

ST MARY'S CHURCH HADLOW

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2019

To be held on

Sunday 26th April 2020, 11.45 a.m. in St Mary's Church

Documents enclosed for the meeting:

Agenda for APCM on Sunday 26th April 2020, p.3

Minutes of Previous APCM Meeting 14 April 2019, p.4

Reports for 2019, p.11

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ST MARY'S CHURCH, HADLOW

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 26th April 2020, 11.45 a.m. in St Mary's

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 14th April 2019
3. Election of TWO (2) Churchwardens
(Two churchwardens to be chosen in accordance with the Churchwardens' Measure 2001)
4. Election of up to EIGHT (8) parochial representatives of the laity to the Parochial Church Council
5. Election of TWO (2) parochial representatives of the laity to the Deanery Synod
6. Appointment of Sides Persons
7. Report on the Electoral Roll (A copy of the Roll is available for inspection)
8. Adoption of The Annual Report on the proceedings of the PCC, the activities of the Parish generally and the Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2019
9. The appointment of an Independent Examiner
10. The Churchwardens' Report on the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church
(in accordance with Section 5 of the Care of Churches & Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Measure 1999)
11. Report on the proceedings of the Paddock Wood Deanery Synod
12. Reports of the activities of the sub-committees of the PCC:
 - a. Education;
 - b. Fabric;
 - c. Finance;
 - d. Outreach and Fundraising;
 - e. World Mission
13. Reports on other areas of the life of the Parish:
 - a. Bell Ringers; Brass Cleaning; Café Plus; Church Cleaning; Church Watch; Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots; Freewill Offering and Gift Aid; Friends Together; Holiday at Home; Home Communion; Kibakwe Link; Messy Church; Music; Newsletter Delivery; Parish Visiting; St. Mary's Flowers; St. Mary's Hospital Car Service; Servers; Sides Persons; Who Let the Dads Out?
14. The Curate's reflections
15. The Vicar's reflections

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting of St Mary's Church, Hadlow for the year 2018

Held in Church on Sunday 14th April 2019:
In the Chair:
Minutes taken by: Linda Yabsley

Members of the congregation present
Reverend Paul White (Incumbent)
Martin Massy (PCC Secretary)

The Rev'd Paul welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Before commencement of the meeting Agenda, Rev'd Paul announced that Derek Oakley had died peacefully on Tuesday 9th April. Mavis was very thankful for all the love and prayers from the church family. The cremation service will be at Eltham for the family members only and then there will be a memorial service at Hadlow in due course. The Requiem this evening will be dedicated to the memory of Derek, who is with his Father in heaven.

Rev'd Paul opened the meeting with prayer for Derek and the meeting.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from: Jenny Nye; Jenny Hopkins; Francis and Eve Griffiths; Barry and Sue Wheeler; Steve and Val Newell; Mark and Rachel Lewis; Rachel Packham.

2. Minutes of the APCM held on 29th April 2018

The Minutes of the APCM held on 29th April 2018 had been circulated to members of the congregation. Rev'd Paul asked if there were any amendments to the Minutes and, as none were proposed, the Minutes were accepted and signed by the Rev'd Paul.

3. Appointment of Churchwardens

Rev'd Paul informed the meeting that Martin Massy had served his full term and would be standing down at this meeting, although Barbara Smith will be staying on for a further year. Michael Payne had been nominated for the position of Churchwarden, and this being the only nomination, Martin Massy declared that Barbara Smith and Michael Payne were elected as Churchwardens for the coming year.

4. Report on the Electoral Roll

As required every 6 years, a new Electoral Roll had been compiled and displayed in the church for 2 weeks, in accordance with Church Law, so that any errors could be notified to the PCC Secretary and amendments made. In accordance with Data Protection legislation we are not able to leave the Roll on display and it will be removed immediately after the APCM. Anyone wishing to view the Roll should contact Martin or Janice Massy and they will make it available.

In 2019 the new Electoral Roll takes account of the following changes:

- a. 59 people left the Roll (7 had died, 20 had moved away or left the Parish and 32 people on the old Roll did not apply to be on the new one)
- b. 18 people were added to the Roll
- c. The total number on the Roll is 142 (41 less than in 2018).

David Lear has, once again, acted as St Mary's Electoral Roll Officer and Martin Massy thanked him and his wife Gabrielle for all their hard work in compiling the Roll.

In response to a question from Alan Knowles, Martin Massy responded that reminders had been sent to people on the old Roll who did not apply for the new one, and he did not propose to issue further reminders. He reminded the meeting that it is possible to apply to join the Electoral Roll during the year, now that the new Roll had been compiled.

5. Adoption of the Annual Report of the proceedings of the PCC, the activities of the Parish generally and the Financial Statements of the PCC for the year ending 31st December 2018

David Gater, Treasurer, confirmed that The Annual Report and Financial Statements of the PCC had been approved by the Independent Examiner and had been presented to the PCC at the meeting on 18th March 2019 for their approval, which had been unanimously given. (The Minutes of the PCC Meeting in March and copy of the Report were available to the congregation)

David Gater drew attention to the fact that in the 12 months to 31 December 2018, expenditure had exceeded income. Due to action taken, the deficit of £7k did not take us into an overdraft situation (adjustments were made to spending and use was made of Reserves). The deficit was due to income streams, which are not within our control, changing suddenly and this had a significant impact on our financial position.

We are not struggling financially and continue to tithe, but we have informed the Diocese that this year we will be reducing our Parish Pledge from £5k p.m. to £4.5k p.m. as one of the measures taken to ensure expenditure does not exceed income. The Archdeacon has acknowledged this and will be coming to discuss the situation with Rev'd Paul.

It is not sustainable to continue to make up any deficit from Reserves and the new Treasurer has this very much in mind. The PCC is also open to considering new income streams. Grateful thanks to the Outreach and Fund Raising Committee for all their hard work and time and it is hoped to build on the success of the current programme of events. Another option discussed by the PCC is to seek to expand the hiring of the church building.

Fortunately, the Quinquennial Inspection which took place in 2018, did not involve us in a lot of additional expenditure. However, given that essential expenditure is at an absolute minimum, regular reviews will be held to flag up any unexpected expenditure.

