

Appendix

Reports of groups and organisations active in the Parish Churches of Hellesdon 2016

This PCC felt it most appropriate to ask individual team leaders to provide reports on the achievement and performance of the group activities within the parish. These are presented in this report in alphabetical order.

As a PCC we give thanks for the work of our three congregations in the delivery of the aims of this parish.

NOTE: This PCC has asked individuals to submit reports to show the activities and achievements of the Parish throughout the year. Consequently the views expressed within this report are not necessarily those of the PCC and they appear in unedited form.

BAKE!

Just a few lines to thank all of you who have joined in with our merry Bake evenings in 2016. It is always a joy to meet up and natter. Even more of a joy to meet and natter and eat. Thanks especially to Lou O'Grady for providing our quizzes and for stepping in to open up and make coffee on more than one occasion. The highlight of the baking year was the second Harvest Pudding evening which generated tight belts, sticky faces and generous donations across the Parish.

As we move into 2017 we are looking at incorporating Bake within a broader craft based gathering. We hope that this will offer options to those who craft but don't cook as well as those of us who cook but don't craft. There are many who both cook and craft so hopefully it will tick the box for them too!

Here's to the future of cake in Hellesdon!

Milee Brambleby

Charitable organisations

Christian Aid

Once again generous people in the parish supported the work of this charitable organisation in several ways. For many who would otherwise not have the faintest idea what this charity does, it is the kind people who give up their time and energy to deliver envelopes door to door. This ensures that the Christian Aid message at least gets seen. It also has the effect of raising money when they are revisited and their gifts are collected. Over £537 is collected in this way. Our now annual Frugal lunch at St Mary's is both enjoyable and well supported – our thanks to Audrey Pollard for organising, and thanks to the supporters for raising £149. Both St Paul's and St Mary's also give through their church collection on 'CA' Sunday and this raised a further £258. This year we also took the opportunity of sending the closing balance of our PCC disaster fund, a balance of £48.40 A total of £994 was therefore raised so thank you and well done. Christian Aid week this year is 14th – 20th May, willing volunteers always welcome for house to house (normal suspects will be approached!) Thank you again!

Andrew Alder

The Children's Society box collections

The Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission has been supported by this parish for over 40 years; in this last year one Church Member & two Supporters who have the TLM boxes have raised £105.65. Having lost Nevil I now only have the two supporters from outside the church. If you have a box that has not been handed in then please do this by leaving it at St Paul's or would like to support TLM please contact me as come the AGM unless I have more supporters I will be standing down as the TLM rep. I have received requests from TLM to mark a Sunday between now and April 30th as World Leprosy Sunday with our Local Regional Manager visiting or having our own service for this work and for the Purulia Hospital in India. At the moment I'm awaiting a response. On behalf of the Church I would like to thank to those of you who have a box & give so generously. Please keep them coming in.

Roy Forder

Children, family and young people's groups

Caterpillars and Butterflies

2016 has been a wonderful year for playgroup in many ways. We have settled well into the Marlpit Community Centre and I continue to have a good working relationship with the committee as a member and representative for our work. Early concerns of people not wanting to travel the extra distance are no longer there even for termly trips to St Mary's church.

We now have 12 children with their parents and carers, with regularly 25+ people in attendance making for a loud, vibrant and lively atmosphere. Our small people are free to explore and express themselves through a variety of toys, activities and craft in a warm and safe environment. The youngest child is only a few months old ranging through to 3 ½ years at present and the children are interacting well with each other and each of the adults and I have watched their relationship skills develop immensely over the course of the year.

Joy continues to help me run the group weekly (her youngest left nearly 2yrs ago) and we are grateful of her unwavering support and giving throughout the year. Our volunteers from St Paul's & St Mary's have been a great asset to the group and each week bring their own skills and talents with pastoral care thus building friendly and supportive relationships within the community.

