



2016 Annual Reports
presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
of the
Parish of Widford
on
24th April 2017

WIDFORD PARISH PCC

2016 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Parish of:- St Mary Widford with Church of the Holy Spirit.

AIM AND PURPOSES

St Mary's Church and Church of the Holy Spirit, Widford PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Stephanie Gillingham, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Widford Parish Centre, Forest Drive, Widford.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to encouraging people to worship with us at our different services and to become part of our parish church family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, Bible reading and teaching, music and the sacraments.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Our wardens have led us in managing the fabric of our properties, for which we are very grateful.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT READS:

We want to grow:

- To be more like Jesus
- Knowing Christ together
- Loving one another
- Serving others
- Being at the heart of our community

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

- **To be more like Jesus**

We are developing our healing and prayer ministry with mid-week prayer, and prayer before PCC meetings. We enjoy a pattern of teaching and preaching on Sunday mornings which is linked to the church lectionary materials. We continue to make stronger links out into our community; Westlands School, Widford Lodge Prep School and Hylands School.

Prophecy: God has continued to speak to us this year through the prophetic, although not as prolifically as in the past. He wants us to desire Jesus to be at the centre of our life, to be our source and to be our life. This is why he sent his Holy Spirit. God said, "Ask for him, desire him, let him fill you and empower you, for this is what he wants to do." Remember that God loves you and wants only the best for you.

Prayer Report: Well done the faithful few who valiantly continue praying on a regular basis. Also, those who are unable to come to the church to pray

but continue to pray at home. Last year, I wrote of prayer as the life blood of the church. Let's take that one step further. If we become weak as a result of anaemia, so also will the church. We want to keep our bodies well and take the trouble to eat well and to exercise. Therefore, if we want a vibrant church, reaching out to others seeing families transformed as they embrace the gospel – let's pray passionately. It's so much easier to do things rather than pray. Let's be prayers as well as doers!

- **KNOWING CHRIST TOGETHER**

A communion service is held in each church twice a month and through the month each church has an All-Age service and services of the Word. Regular Baptism Services take place on the first Sunday in the month at St. Marys church. In addition to these regular Baptisms, there have been Baptisms at Church of the Holy Spirit and on other Sundays at St. Marys.

Within the framework of the service:

At St. Marys: Pam and Will continue to provide valuable teaching and activities for the young children.

Dan Gullick and Rob Perry continue to serve us faithfully with music every week.

At Church of the Holy Spirit: Despite the fact that we have had very few children attending our Sunday services, often with no children at all, Joan Barker, Gill Wood and Tammy Squirrel have shared the responsibility of teaching the children who do attend from time to time, and one of them would always come to the Sunday service prepared for this. This has been done with the use of stories, crafts, quizzes, collages and puzzles.

The Worship Team at CHS has continued to grow together. They meet to practice and learn new songs to introduce to the congregation most Wednesday evenings. When the whole Worship Team is together there are two guitarists, two keyboard players, two singers and a drummer. It was difficult for our Bass Player to join us due to shift work and then we lost her when she moved to Rayleigh towards the end of the year. Our Media Operators have been sharing skills and the PA Operators have also been learning how to operate the projection software. We have been joined on occasions by our Drummer's Fiancé which has added extra support. One of our Keyboard Operators has been stepping in to play the drums when our Drummer's has been away and is growing in confidence.

- **LOVING ONE ANOTHER**

We have a number of house groups which meet regularly, and we remember birthdays and special events. We have a prayer chain which supports people as they need it, and a team willing to visit people at home with communion and our blessing.

*H*ouse Groups:

St.Marys Housegroup: Our group consists of 9 members,we meet monthly on Friday evenings for Bible study, finishing with prayers. We rotate hosting the meetings and begin with a shared meal. December is our Christmas dinner meeting and July is usually a garden barbecue. This year we worked

our way through the Fruits of the Spirit which provoked a lot of thought and discussion. At our November meeting we began a study of St. John's letters which will continue into 2017. We have a great feeling of togetherness which makes it a pleasure to meet and lifts the spirit if one is feeling low.