David thanked the whole Finance Team for their work and support over the years.

Cashier – Maurice Bush

Book-keeper – Duncan Murray

Gift Aid – John Speed

Barry Wheeler and Ian Thom

Thanks also to David and Gabrielle Lear for expert accountancy advice and help inputting into Xero; to Rev'd Paul and the Churchwardens for their support; to David Stephens, the Independent Examiner, for his help and expertise and, finally, to the congregation for their help and support.

David Gater recommended that the Report be accepted by the Meeting and this was agreed.

David Gater informed the Meeting that he was standing down as Treasurer and Martin Massy will be taking on the role, as from this Meeting.

Rev'd Paul thanked David for serving as Honorary Treasurer for 3 years and also Judy Gater for being acting PCC Secretary.

Rev'd Paul thanked Martin Massy for all his work as Churchwarden and for then stepping up to be Treasurer and Secretary.

6. Appointment of an Independent Examiner

David Gater thanked David Stephens, our Independent Examiner for all his work on the Accounts. Mr. Stephens was willing to serve in this role for a further year and David Gater proposed that his appointment should be endorsed by the meeting. The appointment was endorsed.

7. Churchwardens' Report

The Churchwardens' Report in respect of the fabric, goods and ornaments of the church forms part of the APCM Booklet which was available to the congregation prior to the meeting but Martin drew particular attention to the following.

The building is essentially in good condition, particularly the tower following the repairs finished in 2017. Last year we had a Quinquennial Inspection which happily did not flag up major work only some minor items. We do try to maintain the building inside and out and each year. John Knowles inspects the roof, clears the gutters, etc. so that we do not have any problems with water leaks through the roof.

Alan Knowles asked what were the future plans for the display unit, and whether it would be possible to remove a few rows of chairs on the font side so that the wall hangings can be seen more clearly.

Martin Massy replied that the display unit still has some more work to be done but is essentially complete. The display panel on the left relates to the tower repairs and that on the right will focus more on the community at St Mary's.

Rev'd Paul confirmed that the display unit had been financed from money from the Heritage Lottery Fund and was part of the grant stipulations. Regarding moving the chairs from the platform on the display unit side of the church, this had been tried but over time the chairs re-appear. The PCC did consider removing chairs from the font area, but this would leave an area of uncarpeted floor. Rev'd Paul confirmed that the PCC would revisit removing chairs on the font side to see if a solution can be found.

There were no further questions on fabric.

Rev'd Paul informed the Meeting that the PCC are considering the possibility of having some catering facilities downstairs so that if the number of events held in the church increased, the catering facilities will be more accessible and it will be easier for those serving.

Rev'd Paul asked the meeting to vote to receive the Churchwardens' Report. The meeting voted unanimously to receive the Report.

8. Deanery Synod Report

The Report on the Paddock Wood Deanery Synod is included in the APCM booklet available to the congregation. Kelly Parsons, one of St Mary's representatives, highlighted that the Deanery is exploring way of parishes working together and seeing where skills are and then sharing these around the Deanery.

She added that if anyone would like to attend the meetings they are welcome to do so.

There were no questions on the Report.

Rev'd Paul asked the meeting to vote to receive the Deanery Synod Report. The meeting voted unanimously to receive the Report.

9. PCC Sub-Committee Reports

Education

Kelly Parsons highlighted that the children's groups which meet on Sunday mornings, are to be rebranded. The Diocesan Children's Work Advisor is coming to help us with this. We continue to have Beacon and Messy Church on alternate months.

For adults, there is the Study Group, Lent Group and the virtual bible study group.

Fabric

Martin Massy reported that an estimate for the re-decoration of the church, broken down into areas, had been received. It had been decided that the best course of action would be to address smaller areas one at a time to keep expenditure within funds available.

Pippa May suggested that if anyone wished to see what a free-standing catering unit would look like, there is one in use in St James the Great at East Malling. She will find out when the church is open for anyone wishing to see the unit.

Outreach

Janice Massy informed the meeting that a number of events were planned and that they attract people into the church building who would not normally come into Church.

Market Stall has been moved downstairs because people find it difficult to get upstairs and so catering facilities downstairs would be greatly appreciated.

The Outreach Team appreciate all the help received for staging the various events, the next one being the Boot Fair at the beginning of May.

World Mission

Barbara Smith thanked the congregation that, although the Committee had not received any money from the PCC this year, we had been able to send nearly £6k to other charities. And, also thanks for the support for the Paddock Wood Food Bank. The amount of £166 raised from the Lent lunches will go to their General Fund to help meet the £8k p.a. rent on their premises. The Lent Appeal is still running and will support Kibakwe and Delhi Brotherhood Society. Market Stall in support of these two areas will be the Saturday after Easter.

Rev'd Paul asked the meeting to vote to receive the Sub Committee Reports. The meeting voted unanimously to receive the Reports.

10. Reports from Other Areas of Church Life

Rev'd Paul informed the meeting that reports from all the various groups which are involved in Church Life, are in the APCM Booklet.

Christopher Miles asked the meeting to note that as an update to the Study Group Report, it had been decided that the group would not carry on after Easter and is in abeyance. Rev'd Paul thanked Christopher Miles for leading the group for so many years.

Rev'd Paul stated that there was no requirement to vote to receive these Reports and the meeting would take them as accepted.

11. Curate's Report

Rev'd Nicky Harvey thanked everyone for all their support during the last year and thanks to those who had attended her Priesting Service in the cathedral and then shared lunch. She also

thanked Rev'd Paul and Rev'd Christopher Miles for all their help and it was a real privilege to minister alongside them.

It has been a busy year, the big project being the WW1 Remembrance displays of poppies. This had been a huge community effort and she thanked everyone who had helped in making the poppies and setting up the displays. The church had been open at weekends for people to view the displays and this had been a success. Members of the groups making the poppies had wanted to continue meeting, and so Café + was born, meeting twice a month.