Throughout the year we have looked at some of the more unusual Bible stories and have tried to look at some of those told less often. We also covered the women of the bible which was really exciting uncovering some of the rarer stories. We have cooked, we have been messy (with paints, chalks, homemade playdoh, soil and seeds) we have made some amazing creations, pictures, sensory items and many more.

During the year, through ideas and prayer we felt that we needed to offer the children the chance to experience the church building itself. We are openly a Christian teaching playgroup and our termly visits to St Mary's have been successful and are allowing both adults and children the opportunity to have open conversation about God and religion and this is fantastic. We always go through to the church for a "mini service" (story and prayer usually) and this has been well received.

We look forward to continuing in the coming year with new projects, ideas and planning under way, it's looking to be a fun adventure as some progress to nursery later in the year and others remain growing in confidence and character.

Bex Toft

Family activity mornings at St Paul's

Our Family Activity Mornings are held on the second Saturday of the month in church. We have started meeting in the church for the whole session which has meant some mainly positive changes.

The sessions start with craft activities including colouring, painting, drawing, glueing and being generally creative and messy. We also may do a quiz or a wordsearch. Sometimes there are activities to display in church, for example we made bunting with Christmas characters and these were put up in both churches. The craft and a story are based around a theme for the week. We conclude with lunch.

This year we have been looking at Bible Heroes including Samson, David, Elijah, John the Baptist and in February we were looking at being superheroes for Jesus.

Numbers continue to be variable. The children attending get a lot out of the sessions. They are making friends with one another and on the whole enjoy each other's company. Their knowledge is growing. These sessions are usually lively noisy and fun.

Thank you to everyone who makes these sessions happen.

Felicity Chapman

Rock Solid

Rock Solid has carried on for another year, initially with four young gentleman, but in the latter months just reducing to two very dedicated boys who come every week. We have found this happens as they move up to the high school and have far more activities that need their attention. Leaders now outnumber the boys but I am truly grateful to Alice, Emily, Sammy and Molly for helping myself and Kate put on a programme and prepare material each week. Teaching for the boys is also relevant to the older leaders in their walk with Christ, so our little family continues.

Many thanks to all involved and for the prayers of the whole Church.

John Bridge

St Mary's Sunday School

Due to various circumstances we were only able to meet a couple of times during 2016 but I have continued to keep in contact with our only regular family and they were able to attend services a couple of times during the year.

Debbie Cronk

Coronation Hall

The Hall continued to be used throughout 2016 by various community groups and for one off events. However, as the year progressed it became more obvious that the Hall was becoming more dilapidated in several ways – water through the windows and plaster from the ceiling to name two. The PCC took the decision during the year that it should close as it was not offering the right view to the community and the cost of putting the hall into a proper state of repair and 'fit for purpose' was beyond the means and reserves of the church. Accordingly, the Hall was closed at the year end and an opportunity for memories to be shared was included in a service in January 2017. Fortunately most of the regular users have subsequently been transferred to the church so the community has not lost out!

Andrew Alder

Friends of St Mary's

During the past year the Friends have received fees, gifts and donations from many well-wishers and we are extremely grateful for their generosity. The executive committee have contributed their share to the fundraising by organising and supporting the following events:

- Quiz and Chips evening at Hellesdon Parish Hall on March 4th
- Stall at Woodland Care Home fete on July 30th

Barbecue at Hellesdon Parish Hall on September 30th
Santa's Grotto at Hellesdon Parish Hall on December 10th

Throughout the year cards, preserves and DVDs have been sold by individual committee members through their own contacts.

Brothers Valentine and Gregory, formerly St Mary's resident church mice, have relocated to the Franciscan order due to their extensive journeyings around the globe, which now preclude them from their former status as St Mary's anchorites. They have visited Ireland, Antarctica, New York, Bermuda, Lindisfarne, the Cotswolds, and many more places in the UK and beyond. They even participated in an archaeological expedition to Vesuvius and Pompeii. Their intrepid escorts have contributed generously to our funds and we give them our thanks.