Chignal Smealy Housegroup: A small group of us continue to meet at Doreen Brackpool's home on Wednesday mornings. During the year, our Bible studies included Philippians, Ephesians, Philemon, Titus and some of the Proverbs. We ended the year, working through 'True Story. What's Yours?', a Scripture Union book designed for Youth, but we decided that we are all 'young at heart'!

The Friday Group: This long established home group meets fortnightly on Friday evenings at the home of Lionel Blanks. Bible studies are led by Janet Allright, a former member of Widford Parish. During this last year, we have looked at The Lord's Prayer and studied aspects of Lent.

The Pilgrim Course Group have met on Tuesday evenings. We enjoyed the introductory course with short DVD clips and discussion, and this last term our focus has been the Lord's Prayer.

- **SERVING OTHERS**

***W**idford Waddlers: toddler group meet on Thursday mornings in Widford village hall from 10 to 11.30am. We are a friendly, caring group made up of a mixture of mums, grandparents and child minders. Attendance has slowly picked up during the year and in the latter half we welcomed several new mums and their babies. Of course, they are not all regular attenders, but we have a good 'core' of mums/grandparents who come every week.*

We provide toys for babies and pre-school children, play dough, a comfy reading area and a train track on a low table (purchased second hand during the year). We also provide a craft table where the children can make something to take home and we end each session with a sing along.

We have held several Wid-Wads at St Marys Church during the year, at Easter, July, October (harvest), December (Christmas) as well as twice in May when our hall was being used for local elections and the EU referendum. The children and mums are very comfortable at the church and we try and make it as child-friendly as possible. We have lots of craft things for them to do and Stephanie finishes with some drama for the children to take part in.

In November we celebrated our 20th birthday!! Jen Gaskin (our founder) joined us which was lovely. Sheila Schofield was also there at the beginning.

In the autumn we said goodbye to Nelia who was unable to carry on due to work commitments. Many thanks to Rosalynd Griffiths who has helped out during the year and to Zoe Myall who has joined our team (while she is in the country) and has been invaluable on the craft table!!

A big, big THANKYOU to Stephanie too for her commitment to our group and all she does. Please pray for our group, for the mums, grandparents and children. It's hard work but we are so blessed.

well with the other people in the group, building on relationships formed last year.

Children's Work: During 2016 we have enjoyed parties, a successful holiday club and a Sunday school whenever there were children in the Sunday service.

Parties were held at Easter, October half term and Christmas. Each was well attended and included games, stories and a cooked meal.

The holiday club for this year was titled 'Polar explorers', which used stories from the book of Acts to show the children that they are 'Never too...' anything to be part of the kingdom of God: Never too young (based on the story of Timothy), never too bad (based on the story of Saul) etc., all based around a polar expedition base.

We saw a number of new faces at holiday club this year, alongside children who have been to several clubs in recent years. We finished the week with a barbecue that we invited parents to attend – for which we had all of the meat donated, which was incredibly generous. Thanks go to the many people who made the club possible: Stephanie arranged all of the prayer activities, ran a small group and helped me to arrange the teaching elements, Tracy and Gareth led the upfront teaching and did a wonderful job getting the children excited, whilst getting the point across, Keri organised the craft activities and created an igloo in the centre of the church! Many other people had very important roles, including (but not limited to) small group leaders, refreshments, registering children. A massive thank you to every person who was involved in any way.

Sunday school has not run every week, as there are not always children in the Sunday service. Joan and Tammy have, between them, taught the children a wide variety of subjects, including the creation story, the story of Abraham, Noah's ark and the parable of the lost sheep, using methods including stories, collages, DVDs, crafts and prayer activities. Towards the end of the year Gill Wood joined the team, which means we have been able to create a rota so that everyone is clear when it is their turn to lead.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in children's work this year.