Messy Church is continuing to grow with new families each time and provides an opportunity for families to feel comfortable within the church building. Rev'd Nicky thanked Kelly Parsons, Vivienne Pattison, Katerina Nixon, Cathy Brill and Kirsty Finch for all their help with Messy Church. Members of the congregation who wish to come along to Messy Church would be very welcome and they would be a familiar face, if any of the new families came to a service. The next Messy Church is on 9th June.

Another area of note is our growing links with the primary school e.g. leading assemblies and, for the first time, this year the whole school came for a carol service.

Rev'd Nicky concluded by saying how much she is enjoying her time in Hadlow and looks forward to another busy year.

There were no questions on the report.

12. Vicar's Reflections

This was Rev'd Paul's 7th APCM and before his Reflections, he thought it an appropriate time to inform the Meeting that he will be taking a Sabbatical from March to May next year and so will not be at the APCM. Next year's APCM will be chaired by the new Area Dean, the Rev'd Andrew Axon.

Looking back over 2018, there is a sense of thankfulness for all that is going on at St. Mary's – thanks for what we have and what we are part of – St Mary's is a special church community and it is an honour to be part of that and a privilege to be part of God's purposes here.

Rev'd Nicky was ordained a priest last September, and since then we have shared the Eucharistic and other elements of priestly ministry. Rev'd Paul had greatly enjoyed ministering alongside Nicky as a friend and colleague and thanked Rev'd Nicky for her contribution over the last year to the life of this community. The success of our Messy Church services is in large part due to the vision, enthusiasm and planning of Rev'd Nicky. As mentioned already, the services are bringing new families into church and are growing on each occasion. The services are meeting the needs of families who would not come to the ten o'clock service and are a fresh way of 'doing' church. We look forward to seeing how Messy Church grows and meets the needs of families in Hadlow, following its success of the past year.

However, the Beacon Service aimed at older children, and some of our other children's work has not flourished so well for various reasons, and after Easter we are meeting the Diocesan Children's Work Adviser with a view to revamping our children's activities. Whatever is planned will be done with the involvement of children and parents to ensure that we are meeting real needs and that everyone agrees with the new plan. As a church we need to fully commit ourselves to growing the church for younger people.

The APCM is an opportunity to acknowledge everyone who contributes to the many areas of church life. It is a reminder that church is not something done to you, but it is only possible when

it is something that is done together, with everyone using their different skills and callings. I would particularly like to thank:

Janice Massy for all her hard work as parish administrator. Without her hard work the parish would not function. There are huge amounts of "behind the scenes" routine administration in addition to which Janice is involved in Fundraising and Outreach events.

Our Churchwardens, Martin Massy and Barbara Smith, who have been so supportive and hardworking. There is a lot more to the role than just ensuring Sunday services run smoothly and I do appreciate all they do. Martin Massy has also been involved with ensuring the church fabric is kept in good order and Barbara Smith has become our Safeguarding Officer, with all that this entails.

Rev'd Paul announced that Martin is stepping down as churchwarden this year, but he was delighted that Martin had taken on the roles of PCC Secretary and Treasurer.

David Gater, for a great job as Treasurer, and to all on the Finance Team.

The PCC and Deanery Synod members who gave up evenings during the year to guide the church and also huge thanks to Anthony Le Fleming for all he has done since joining us. Thanks too to Michael Pound and Sue Mason and all the members of the choir for the very high standard of music we enjoy during our worship at St Mary's.

And, to all the other people who are involved in the activities, and smooth running, of St Mary's thank you all very much.

Golden Green

Our Parish includes the Mission Church at Golden Green and over the past year attendance has shrunk considerably, and depending on the number attending on Easter Sunday, we may have to review the current pattern of services. The monthly Sunday Services have alternated between services of Holy Communion and non-eucharistic prayer services. However, it may be that a service on a different day, time and format may work better than the current Sunday Services. We really do want to find a more appropriate way of continuing our mission there.

The Future

If we want the church to grow and thrive in Hadlow and people to come to know the love of God, it may mean that we must be more serious about living out our faith in the community and possibly 'doing' church differently. Sunday mornings are not a good time for people with young families to come to church. We have already started to have more evening services which may be a continuing trend. It is likely that St Mary's of the future will look different to the present and past but we have to be brave enough to embrace and encourage this, so that people do not simply come to admire our architecture but to share our spirit. Whatever we do it always needs to be in spirit of prayer that God will lead us where He would have us go and my biggest desire for the coming year is that St Mary's will become a church and community of prayer, having a more adventurous and deeper prayer life. In order for St Mary's to become a thriving community of God's people into the future, we need to frame absolutely everything we do in prayer. Let us all pray for God's work to be done in this place and not just for the remainder of our lives but until the return of Christ himself.

This is a good place, filled with good people and God is undoubtedly working within the community and we must treasure this and not take it or each other for granted.

In conclusion, Rev'd Paul said he was happy to take questions then or could be contacted at any time.

13. Election of PCC Members

There were currently 5 vacancies and nominations, duly proposed and seconded, had been received for Jack Good and Lisa Porritt. These nominations were accepted by the Meeting and Martin Massy welcomed Jack and Lisa as PCC members for the coming 3 years.

No nominations were received from the meeting to fill the other three vacancies.

14. Re-appointment of Sidespersons

The list of sidespersons was in the report in the APCM Booklet and Rev'd Paul asked the Meeting if there were any objections to these people being elected as Sidespersons. There being no objections, the list of Sidespersons was approved.

Barbara Smith informed the meeting that extra people to serve as Sidespersons would be very helpful and if anyone wanted to know more about the role, they should contact her.

There was to be a short meeting of the new PCC following the APCM.

The meeting closed with The Grace

REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2019

Agenda Item 10: Churchwardens' Report for the year 2019

We would like to start by thanking everyone who contributes in any way, large or small, to making St. Mary's Church the wonderful community it surely is. We worship God in all his glory, and all try to show friendship, compassion and understanding to each other within our Church and the wider family of Hadlow.

The Churchwardens' report covers the fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church and our comments on these now follow.

Firstly, the updating of the Church sound system has finally been completed with a few more refinements and it seems to be working well under all circumstances. This now means we have a system which will allow us to use modern sound technology to our advantage both in the weekly services but also on special occasions including weddings and funerals.