The purpose of the Friends in helping the PCC fund works on the upkeep of the fabric of St Mary's has been publicised at "Grow your Community " meetings and at other events held in the parish.

Enid Jones-Blackett

Home Communion

Rev Enid Jones-Blackett has continued during the year to take a Holy Communion service in Redlands care home on a monthly basis. She also takes a monthly non-Communion service in The Limes, which consists of a selection of well known hymns, readings and prayers. Her monthly visits to Woodlands are usually spent in prayer with various individuals.

Coryn Stanforth has joined the home Communion team and has 2 regular visits as well as occasional visits.

I take Holy Communion to 1 individual monthly and have taken a number of others throughout the year on an individual basis according to need.

It is our plan during the coming year to increase the size of the Home Communion / residential homes visit team to include the AWA and others who are interested in supporting the ministry, to ensure continuity into the future.

Rev Louise Alder

House Groups

Cottingham's Drive

We watched a Spring Harvest DVD by Malcolm Duncan.

We studied the Psalms in a book by Eugene Petersen.

We are at present going through a book called, Stand Alone Bible Studies by Penelope Wilcox.

Christine Kinrade

Middleton's Lane

The Middletons Lane home group succeeded the Fifers Lane group in April 2016. Sadly, we have lost two of our members and we remember Janet, who died after a

relatively short illness, and Ron, who moved to Yorkshire to be near his family. We are a small group of four, who meet regularly on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 10.00pm at 160 Middletons Lane.

During our time together this year we have followed two courses. During the autumn, we looked at the sermon on the mount in some detail and then had a break while our members attended the Advent course. We resumed in January this year by sharing information about the new covenant service and then followed it up with the Pilgrim Course on church and kingdom. This course looks at what it means to live a Christian life in all its aspects and seemed to be an ideal follow up to the covenant service at the start of the new year. We have also looked at some video recordings and television programmes for inspiration.

We would welcome anyone who would like to join us.

Bramwell and Felicity Chapman

Sunny Grove

The Sunny Grove House Group continues to meet every Wednesday evening with a small but committed membership. However, new members would always be welcomed! Over the last year we have followed various studies usually in the form of a DVD with supplementary questions. We have also watched a number of videos of "Facing The Canon". These are films of the evangelist Canon J John interviewing a range of people about their faith. We started off watching his interview with Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, which was really interesting but other fascinating interviews have included Archbishop John Sentamu, Andrew White (the Vicar of Baghdad), Jackie Pullinger (author of Chasing the Dragon about her ministry to drug addicts in Hong Kong), Bishop Tom Wright and Christian singer Matt Redman. We would encourage other groups to watch some of these interviews as they are very inspirational. For Lent we are doing a study by the Church Urban Fund which looks at issues of faith and food.

Martin Graham

Waldemar Avenue - Margaret and Roy Murton

Our house group at 19 Waldemar Avenue on Tuesday evenings has been depleted by two valuable members because of sickness. Nevertheless, four of us gather to talk over and listen to various subjects that include a study in the life of Abraham, a talk by Derek Stringer on Colossians (very deep), a booklet course on caring for others based on the Good Samaritan and, latest, a study in Revelations on a CD by David Dawson.

A time of prayer follows and then tea and cakes.

Quite a stimulating get together.

Roy Murton

Wednesday afternoons at Parish Hall – Rev Enid Jones-Blackett (closed in 2016)

Knit and Natter Group at St Mary's

We continue to meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 11.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. We have a regular group of knitters attending, also a group of non-attending knitters to whom we are very grateful – together we are able to supply the Woolbank with many needed items every month.

Our latest request from the Woolbank has been for knitted hotwater bottle covers, which are used for refugees, along with hats, fingerless gloves and scarves for the homeless.

We were pleased to be able to help our four local residential homes by providing them all with five memory bands, for which the staff were all extremely grateful. Please feel free to join us for coffee and a chat at any of our get-togethers.

