forward and improve the way that we work and the ministry that we offer.

The prayer for healing is offered during the Eucharist on the third Sunday of every month and we have continued to have a number of people each month who come for prayer.

In the autumn we had a quiet afternoon in church and this ended by attending evensong at which we offered prayer for healing which was well accepted.

The team has suffered during the last year with the loss of several members due to illness but we have also gained new people.

The current team consists of ...

Kathryn Windslow (*ex officio*)

Rev Christine Spencer (*ex officio*)

Barbara Buchanan

Ann Emerson

Rebeka Hardy

Amanda Hislop

Chrystalle Kersley

Jacquie Peal [Facilitator]

Sheila Ward

## **SOCIAL TEAM**

Mission statement: *"To develop the social life of the parish with special thought for those who may be lonely or isolated"*

### **APCM Report**

The social team was set up and met for the first time in October 2017. At the Rector's request we were to consider ways of enriching the social life of the parish with special concern for those who may be lonely or isolated. We were to think first of our congregation and beyond that those in the wider parish community.

### **The Cafe in the Church'**

Our first project was, again at the Rector's request, to set up a monthly Coffee Morning. This is now well in hand, having started in November and continuing every third Wednesday morning since then. In December we were privileged to have a group of children from Storrington School who came and sang carols for us and we have also had a Beetle Drive. Every coffee morning includes a Bring and Buy stall, a 'table quiz' which Liz Allen-Williams has kindly supplied, and also we issue everyone who wants one with a free raffle ticket; both have small prizes. A donation is asked for tea/coffee and biscuits and further cakes and biscuits are available from the stall.

We are very grateful to our many volunteers who serve the refreshments, make cakes and biscuits, put up and tidy up the tables and chairs, look after the stall, and etc. We could do nothing without them!

The 'Cafe in the Church' is proving popular with a number of regular attendees and has also brought in people from the wider community, including some who have recently moved into the area.

### **The future**

We have a number of ideas in hand, including a "Thank You" cheese and wine evening for all the church volunteers in April, and a provisional booking has been made for a 'Skittles evening' in Henfield on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Other ideas are: Fellowship walk, craft workshop, travel talk with slide show, strawberry tea, photo/art/history walk, quiz night, Bridge night, Whist drive, coach outing, men's event. ....

Any ideas will be gratefully received!

Jacquie Peal

22.3.'18

# **3 Heralds Magazine**

## **Report for APCM - April 2018**

John Tunnel - Chairman  
Amanda Hislop – Editor  
Vera Blake – Treasurer

The purpose of the magazine is to provide church information to the Parishes of Storrington, Sullington and Thakeham, together with an outreach to the local communities with reports and events of local clubs and organisations.

Due to increase in printing costs, the cost of the magazine rose by 10p to £1 from January 2018, but advertising costs have remained the same and prices are still very competitive. As at April 2018, all advertising space is full, with a waiting list.

The magazine committee continues to meet three times per year.

A social get-together is planned for 21 May this year at 7.30pm in the Old School, for distributors and contributors, with drinks and nibbles.

Thakeham and Sullington Parishes have 180 magazines each per month. Storrington Parish distributes 476, although this includes spares and free copies. Total subscribers is approximately 650. Complimentary copies are distributed to various outlets, including Sussexdown, local schools, Sullington Parish Hall and advertisers.

Income from subscriptions for year end December 2017 was £6,957.92, a decrease of £305 from year end 2016, averaging 580 copies sold per month. This was attributed to people moving or passing away. Advertising income was £10,893.50, a decrease of £194 on 2016. Overall, the accounts of the magazine are still healthy and retained funds will ensure the continuation of the magazine in event of any downfalls.

The new printers, since March 2017, Bishops Printers in Portsmouth, have provided an excellent service, with good quality printing and delivery of magazine on time, with a quick turnaround.

Fiona Bowring continues doing the layout and does an excellent job in assisting Amanda.

As a member of the Association of Church Editors, Amanda has entered the magazine in a national competition, with several prize categories, the results of which will be announced at the annual meeting in May in Coventry, which Amanda will be attending.

Note – finances for the magazine are independent of any Church or Parish accounts.