Lunch Club. On 45 Wednesdays during 2016, Lunch was served in the Parish Centre. Thanks to their generous gift of time and culinary skill, combined with prudent purchasing, our Cooks kept the cost, unchanged, at £2.50, for two course meal, plus tea or coffee. Numbers of diners varied between 20 and 40. - Usually, our highest number of guests is on the first week of each month, when the Hunnables Friendship Group joins us at lunch, after their morning meeting.

Each week, folks come from quite a wide area and there is a lively, friendly, atmosphere.

Warm thanks must be expressed to our Main Cook, Sheila Schofield – who provided the majority of our meals, but also to Judith Large, who nobly takes on the responsibility once a month, and Bob and Lynette who 'chef'd' for us on 4 and 2 occasions respectively. Then, there was one week when Stephanie and Sandra 'stepped up to the ovens'. On each occasion, a tasty meal was enjoyed by us all.

We are also very grateful to all those who have taken other roles in the kitchen – Janet Bird, Beryl Clark, Alan Davey, Jeff Gilbert, Valerie Hayward, Lynette Hunwicks, Carol Le May, Maureen McPhee, Linda Stephens. They all worked hard and served joyfully.

V Festival: We were approached earlier in the year, to possibly develop the God Tent into a much larger café and prayer tent, which is something that has been running for a number of years at the Leeds Festival. The organiser of the two V Festivals wants the same thing at V. This is something that could easily take place as well as the God Tent carrying on in its usual format of welcoming people 'into our home'. Fortunately, Mark Tiddy, the Bradwell Area Youth Advisor has come on board to organise this new venture as he has already helped at the Leeds Festival. So please pray for the success of this venture as well as your continued prayer for the people who pass St. Mary's and the witness that is given there by handing out drinks, the practicalities of setting up and running the God Tent, stamina for all who help and for the festival goers with whom we come into contact. Most of all, please pray for open hearts.

It was such a privilege to witness once again, people arriving at the God Tent in tears, weighed down by their own personal 'life's problems' and then, after prayer and encouragement, seeing them laughing and happy to go off again supported by God's love. In one case, not only laughing but singing a delightful rendition of Gloria Gaynor's 'I Will Survive' and Diana Ross' 'I'm Coming Out'. It makes all the hard work of setting up and taking down and the tiring hours spent over there and walking there and back, very much worthwhile. Thank you, Lord.

We are often able to share our faith with these people as they often show a genuine interest in what we are about. The problems are out there whether they walk into the God Tent or not so please continue to pray that these opportunities keep coming our way.

Supaclub at Westlands: On most Mondays after school, a small group of about ten pupils from years 2 and 3 at Westlands School, gather in one of the classrooms, together with Revd. Stephanie and Pam – or one of them with Vicky or Gill Wood. After a drink and a biscuit, the lively group share a story from the Bible, a song, a game and a relevant craft activity. The Parish has been asked to continue to provide the club until the end of this school year, at least. No doubt the new Head Teacher of Westlands will be in contact with Stephanie, for a decision to be made about the future.

Pulse ran well for the majority of the year, on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, during term time. The group dynamic meant that the structure of the club changed slightly - towards the end of the year, the tuck shop petered out due to lack of demand and we organised fewer themed nights, with young people preferring to sit and chat amongst themselves instead. As the year went on it became harder to engage the group in activities which was a real shame.

As always, my thanks, go to Keri, Stephanie, Pam, and Matt for their help and perseverance.

Soul Survivor: In the summer, Bethany Walker and Nicola Davey joined up with the youth at St Mary's Church, Saffron Walden again and went along to Soul Survivor. The weather was much kinder to us this year and we fitted in

Sandra Kyte and Del Fleming helped regularly throughout the year, with laying tables, serving, clearing and welcoming. Unfortunately, by the end of the year, Del learned that she needed surgery and treatment, so Lunch Club will need to manage without her for the start of 2017. We pray for her recovery and for the continued ministry and witness of Lunch Club.