Our Treasurer has reported on the somewhat strained financial situation. This, of course, means that the priorities have had to be those of the mission of the Church in the Diocese, as well as paying overheads such as insurance and utilities. In turn, this also means that we have not been able to progress the main enhancement projects as had been hoped in last year's report, which would be for the future benefit of St Mary's Church and the residents of Hadlow alike.

Accordingly, as you will know, it is intended to promote a "Friends of Hadlow Parish Church" scheme and it is hoped that with this extra income, some of the Church fabric may be updated sooner rather than later. Hence it is still our main hope that in the near future we will be able to go ahead with the creation of a functioning refreshment area downstairs (adjacent to the choir vestry door into the 'welcome area' of the Nave) and in due course a phased refurbishment of the interior of the Church.

As in previous years, our priority in terms of the fabric has been to fully maintain our magnificent organ. This is alongside our obligation to undertake regular maintenance on our fire and lightening protection; electrics, including all lighting, heating as well as general maintenance repairs. Due to a splendid grant received via the Diocese, in January 2020 we had a modern stairlift installed to make access to the Upper Room from the Lady Chapel easier and more accessible to all users.

As indicated above and elsewhere in other reports, our Church Finances are very stretched and to enable us all to continue to enjoy our beautiful Church and all that it offers to us and the wider community, we would appeal to you all to review your personal giving, both in terms of time and talents, as much as any donations you are able to kindly tithe.

Finally, a huge vote of thanks must go to Rev'd Paul White and Rev'd Nicky Harvey for their excellent leadership, support and friendship, and thank you to you all too for being such lovely people – it makes our lives as churchwardens a lot easier and so much more enjoyable!

Barbara Smith & Michael Payne.

30 January 2020

Agenda Item 11: Deanery Synod Report

St. Mary's is part of Paddock Wood Deanery and in 2019 Francis Griffiths, Val Newell and Kelly Parsons represented our parish on Deanery Synod, in addition to Mike Harvey who is Treasurer and Lay Chair, plus of course our two clergy members.

The Deanery Synod normally meets about four times a year in churches around the Deanery. Leadership changed this year, with Rev'd Andrew Axon taking over as Rural Dean from Canon Bryan Knapp in May.

The theme of our first meeting was about "Called to Grow" which is part of the Diocesan "Called Together" campaign, launched in 2017. Parishes are asked to go look at how the church currently engages with people in the area, how they could improve and create a 3-5 year Growth Plan. The Diocese have provided an online toolkit and Growth Enablers have now been appointed to assist in this project. The aim is to identify needs in our local communities and shape church activities and worship to meet those needs, to connect with those outside church in an effective way and to grow our congregations.

Later in the year the Bishop of Tonbridge Rt. Rev'd Simon Burton-Jones spoke to us about "Christian Faith and Mission in Contemporary Culture" which got us thinking about the current obstacles and challenges to mission, but also the online opportunities and the heightened need for personal contact in society today.

In September an open meeting was held to consider parish finances. It was noted that shortage of money was a widespread problem in churches and, among other charities too. Discussion in small groups covered concerns over finances, as well as successful ventures and ideas to raise funds. Later these were shared with the whole group, including the idea of forming a "Friends of ..." Church group to attract support from local people who may not be regular attenders but who are keen to preserve parish churches.

The second part of this meeting concerned Indicative Offers which is the current system of deciding how much each parish should contribute to Diocesan Funds. The Area Dean advised that the Deanery had already concluded that this system is not working for all parishes, and this view has been passed on to the Diocesan Finance Office. Further discussion followed, with reminders to parishes of their responsibilities under Charity Commission guidelines and advice not to overstretch financially.

In addition to the main theme of Deanery meetings, there is an opportunity to interact and pray with people from neighbouring parishes, to share concerns and to promote our events and hear about theirs.

Val Newell

January 2020

Agenda Item 12: PCC Committee Reports

Education Committee Report 2019/20

This year we have continued to face the need to identify and adapt to changing demands within the congregation and the community beyond. There have been areas of significant growth and existing activities which have been reviewed and proved to be no longer relevant.

Attendance at the Beacon service, once a well-supported initiative, had dwindled. It was decided to discontinue these meetings. However, the continuing success of Messy Church has provided a new way of worship for church members and an exciting outreach opportunity. A growing number of families attend regularly. Every craft activity is linked to a theme and stimulates discussion connected to a Bible story. Themes have included David and Goliath, Christmas, and the Calling of the Disciples. We finish with a short act of worship followed by the sharing of food. All ages are welcome. Although these sessions are run by a small team of regular volunteers, everyone from the congregation is invited to attend and experience this new way of exploring the Bible.

The Sunday groups operate flexibly, in response to attendance on any particular day. Numbers vary considerably, so those running the groups have to be ready to fit prepared material to the individuals who turn up. Continuity is difficult to achieve, so we have to make the most of opportunities as they arise. A long-running group who met regularly for Bible study has ended, but another, which meets occasionally, has started up.

Cathy Brill

Fabric Committee report

The Fabric Committee assists the churchwardens in the discharge of their responsibilities for the fabric of the church. The Committee also aims to support the PCC in helping to define and carry out new initiatives that affect the fabric in its broadest sense. The Fabric Committee has not been active this year. Nevertheless, various things have been done, such as replacing the stairlift to the Upper Room, which had broken down, organising repair of the chancel window, maintaining the organ, clearing gutters, 5 yearly check on the electrical wiring, boiler service, replacing bulbs (with LED bulbs where possible).

The Fabric Committee comprises Anne Hughes, Barbara Smith, Duncan Murray, Martin Massy (Convenor), Maurice Wong, Michael Payne, Stephanie Ingham.

Martin Massy, Convenor

Finance Committee

The Annual Report & Accounts presents the financial situation for 2019, which, perhaps surprisingly, shows a small surplus once the payments to creditors from 2018 have been excluded from the 2019 accounts. After analysis of cash flow trends, the parish offer we made to the diocese for 2020 is considerably less than last year, and below a sustainable level for the diocese. The PCC and Finance Committee hope to address this during 2020. The committee is working on a finance policy to be adopted by the PCC, and advising on ways to improve income (not including fund-raising events, which fall under the Outreach and Fund-Raising Committee).