*Amanda Hislop*  
*Editor*

## Safeguarding

Safeguarding remains an important aspect of church life and as a responsibility of the church and our PCC. However, over the past year (since 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017) it has been included in SQP (Simple Quality Protects) an initiative adopted by this Diocese. It has been expected by the Diocese that all churches would be in a position to attain Level 1 SQP by this Easter and then move on to Level 2 when their criteria are given to us.

Within Level one it is a requirement that we have certain people who have attained C3 in the Church of England approved Safeguarding training. (C3 is attained when both C1 and C2 training levels have been completed). We comply with the requirement. Some groups have been appraised of requirements, all groups have at least one member who has been made aware of requirements. Changes of group members mean this is an on-going task.

Shortly after Easter our DBS checking will resume as those covered by a DBS check 5 years ago come up for renewal. This will be considered in the light of new, stringent eligibility guidelines and the availability or change of roles of certain people working within our church. Anyone who has ever joined our church and who works in a role which fulfils the eligibility requirements for checking, is automatically checked – failure to accept a check would result in a role change. Eligibility for a DBS check has changed over the years and is regularly updated by CCPAS.

We have had no referrals regarding safeguarding, within the past year.

It is the responsibility of all our congregation to be aware of those who may from time to time or for a longer period, be in a vulnerable position, child or adult. From comments I have heard, we are a caring church within our immediate community.

Jackie Lee, Safeguarding Officer, March 2018

## Footsteps

Footsteps (our Sunday School) members have fallen yet again over the year. Attendance is spasmodic. As members have grown older with homework commitments and as the volume of alternative attractions on Sundays widens, Footsteps has dwindled. However, it remains as a facility should it be needed.

Last year we entered the Storrington in Bloom competition for a Scarecrow and won 3<sup>rd</sup> prize for our Fantastic Father Fox and a Highly Commended certificate for our Marvellous Mother Mary. We have also managed to continue to plant the wheelbarrow which resides at the entrance to our church. Spring bulbs and winter pansies will give way to summer planting later in Spring.

Christingle continued on Christmas Eve with children from the congregation joining us to make up the numbers. Sadly, this has not grown our numbers in Sunday School but one family did join us for Church@4. The congregation at the Christingle was as large as ever but the absence of lighting the Christingle candles within the service (Health and Safety precautions because of ages of attendees and the crowded pews and aisles) was commented on by outgoing parishioners.

Report written March 2018

## Church@4

Church @4 continues on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. Attendance is variable and if everyone came on the same Sunday we would have a grand congregation, however it tends to be a small group who enjoy themselves so much that we always go on longer than the 1 hour it was intended. Hence the problem with us running incredibly close to the 6pm Evening Service which has had to be suspended on those Sundays. It is a service which needs to grow to include all a family in friendly, companionable, gentle worship.

Report written March 2018

**MOTHERS' UNION**  
**West Chiltington and Storrington Branch Report**  
**March 2017 –February 2018**

We have completed a second year run by Committee, but sadly losing Betty Moss from the Committee as she is now in a care home in Worthing.

Increasing age and infirmities has meant that attendances at meetings and events has been much lower.

A wide range of topics were covered by our Speakers beginning with Ian and Andrea Carlson -Hedges informing us about the work of First Responders in the village, accompanied by a practical demonstration; we re-lived The Patron's Lunch of June 2016 when our Diocesan President Kathryn Anderson told us of her experiences of the day, and brought along the gifts she was given as a memento of the occasion; Keith Woodcock gave an insight into the Chanctonbury Play Scheme set up by 3 mothers of children with disabilities 40 years ago to give support to each other through the school holidays, and which now caters for 150 to 200 children at 3 sites in West Sussex, bringing joy and pleasure to numerous families; Jean Hunt took us on an extended safari through South Africa; Jessica Jacob, a very talented water-colour restorer explained the process to us, showing several examples of her very fine work; and Sue Hyland played a selection of music that not only brought her memories back, but also evoked memories for us.

We endeavoured to support our Diocesan Projects with a fund-raising Garden Party in July, and in December an Advent Service, during which Jillian Arthur very kindly performed a solo, followed by a festive tea, and a Raffle. Guests were invited to both occasions. Numbers were very low at the Garden Party, with a better turnout in December.

Attendance at our Corporate Communion Service in September was also poor with only 13 members attending.

Jeannie and Laurie Watten very kindly hosted a Coffee Morning for Branch funds, and although several members of Storrington Church congregation attended very few Branch members came – however, a good sum was raised for Branch funds. Our thanks to Jeannie and Laurie for their hospitality.