Widford Women's Fellowship: Another busy and enjoyable year. Our average attendance each week is 12 and we have several older members who are not always well enough to come or they have medical appointments that they need to attend. However, we do have some very good afternoons.

Through media presentation, we have shared various holidays and expeditions. Some of these have been to help charities and some personal adventures. We had a promotional talk about the qualities of Aloe Vera products for our Health and Skin improvement. We heard about some of the memories of being a local Lady Mayor. She was involved with the Town Twinning and told us of some of the benefits to the relationship on both sides. We had a very interesting lady who talked about "Women's Roles" during World War One. Through her findings and books that she has written, she has gained recognition for the work that they did. Her books were for sale with any profits going to "Women in Wars".

During some 'Crafty Afternoons', we have made Dream Catchers, collages with autumn leaves and Advent Calendars. We also entertain ourselves with various games and activities to keep our brains ticking over. We enjoy the chance to sing with some of our Musical Entertainers. Many of our friends return with updates of what they are doing. Among these are Tracy, Keith and Elaine, and many thanks go to these people including Stephanie who shares Holy Communion with us during the year.

We invite Lunch Club members, some of whom do stay if they are interested in the subject for that day. We still enjoy our tea and chat at the end with a chance to catch up with our friends. We now look forward to another happy year.

Knit and Natter: We continue to hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month from 7-9pm. We have a small regular group while others come when they can. Some of us have learnt new skills from others in the group and we enjoy a hot drink and cake and relax in each others company. Numbers have dropped and vary from 4 to 10.

The Just for Men group has continued to meet during the past year on the second Monday of the month. It has a small core of attendees that come along most months. On occasions, the group has evenings or days out in various locations and this is popular with the members. Our aim is to grow the group to include men from the mission and ministry unit that our parish is part of.

The Parish Centre continues to provide a home to a number of regular hirers: the Beechlands ladies group, Stay & Play group for families, with an additional Tuesday afternoon Healthy Eating Group, Hunnables Bereavement Friendship Group, Course in Christian Studies and the Motor Neurone Support

Group . Apart from our regular hirers, our Parish Centre is used for hire for birthdays, by the City Council for elections, and for other special events.

***T**ithing: In order to be more helpful to the Edapal Family in Kenya (the family we have supported for many years), the PCC decided to make a regular payment each quarter, of £250. A Standing Order was arranged.*

For 2016, the rest of our 5% tithe was divided between CHESS, the International Nepal Fellowship, the Motor Neurone Disease Society (local branch), Great Ormond Street, Rheumatology Research and an Emergency Pot. The latter was used to support Tearfund's work among the famine-affected people of East Africa, in March 2017). We have received letters of thanks and extracts from these will be included in the Church Talk leaflet over the next few months.

Average Attendance	Over 16	Under 16	Baptisms	6
St. Marys	30	3	Weddings + Blessings	4+6
Church of the Holy Spirit			Funerals	33

• **BEING AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY**

We are still mindful of Bishop Stephen's call for Mission. With that in mind we held a number of social events throughout the year which we invited the community to. We don't usually make a charge for any of the events we provide for the community. We are able to do this through the generosity of our Church Family.

***P**ancake Parties were again held on Shrove Tuesday for all ages. We provided puzzle sheets and word searches for people to do and chat over while they ate their pancakes. Approximately 190 pancakes with a variety of fillings and toppings were readily consumed! Many families attended this year.*

***O**n the Saturday of Palm Sunday weekend, we held a Family Funday. There was an Easter Egg Hunt, various crafts with an Easter theme, and we provided breakfast and lunch.*

On the Sunday, we began our service at St. Marys Church then walked to Church of the Holy Spirit with flags and hobby horses for the children. On Maundy Thursday we provided a simple "soup and roll" meal followed by a short reflective service.