We owe many thanks to our finance team, our chief cashier Maurice Bush, ably supported by Barry Wheeler and Ian Thom, our Gift Aid Secretary, John Speed, and our bookkeeper, Duncan

Murray. We are also very grateful for the help given by David and Gabrielle Lear, both accountants, when it comes to the actual accounts and the intricacies of the accounting software.

Martin Massy, Treasurer

Outreach & Fundraising Committee

2019 was a successful fund-raising year for the Outreach and Fundraising team whose efforts – as well as those of many others who helped out in a variety of ways – raised over £7,600 of much-needed funds for St Mary's.

In purely monetary terms, our most successful event of the year was the Auction of Promises which netted us £1500 – thanks to the generous “promises” received, ranging from holiday accommodation in a converted railway carriage (highly recommended!), a pamper session, theatre tickets, and dinner for six with live music accompaniment through to DIY and gardening services.

Other events that raised over £1000 – always a satisfying achievement – were the Harvest of the Talents; our second Scarecrow Trail which again showcased the amazing ingenuity and scarecrow-making skill in our community; and, of course, our annual Boot Fair which is so dependent on the help of a small army of volunteers – as well as the weather!

Four concerts were held in St Mary's – the East Peckham Silver Band, Bacchus Wind Orchestra and Hadlow Orchestra concerts have become popular fixtures in the church calendar. And we ended the year with a wonderful Christmas concert given by Hadlow primary school teacher and trained soprano Rebecca Hooper, with three guest singers with excellent accompaniment by our own Francis Griffiths.

It must be remembered, however, that raising money is not the Committee's sole remit. We also aim to foster fellowship among our church members and engage with the wider community. Most of our events do exactly that, such as our monthly Saturday Coffee mornings which are attended by people from outside church as well as our own members. The coffee mornings also play an additional role: in 2020 they raised over £440 for other organisations and charities.

For Harvest, another traditional time of fellowship, we joined with the Village Hall Committee to organise a Harvest Barn Dance in the Village Hall. After some anxiety caused by the slow uptake of tickets (as is so often the way) this turned out to be a well attended and hugely enjoyable event – with much clamouring for it to be repeated in 2020.

The Hadlow Newsletter, which reaches (nearly) every home in the Parish continues to be a quiet source of Outreach, thanks to the efforts of an impressive network of volunteer folders and deliverers. We thank Lesley Bright who edits it and Anne Hughes who efficiently co-ordinates its distribution.

Which brings me to pay tribute to the valuable contribution to the outreach of St Mary's by all those whose support of and engagement with our community takes many forms. Particular thanks go to all who help with Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots, Who Let the Dads Out?, Friends Together, Holiday at Home and Café Plus.

Finally, a huge thank you to members of the Outreach and Fundraising Committee for their hard work and support over the past year: Claire, Katherine, Kirsty, Rachel, Sharon and Nicky. And, of course, a big thank you to the many members of St Mary's who loyally support our efforts.

Janice Massy

Outreach & Fundraising Committee Convenor

World Mission Committee Report for 2019

The group currently consists of seven members:

Julia Miles; Liz Derrick; Annie Young; Kirsty Finch; Francis Griffiths; Penny Brandling-Harris and myself as convenor.

We haven't 'officially' met as a committee during the past year but do plan and coordinate various events through regular contact via email and 'face to face' on Sundays.

This year we have continued to raised awareness and support for various charities, both based in this country and abroad. With your support, we have raised and passed over in excess of £4,000 but due to budgetary constraints, we weren't able to supplement this with extra monies from PCC funds.

The main beneficiaries have been M.A.F; our link with Kibakwe; The Children's Society and The Community Storehouse in Paddock Wood plus sponsoring the Link to Hope shoe boxes collected by the children of our primary school.

Worthy of particular mention and thanks must go to our Kibakwe team of Sharon Vanns, Jim May and Liz Derrick plus the Rev'd Nicky Harvey; Viv Wickham and Steve Newell. In 2019 it was agreed that we should raise monies to provide further lighting for the girls' dormitories. The village response to our Lent Appeal and the Sponsored walk organised by Jim May was splendid. So much so that, in fact, the team were able to provide and install a further large solar panel to the dormitory facilities.

Also, Kirsty's sterling efforts on behalf of The Children's Society must be mentioned. Dealing with collecting, emptying and then returning the boxes and counting the money is a huge task, which she undertakes without a murmur. Plus, of course, organising with Rev'd Nicky Harvey, Kelly Parsons and many others, the Christingle Service preparations.

Christopher Miles, Vivienne White and now also Viv Wickham have continued to raise awareness of the work that the Mission Aviation Fellowship do and helped with our very successful Market Stall which was well and generously supported.

The beneficiary of the profit from the Lent Lunches, which preceded the Mid-day Lent Course, was the Community Storehouse in Paddock Wood. They need hard cash to pay the rent for their premises so we also donated half the collection from the Carols in the Square on Christmas Eve to them, but of course, also a big thank you from this team to everyone who has provided food and other consumables for them to distribute to those in need both in our village and locality. In 'consumable terms', Hadlow is now one of their biggest donors on top of stocking our own reserves for immediate local use.

Worthy of note too, is that our village and school Harvest collection of food, cleaning products and other domestic things like toilet rolls and toothpaste weighed in at almost a quarter of a ton!

The other large effort from our Church community and village is the Link to Hope Appeal. Each autumn shoe boxes are filled by many primary school children (plus their staff) and our own congregation and friends.

In 2019 we sent over 80 shoe boxes containing essentials and little Christmas presents to the charity plus 15 black bags of donated knitted goods and bulk toiletries like soap and toothpaste which the staff at the centre in Worthing take with them when they distribute the presents in Eastern Europe. Each box requires a £3 donation to cover the transport costs and customs duties.

We don't ask the primary school children to fund this cost so a Market Stall is held in October to raise this money and to date we have covered this cost due to your generosity.

We would like to thank everybody for their support during 2019; for raising the awareness of what these organisations do and for helping raise much needed funds for these charities.