Only 11 members attended the Wave of Prayer Service in February at West Chiltington Church, but several members attended the Women's World Day of Prayer Services either at Pulborough United Reformed Church, or the Catholic Church in Storrington.

Only 3 members were able to attend the District Festival Service on Mary Sumner Day at Rustington Church, on what was a very wet evening, and there was no-one fit enough to carry our Banner, although we did provide a cake for the refreshments.

2 members attended the re-opening of Selsey Branch in September, a joyful occasion and the same 2 members attended the Autumn Members meeting at Bishop Hannington Memorial Church, Hove. Sadly no-one attended the Spring Members Meeting.

We marked National Marriage Week at Storrington Church on 12<sup>th</sup> February by providing a Celebration Cake and "bubbly" after the service which reflected the theme of love in the hymns, prayers and music.

We also provided and served the Lent Lunch at West Chiltington church in March, and provided a Simnel Cake for the Raffle.

Those members who followed the Lent Chart made donations to the Diocese amounting to £38-70.

6 members and 3 non-members joined us for an outing to Uppark in August – without the non-members the trip would have been cancelled.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to thrive and our thanks go to Jeannie Watten for continuing to host the get-togethers in her home, this offers a time of fellowship as well as prayerful knitting, and our thanks to all those who knit. Donations of wool or money are always welcome, as are requests for shawls. Recipients do not necessarily have to be members.

Sadly our numbers have diminished as Joy Dunk and Maureen Jewell both died in 2017. Betty Moss and Joan Murton are now in care homes, and Jenifer Woolgar, who was an Indoor Member, has decided not to renew her membership, as commitments to Coldwaltham Church takes up much of her time now her health has improved.

Several members deserve our thanks for keeping the show on the road. The Committee as a whole, but also Chrystalle Kersley for playing the piano at meetings; Vivienne Bicknell for providing flower arrangements for meetings; June Knowles for providing the tea, biscuits etc. and all those that serve the tea; Jeannie Watten for not only hosting Prayer Shawl Meetings, but also for looking after the hymn books and tablecloths, and checking up on sick members; and special thanks to Monica Walter for sending out the Birthday Cards, even though she has had many health problems this year; and to Stella Hastings for being our Secretary, and organizing our New Year Lunch this year.

This is the Centenary Year of West Chilton Branch, and hopefully we will be able to celebrate the fact with some extra special and joyful events. A great way to mark the occasion would be to enroll some younger, energetic members to carry forward the work of Mothers' Union.

Jean Hunt

## BIBLE SOCIETY

The Storrington & District Action Group committee is made up of representatives from churches in the RH20 post-code area. We work together to provide social occasions to fund-raise for Bible Society, in order to provide Bibles and Scripture material to spread God's Word at home and abroad.

In May 2017 our "Songs of Praise" Service and AGM was held at the United Reformed Church, Pulborough with a café-style Service, very different but enjoyable, raising £202 for Bible Society.

The Coffee Morning at Owl End, West Chiltington on 7<sup>th</sup> June was not very well attended but raised £141.

The Quiz Night and Ploughman's Supper held on 28<sup>th</sup> October at West Chiltington Village Hall was well attended thanks to the popularity of Stephen and Christine Turrell running the Quiz. Once again it was a most enjoyable evening and the magnificent sum of £754 was raised for Bible Society.

Several of the Churches as part of their Charitable Giving made substantial donations, and in one case extremely generous, to Bible Society through the Action Group. Sadly St. Mary's Storrington was not one of them.

Inevitably age is taking its toll on Committee Members and 2 stalwart ladies, Audrey Fox and Margaret Tyler felt they needed to retire this year. We also lost Ann and Eric Hoffman as they have returned to Holland. All four have given magnificent service to Bible Society over many years, for which we are extremely grateful.

Ramon Hunt has stood down as Treasurer, but remains on the Committee, and Peter Meadows has kindly taken on the Treasurer's role.

We would love to welcome new blood on to the Committee, the work is not arduous. We meet 2 or 3 times a year to organise fund-raising events, and of course practical help is required for each function.

Offers of help or for more information please contact Jean Hunt.

Diary for this year so far is as follows:-

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> MAY 6pm – "Songs of Praise" and AGM at St. Mary's, Storrington – followed by refreshments.