Frances Hofgartner

Ladies' Teas

Men's Breakfast

On the first Saturday of even numbered months, a regular group of eight men, mainly from St. Paul's, meet at The Oaks on Cromer Road for breakfast and a jolly good chat!

There is a wide choice of food available – fruit salad, yoghurt, all sorts of cereals, croissants, muffins, tea, coffee, fruit juice and, of course, all the separate constituents of a “full English breakfast”. You can eat as much or as little as you like.

We pay £10 each into our kitty, which covers the cost of the breakfast and leaves £1.01 towards subsidising the “feast” in December.

We have had several of the dad's from the Family Activity Mornings join us, as well as Alex de Vries (Kate's husband) and John from Open Doors.

We normally book a table for 12 but there is always plenty of room to accommodate more.

Our gatherings have proved an excellent way to get to know each other better away from the restrictions of being in Church. It would be great to have a few more men come and join us.

Details of when and where we meet will appear in the parish monthly newsletter.

Andrew Cossey

Mothers' Union Hellesdon Branch

Our meetings take place in St Paul's Church on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.30 p.m., when guests are always welcome.

We have enjoyed interesting talks about 'The Water of Life', 'Work of the Blind Association', 'Prayer', 'Life of Mary Sumner', 'Past Industries of Norwich', 'Safety in the home' and watched a flower arranging session.

Rev Enid Jones-Blackett took our Easter Eucharist Service and Rev Louise Alder our Harvest Service, when once again we donated gifts for a Harvest Box to take to the St Martin's Housing Trust. Our August Garden Party was held at the home of Jo and Denys Holmes and we were entertained by the Martin Singers at our Christmas Party.

During the year we have helped to raise funds for the M.U. Diocesan Project, called 'Cycle to Horstead' – not actually cycling ourselves but sponsoring a member's grandson who did our pedalling for us! We raised £100 towards this worthwhile cause.

We have had the opportunity to meet up with members from other Branches, by attending Area services, the Cathedral Festival Services and Diocesan Meetings at St Luke's.

We really appreciate the work of our Committee and Treasurer and look forward to the two new members being enrolled early in 2017.

Jo Holmes

Music

Marlpit Community Choir

The Marlpit Choir has continued to meet every Wednesday evening (school term time) at Valley Primary School. We have welcomed several new members, some who have stayed and all who commented on the 'warm welcome'! We have 36 members on our books and although numbers each week are usually in the low twenties, our 'come when you can' approach obviously suits many. In September, we increased the voluntary donation subs to £1.50 to try to ensure that hall hire was covered. Tracey Gonzalez has continued to be our main leader and we have enjoyed singing many new songs, sharing great friendship and 3 end of term parties. Concerts have included: St Mary's coffee morning, The Queen's birthday picnic, Christmas concerts at Valley Primary School and St Paul's Ladies Tea. It was lovely to see those who came to the carol singing evening around the Marlpit estate, very rewarding when a lady asked to join us for a carol or two! We have lots of fun, there is often laughter and the choir continue to support each other with friendship, especially when someone has sad or worrying news. Going along to choir is always an uplifting experience.

Lou O'Grady

Musical Notes from St Mary's

'Do Different' has been the motto this year and thankfully to everyone's delight, our repertoire has grown and grown.

One of our new pleasures (thanks to Revd Louise) is to sing the psalms set to well-known hymn tunes. Our congregation seem to enjoy this more relaxed and inclusive singing of the psalms.

As a choir we are so grateful to Tim Patient who gives freely of his time for practice, steering us across carols, anthems, blessings and occasional offices. Thanks also to Peter Worby who also plays at weekday funeral services.

In the summer we said a fond farewell to Revd Richard Bowett and Revd Jack McGinley our guest "boy choristers" moving home nearer to family.

But the Lord has been gracious to us – dear Fred Hofgartner is always happy to sing with us and keeps his robes at the ready.