Barbara Smith

Agenda Item 13: Reports from other areas of the Parish

Hadlow Bell Ringers

Hadlow Bell Ringers rang for Sunday morning services throughout 2019 as well as for special services and weddings.

Practice night is on Wednesdays at 7.30pm and caters for all abilities from beginners through to accomplished ringers. We have 14 Hadlow ringers who regularly turn up to practice nights, who are often joined by visiting ringers from other towers.

Last year some members of the band followed their successes of the previous year and added to the trophies they won in 2018. As well as winning the Tonbridge District 6-bell striking competition and then going on to win the County competition against the best teams in Kent, two young members were part of the winning team representing Tonbridge District in the Kent Young Ringers contest in November.

Our thanks go to all members of the band who regularly turn out for practices and especially on Sundays and to Tower Captain Phil for his leadership.

Janice Massy

Brass Cleaning

Many thanks are due to members of the brass cleaning team who keep our church brasses gleaming. It is straightforward to do, using the classic supermarket brands to get a good shine.

I don't think any of us have tried the homemade recipes which abound. Boiled linseed oil, vinegar and salt, lemon and baking soda, toothpaste and even tomato ketchup (which brand, I wonder?) are suggested in old wives' guides. All sound rather messy, not to say risky. And how could you wash tomato ketchup off our lectern?

We would welcome new members to join the team and would encourage members of the congregation to have a good look at the brasses and enjoy their inscriptions.

Judy Gater

Café Plus

Café Plus grew out of the Poppy Project sessions held in 2018. Many of the people that attend do not attend St. Mary's, and it continues to be an outreach group. Thanks go to those who help in setting up as well as making and serving the refreshments

This is a fortnightly session run on Wednesday afternoons, and its aim is to be a place where people can come from our community and drop in for a friendly chat and refreshments. Some people come and chat, just be, work on their own craft projects, whilst others have continued to knit on various projects.

This past year we have knitted nearly 90 'twiddle muffs' for Dementia patients in various hospitals and Care Homes. These twiddle muffs help prevent them fiddling with clothing,

bandages/dressings or other medical interventions such as IV lines for fluids or medication. Other people have knitted teddies for the Police. These go out in the patrol cars and are given to children at incidents the Police attend. Many knitted squares have also been knitted which have been made into blankets for local hospitals. Each blanket is unique and stays with the patient and it enables them to recognise their bed on the ward because of the distinct pattern of their blanket.

Café Plus has many regular attendees and everyone is welcome.

Rev'd Nicky Harvey

Church Cleaning

Our church has been kept clean as always by our team of volunteer cleaners and also last year Rev'd Nicky organised a Big Clean after the 10 o'clock service one Sunday.

If anyone feels able to give a couple of hours every two months or so, we can always do with more help, particularly as we have recently lost two from the rota. We usually work in pairs, but some energetic people do it alone.

If you think you could help but need to know more of what is actually involved please get in touch with me - Ann Jenner 369817 or see me one Sunday morning after church.

Ann Jenner

Church Watch Report for 2019

Firstly, a big thank you to our Church Watchers who extend a welcome to visitors to St Mary's. Although the church is open most days, it is still helpful to have it manned and to be locked up – particularly in winter when it begins to get dark at 4pm.

Over the past year we have seen some departures from our rota and now are only able to cover 12 days per calendar month. Therefore we could do with more volunteers to provide a welcome face for visitors on weekday afternoons. It would only take up two hours a month which could be an opportunity to take some time out from the busyness of our everyday life and read a book or magazine or simply meditate and enjoy the peace and quiet in church. Some, who are also on additional rotas, eg cleaning rota, can use the time to carry out their other duties.

Janice Massy

Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots

Coffee Pots and Tiny Tots meets in church on Wednesday mornings from 10.30 – 12.00 throughout the year. We aim to provide a safe and welcoming environment where parents and other carers can meet informally while their babies and small children play. Tea, coffee, squash and biscuits are provided for a small donation. Every week, there is a simple craft activity and we finish with a musical session of action songs and musical instruments.

The group is run by a small team of helpers, supported by a further team of volunteers who set up in church on Tuesday evenings.

Many of the families who attend make firm friendships which benefit both adults and children, and extend beyond the weekly meetings in church. Parents also enjoy bringing their children to monthly 'Who Let the Dads Out?' sessions on Saturday mornings, with the bonus of bacon rolls. One of the Mums recently expressed her gratitude for 'being able to come along on a Wednesday and know we will all be taken care of'.

Regular volunteers include Cathy Brill, Judith Deckers, Carole James, Jim and Pippa May, Val Newell, Deborah Smith and Jemimah Spalding. Also, Father Christmas, who distributed presents at our party.

Cathy Brill

Freewill Offering & Gift Aid

We continue to have a significant number of regular supporters to our freewill offering without which we would struggle with the day-to-day running of the church. Over the last few years the number of people using the regular envelopes to donate to the church on a weekly basis has fallen. We have a surplus of these envelope boxes if anyone would like one. If you feel you are called to support the church through regular giving, whether by the envelope scheme or by Standing Order, then please do speak with John Speed or Martin Massy.

If you are a UK Tax Payer and have not filled out a Gift Aid form OR if you have moved since completing a form, then please also speak with John Speed. We continue to encourage any members who are UK Tax Payers but who can't support the church regularly to use the yellow envelopes in the pews or at the back of church so that we can claim an additional 25% from the Government.

John Speed

Friends Together

Friends Together is a meeting held on the second Monday of the month that enables any bereaved members of our wider community to share company and lunch. This takes place in the Upper Room from 12.45 until 2.30 pm and is sponsored by the registered charity of the same name. Although this meeting is kindly allowed to use the Upper Room as it's base it is not a church run event. 'Friends' is the brain-child of Chris Parker of Abbey Funeral Services Ltd, Tonbridge, whose company originally funded the cost of providing lunch and organised the community-based groups in the Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells area. Today as a registered charity, monies are sought by the trustees through giving via the 'yellow collecting boxes' which enable this much appreciated support to continue. Dates for events can be obtained from Lindsay on 01732 360328 or by email to: lindsay@friendstogetherbs.org For more information visit www.friendstogetherbs.org , or follow on Twitter @friendstogbs. Friends Together also run a number of fun activities/outings throughout the year which are offered to the groups in a self-funding capacity.