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> MAY – Coffee Morning at Owl End, Roundabout Lane, West Chiltington 10-30am to 12 noon.

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> SEPT – "Treasures from Home" with Rupert Toovey at The Old School, Storrington.

Jean Hunt  
March 2018.

**REPORT FROM BELLRINGERS AT ST. MARY'S STORRINGTON**

**MARCH 2018**

Over the past few months we have had four new people come to our practice nights who wish to learn to ring the bells. Mike Foster and Nigel Boorman are mentoring them and they are beginning to make some progress.

At our AGM in September there were no changes in post i.e. John Taylor is Tower Captain, Michael Foster ringing practice co-ordinator/assistant Tower Captain and Laura Wadey Tower Secretary/Treasurer.

We only had a couple of weddings last year when the bells were rung and a couple of quarter peals.

Pauline Burt who sadly passed away last year and was an active bell ringer until the last few years, left a significant sum of money to the church which we believe is to be used towards the repairs to the bell tower.

We continue to have visitors from other towers to our Friday night practice and last year saw a good number of visitors on ringing outings visiting Storrington bell tower.

Laura Wadey  
Tower Secretary

**HANDBELL RINGERS REPORT**

The Church Handbell team have had an enjoyable year learning some new music as well as practising hymns for services in Church.

We have been pleased to play at two weddings at Sullington Church and these were very happy occasions.

Kathleen Osgood

## St Mary's Choir – 2017

During 2017 the musical aspect of worship has continued to be enhanced by the seventeen strong choir. It is the choir's role to lead the music in services, and it has done so at Sunday morning services, most major festivals, some evensong services and some weddings. In addition to leading hymn singing, the choir has sung an anthem during communion for many Sunday services. These anthems have included music from Purcell (17<sup>th</sup> century) to Chilcott (21<sup>st</sup> century). It is always a challenge directing a choir that has a somewhat floating membership, as singers live their other lives, but George Jones has done it with good humour, bringing out the best in the resources available. In December the choir lead the annual Carol service with solos by several singers.

George also encouraged as many choir members as possible to join the Southern Cathedrals Festival in Chichester on 29 April 2017. This involved learning some very challenging music by Stanford and William Matthias among others. It was a pleasure and privilege to be part of a celebration of church music alongside hundreds of other singers.

George has time away from St Mary's occasionally and does not usually play for evensong. His place has been ably filled regularly by Beryl Hardie (now retired), Peter Lewis and James Phillips (now moved away). Chrystalle Kersley has also helped occasionally.

Towards the end of 2017 George announced his intention to retire at Easter 2018. More will be said in the 2018 report. However the clergy and the PCC are both committed to retaining music as an integral part of worship, and a replacement for George is being sought.

## ST MARY'S CONCERT COMMITTEE

Another year has passed and the Concert Committee has seen some changes in so far as our Chairman, George Jones, stood down in the Autumn and our Treasurer, Ian Stuart took on his job as an interim measure.

There have been five concerts in the past 12 months, starting with a group of students from Lancing College. The standard of music was excellent, and they genuinely seemed to enjoy themselves. The "stand out" student was a French Horn player, not only was he an accomplished player, but he was also a real enthusiast about the instrument.

Next we had a concert given by our own Jill Arthur and her friends and students. This was held on a Sunday afternoon and the music was followed by tea and cake. The audience were treated to a wide range of music which was very well received, and is to be repeated in May this year.

A real treat for Big Band lovers was the concert given by The Swing Band in October. Although the band was only four strong, they lacked nothing in volume and variety.

Firm St Mary's favourites, Taylor Maid, returned for the fourth visit in January and as always lifted the post-Christmas blues with an excellent foot-tapping evening.

The final concert, which was postponed from 3 March, due to bad weather, was a return visit by the Brighton Welsh Male Voice Choir, led by their Musical Director, Iris Warren, who kept the two dozen men in excellent order! Following the concert, we received an email from Iris, thanking us for our hospitality, good organisation and excellent catering! They have asked to come again.

With the choir was an extremely gifted young Harpist, Caolan Walpot, who gave a short recital in each of the two halves of the evening. We have since had many lovely comments about his beautiful playing, and we are sure that a glittering future beckons for Caolan.

As a result of these musical evenings, the Concert Committee has made regular financial gifts to St Mary's, totalling £3,500 for the past 12 months.

Christine Turrell