At Christmas we were joined by Paul Corder and Rudy Lapeer for Carols by Candlelight. Alongside Fred and permanent chorister Bobby Smith they made a great quartet. Thanks boys.

St Mary's music report for 2016 has ended on the saddest of notes. Our dearest Brian Cleland (our lead tenor) passed away. Brian's dry humour and banter made choir practice so enjoyable. A privilege to have shared so much with a dear friend and supporter of St Mary's Choir over so many years. Bless you Brian.

Ginny Smith

St Paul's Worship Group

We continue to meet each Friday evening to prepare for Sunday worship.

On those occasions where we meet at St. Mary's on either the first or the fifth Sunday of the month, we take time to look at some new material, usually from a "Spring Harvest" songbook. Over the course of the last year we have introduced about eight "new" songs and are currently working on another half dozen or so. Please visit <http://hellesdonchurches.webplus.net/page26.html> to listen to some of the new material we have used.

Bex Toft has joined the group this year bringing membership to a grand total of seven!! However, the occasions when we are all available together are very few and far between. Normally, there are five of us "on duty" at any one time.

Please pray for us in the coming months as we look at ways of improving what we do together as a group.

Andrew Cossey

Open Doors

There have been several changes at Open Doors over the last 12 months, but it still remains a busy and rewarding part of the ministry of Hillesden Parish churches. Rev Jack McGinley moving from the area and Linda Harmer's decision to cease her involvement after many years brought about an enforced change of "leadership" and often ways of doing things.

We have a team of fantastic regular helpers from both our churches, Margaret Abbott and myself share the "Leadership" but it is very much a shared ministry with all those involved, each one having a vital part to play.

The 2 weeks before Christmas were entitled Christmas specials – with table quizzes and extra food all plated on the tables for sharing. Following the success of this we will do something similar for Easter.

We decided that it was important to allow all the team time off, so with plenty of notice we now take 3 periods of 2 weeks closure during the year, producing a dates list for everyone to take away, we use the handmade cards produced by church members for the birthday cards thus also raising the funds for the Children's Society, our cakes are all homemade (with the very occasional exception) and everyone seems happy.

Rev Louise Alder

St Mary's Flowers

We only had one wedding with a special request last year, and we arranged it in cream and white. There was a wedding where the bride brought her own arranger in. Four weddings have been booked for this year.

Our meetings are going well at the Church prior to events. Easter flowers followed the usual theme of yellow and white, with the brass urn full of lilies and palm leaves. The Harvest theme was a selection of psalms.

Louise is to publicise the fact that any member of the congregation who wishes to can contribute to a flower arrangement in memory of a loved one, this practise will continue. A small card can be inserted in the arrangement if they wish saying "In memory of" If it is for an anniversary then suitable words can be arranged.

We would like to enrol some more people to help with the flowers. If you have never arranged flowers before you could come and give some assistance when needed.

I would like to thank all members of the congregation for their generosity of donations, without their help we would not have any flowers. Also I would like to thank the girls for their help in arranging the flowers.

Freda Lane

St Paul's Wives' Fellowship

2016 has been a year of interesting talks for our group, meeting in St Paul's Church, on the first Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.

Once again our year started with an enjoyable carvery meal at the Holiday Inn, for members and friends.

Following this our talks have included 'Advice about the Broadland Handyman Scheme', 'A magistrates' life on the bench', 'The life of Edith Cavell', 'The Community Alarm Service' and 'A Vicar's Life'. Another time we watched a Sugar Craft demonstration, had a Tea and Quiz afternoon, played Beetle and had an entertaining Christmas talk, where we made a collection of money and mince pies for the St Martin's Housing Trust.

The Summer Tea Party was held at the home of our leader Mrs Audrey Pollard and enjoyed by all.

In the coming year we would be delighted to have visitors to our meetings – they would be sure of an interesting afternoon and a friendly welcome.

Jo Holmes