Judith Deckers

Holiday at Home

We held another successful Holiday at Home in August with a few more people attending this time. Coffee was served on arrival followed by activities. Guests enjoyed a lovely lunch served by a team of wonderful volunteers. Further activities took place in the afternoon followed by a cuppa. The day finished at 3,30.

One of the activities enjoyed by all was flower arranging by Iris Shaw. Thanks to a generous donation by a member of the congregation everyone was able to make a beautiful decoration and take it home.

I would like to thank Rev'd Paul, Rev'd Nicky and the many volunteers who gave their time in so many ways.

Holiday at Home 2020 will take place on August 3rd & 4th.

Jenny Hopkins

Home Communions Visiting

For people who are unable to come to St. Mary's on a regular basis due to ill health or infirmity, there are opportunities to receive Holy Communion at home, in their Care Home or in hospital. They are able then to retain their link with St Mary's and its congregation via a formal pattern of visits and services, and to hear the latest news of the parish. This provision is greatly valued by those who receive it, and indeed by those whose privilege it is to provide it.

In the last 12 months, the number of people receiving Communion in their homes or Care Home has reduced due to some people moving away to be nearer family or the death of others. However, on a fortnightly, monthly or occasional basis, we continue to take Communion to those who would like to receive it either from clergy or lay members of the Congregation currently authorised to provide this option.

Home Communion Team

Hadlow-Kibakwe Parish Link

2019 has been a year of consolidation after a busy 2018. At the end of 2018, the Kibakwe Fund was showing a deficit of £530 as a result of unexpected costs arising from the visit of two of our hosts from Kibakwe. This deficit is a net figure of funds donated for water filters and the solar powered electric circuit amounting to £796 set off against an overspend of £1,326 on the visit from our Kibakwe hosts. This overspend is in the course of being cleared. The water filter and electric funds of £796 brought forward will be used only on those specific projects.

Our 2019 fund raising activities were done in conjunction with raising funds for the Delhi Brotherhood. Money raised was divided equally between the two groups.

On 6 April 2019 we held two sponsored family walks, one of 5 1/2 miles and one of 11 miles, taking in churches of the neighbouring parishes of West Peckham, East Peckham and Mereworth. Although wet, it was an enjoyable occasion and raised £217.50 for the Kibakwe Link. The Link was also a joint beneficiary of the 2019 Lent Appeal shared with the Delhi Brotherhood. Kibakwe's share was £773.60 which will be used to expand the existing solar powered lighting circuit that St Mary's has donated to light one of the girls' dormitories at Kibakwe Secondary School.

In total, there is some £1,570 held at the end of 2019 to extend the system into another of the girls' dormitories and to provide some water filters for the hospital and other institutions in Kibakwe.

Jim May

Messy Church

Messy Church continues to run on a regular basis throughout the year, and as a 'Fresh Expression' of church is thriving. It is enabling those in our community and the local school, to begin to explore faith, and is a fantastic outreach opportunity. This is down to the dedicated team of volunteers who come to help, and our older teenagers willing to come and help too. We continue to encourage the regular congregation of St. Marys to come and experience Messy Church. The hope is to build relationships and a growing number of familiar faces, should these families attend our regular services.

There have been 5 Messy Church so far which have looked at the themes of Pentecost, Prayer, David and Goliath, Christmas and The Calling of the first Disciples. Messy Church involves exploring a parable or theme through art, craft, music, games and science activities which are for the whole family. We now produce a seasonal banner which hangs in church. Parents are encouraged to join in activities - and they do - with their children as Messy Church is for all ages and whether you have children or not. After the 'messy' part of Messy Church there is a time of worship which is then followed by tea.

Over the year the number of people, both adults and children, attending Messy Church has risen to forty as a regular figure with nearly fifty people attending the Christmas Messy Church. New families are beginning to engage with the church and come regularly to these sessions. Most of our Messy Church congregation now come from outside our church family. We aim to have Messy Church every other month at St. Mary's.

Rev'd Nicky Harvey

Music Report

St Mary's Choir has produced memorable musical highlights as well as maintaining a positive congregational lead. Imogen Huxtable, happily with us for the year, contributed some fine solo singing to the soprano line-up, notably in such pieces as Mendelssohn's "Oh for the Wings of a Dove" and Mozart's "Agnus Dei". Attendance, as always, has been a tad unpredictable but the epithet, "We never closed" encompasses the overall dedication and sense of loyalty.

Mike Pound and Francis Griffiths have provided wonderful additional conducting and playing support and cover, especially during my periods of enforced absence.

Our magnificent Alfred Monk organ (1880) remains a source of inspiration and joy, its maintenance and longevity discerningly managed by Colin Jilks. Its formidable qualities are demonstrated on a new CD, which will be launched in the Spring.

Sue Mason, (with her team), continues to nurture our choristers, with nine currently involved, ranging from age seven upwards. They are variously involved in the pursuit of Medals and Grades at various levels. Hannah Packham has slipped effortlessly into Annabel White's shoes as Senior Chorister.

While much has been encouraging on the musical front, a red light shines a little ominously, indicating the need to restore and build up "choir" membership for the future.

Antony le Fleming

Newsletter Delivery

Thanks to all involved with the production and distribution of the Hadlow Newsletter, which goes to most houses in the village. Especially to Lesley Bright for collecting the information, Janice Massy for the printing, the regular group of volunteers who do the folding and to the many who deliver through the letterboxes. If you would like to join us once a month on a Thursday morning to help with the folding, the date can be found as the last item of the previous newsletter.

Anne Hughes

Parish Visiting

When people are no longer able to get to church for services, our Home Visiting Team is there to maintain their connection with St Mary's. Every two or three weeks, members of the team go out to listen, chat, share church news and enjoy a cup of tea with those who have requested a visit. By offering companionship, we aim to show that those who find it difficult to travel are still part

of the church community. The scheme operates on a rota basis, so that everyone has variety and a change of face.

This is an enjoyable and worthwhile activity for team members and those visited alike.

The regular visiting team is Cathy Brill, Judith Deckers, Liz Derrick, Jenny Hopkins, Ann Jenner, Julia Miles, Iris Shaw and Carol Wickham.

Cathy Brill

St Mary's Flowers

It was an unexpected shock when our dear Barbara Fermor died suddenly at the end of May 2019. Barbara had cared for all things 'church flowers' for more years than most of us can remember - at the start as a flower arranger, then as wedding flower co-ordinator and for the past at least 12 years as our overall flower co-ordinator. We did not fully realise just how much she did until she left us.

Thanks to her organisational skills, we have been able to continue fairly seamlessly with the flowers. A big thank you to our team for their ever beautiful and artistic arrangements and for stepping up to fill the inevitable gaps in the rota, especially as they provide all the flowers and foliage themselves. We have had several weddings this year, so thank you to our wedding flower co-ordinator. Thank you also for the welcome donations we receive at Christmas and Easter in memory of loved ones.

We welcome Angela to our team, and would be very happy if anyone else feels they would like to join us. We do hope that this year other folk will feel able to place, perhaps just a rose or flowers in a vase in the niche, for their special anniversaries and remembrances. If any advice is needed, please ask anyone on the flower rota or ring 01732 851139. Happy arranging.

Carol Wickham

St Mary's Hospital Car Service

During 2019 we completed 242 journeys, which compares with 195 in 2018 (an increase of over 24%), and, of these, 159 (66%) were for people not directly connected with St. Mary's. Some 'clients' need more appointments than others of course so, in 2019, we had a total of 46 clients (38 not directly connected with St Mary's), with 4 people needing more than 15 trips and 2 over 20 during the year. On average there were 4.65 appointments per week in 2019.

We had 13 drivers last year (11 in 2018) and of course it goes without saying that without them the service could not exist. I am extremely grateful to them all for their co-operation and willingness to spend time sitting in waiting rooms at the various hospitals and medical centres. The drivers in 2019 were: Dominick Brown, David Gater, Mike Harvey, Bob Holder, Ann Jenner, Jim May, Linda Moore, Richard Morley, Duncan Murray, John Pierce, Val Newell, Lesley Terry and Annie Young.

I have been responsible for organising the Hospital Car Service for about two years now, and it has become ever clearer to me that this highly personal service is hugely appreciated and very much needed by the people of Hadlow & Golden Green (and beyond if they attend St Mary's). Please be in no doubt that this is very much part and parcel of the extended pastoral care which St Mary's offers to our parishioners, even if some of the drivers do not attend our church themselves.

I am pleased to say that we now have a new driver (Marie Dawes, wife of John, and previously occupying the greengrocers until it closed) but, with what seems an ever-increasing need in our village, I am always on the lookout for more drivers. If you are willing and able to give time

between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on weekdays (or at least some of them) and are interested in joining the Hospital Car Service as a driver, please do get in touch with me (01732 851881 or 07464 548448) for more information.

It is an extremely rewarding job, believe me!

Mike Harvey

Servers

The serving team comprises 11 individuals and continues to support the 10.00am Sunday service along with special services. We aim for each member of the team to only serve once a month, however with many members of the team having responsibilities in other areas of the church this becomes increasingly difficult. It would be helpful if just two people could choose to join this team to reduce the pressure on other members of the team.

Anyone new to the team will be fully supported by other members of the team. The commitment is for one Sunday a month and an additional 20 minutes before the service and 15 minutes after.

Anyone interested should speak to John Speed or Paul/Nicky for more information.

Our current team members are:

Annie	Judith
Carol	Kelly
Ian	Mags
Iris	Maurice
Jack	Olivia
John	

John Speed

Sides Persons Report for 2019

Firstly, Michael and I would like to thank all of those who valiantly turn up month on month to do a sides person duty, particularly those who take a duty more than once a month. Without your help, none of the services would run as smoothly as they do. On a personal note, my great thanks also go to those who 'volunteer' for the extra services, as at Christmas time and on other special occasions.

Visitors often comment how much they appreciate the warm and friendly greeting they received when they've come to St. Mary's.

Sadly, this year and for various reasons, our number of volunteers has been depleted down to 18 and this means several people take a duty more than once a month. This is not an ideal situation and we would warmly welcome at least another two or three volunteers to join the team.

The duties are not onerous but so essential to a smooth-running service. If anyone is interested in finding out exactly what is involved, please don't hesitate to speak to Michael or myself.

A brief outline of these duties is as follows;-

Elect between themselves someone to welcome worshippers at the main West door.

Hand out Service books, including the Pew sheet for the week, at the beginning of worship and collect them at the end of the Service. Put the hymn books back in the cupboard and the service sheets back in their respective box folders.

Nominate someone to count the communicants among the congregation, remembering to include the choir, servers and any eligible children (using the 'clicker') and give the figure to the duty Churchwarden.

Before the Service, someone to ensure the clergy have clean glasses of water by their seats in the chancel and on the pulpit.

To take the collection and a pre-designated member to take this on the plate to the altar. To nominate two people to stand by the Chancel step to assist people going to and from the Altar at Communion.

The present list is Gill Speed; Bet Brett; Claire Walter; Jenny Hopkins; Sylvia and Maurice Bush; Annie Young; Kirsty Finch; Carol Bramham; Penny Brandling-Harris; Mags Skelton; Carole Waters; Pam O'Sullivan; John Pierce; Jenny Nye; Heather Wills; Lee Kirk; Anne and Bill Hughes.

We would ask this APCM to re-elect them all to serve for another year.

Barbara Smith

January 2020

Who Let the Dads Out?

Once a month, usually on the second Saturday, St Mary's welcomes Dads and their young children to share a fun morning together. We provide toys, craft activities, music and refreshments (bacon rolls for the Dads). It is a safe space where children and Dads can play together and make friendships. Mums sometimes join in, especially those who used to enjoy coming to Coffee Pots but have had to return to work. Parents, children and volunteers all enjoy the time spent together.

Volunteers include Cathy Brill, Jim May, Val and Steve Newell, and Barbara Smith.

Cathy Brill