***E**aster Sunday was celebrated by the two congregations in worship and breakfast at St. Mary's and lunch together at Church of the Holy Spirit. Both churches held an Easter egg hunt for the children.*

Picnic - A few of us gathered in Admirals Park and we had good fun and good fellowship.

Quiz Nights were held twice this year. Bob being quiz master along with Janet Hazel. Both quizzes had a strong musical flavour causing much hilarity, 'sing alongs' and fun was had by all.

Friends of Essex Churches Ride and Stride: As usual, both our churches were open to greet visitors on the second Saturday in September 2016. We had only two 'striders' this year, but still collected £88 in sponsorship – half of which was returned for use in our Parish. The Cream Tea at St Mary's in the afternoon was a very pleasant occasion, and the day closed with a service of Compline.

Harvest saw us collecting for the local Food Bank. As with last year, we held a lunch in the Parish Centre after the Harvest Service at Church of the Holy Spirit.

Our annual Fireworks night, held at St. Marys, was another great success in November. We provided an evening of food, fireworks and a bonfire for the community.

The Parish Christmas Party was great fun. Peter and Gill Wood organised the buffet food. There was music, and for those who wanted to join in, we played group party games.

For Christmas, we celebrated with a Nativity Play at Church of the Holy Spirit. This year we invited everyone to come dressed as their favourite Nativity character We also held a Christingle at St. Marys, a Carols by Candlelight at both churches, Children's Christmas Service on Christmas Eve afternoon at Church of the Holy Spirit (with a special visitor giving presents away), Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve at St. Marys and an All-Age Service on Christmas morning.

St. Mary's and Church of the Holy Spirit have both held Baptism and funeral services. Weddings and interment of cremated remains have taken place at St. Mary's.

We continue to seek ways, under God's guidance, that we can serve our community more effectively.

ELECTORAL ROLL

There were seven members added and three removed. There are 76 members on the Electoral Roll as of April 2017, 36 resident and 40 non-resident.

DEANERY SYNOD

We are entitled to two members of the PCC to sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Deanery Synod: Chelmsford South Deanery Synod is part of the democratic structure of the Anglican Church. It includes representatives from 18 parishes and meets four times each year under the leadership of Revd. Andy Griffiths, as Area Dean, and Christine Horton, as Lay Chairperson. It fits in between our elected PCC and Diocesan Synod (the next-stage-up in the structure, concerned with the whole of Essex and East London Boroughs). During 2016, in addition to visits from the Archdeacon, the Diocesan Youth Advisor and the Schools Youth Ministries, Deanery Synod was much involved in discussion and decisions around the formation of Mission and Ministry Units. Our South West Chelmsford Group, with Galleywood and the two Moulsham churches, has been accepted as one of the first MMUs in our Deanery and the celebration and 'launch' of this is to be on 6th May 2017. However, it has been agreed that Deanery Synod will continue to have a role – as a forum for thinking, discussing, informing and praying together, supporting prayerfully the Christians within our Diocese and nation and in providing the electorate for General Synod representatives. In addition, the Area Dean and Lay Chair have an advisory role in relation to churchwardens and practical provision within the churches. The final Deanery Synod meeting of 2016 (open to all), was an inspiring service of celebration of all the work for Jesus that takes place in our area. Each parish had a part in the service and one of the Queen's chaplains gave the address. It has been agreed to reserve one of the four Deanery Synod meetings each year as a service or prayer meeting. During 2016, Bob and I were lay representatives, on behalf of Widford Parish. The number of lay representatives depends on the size of the regular congregation. In addition, Stephanie, like all clergy within the Deanery, is, ex officio, a member. Lay representatives are elected for a 3 year period. Our APCM in April 2017 is the occasion when this election needs to take place.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

*S*ervices: . A regular number of committed Christians support and attend the worship on Sundays and we have a caring fellowship. Our worship fits comfortably between the formal liturgy & a relaxed approach to convention. Several families have brought their babies and young children for baptism and 3 couples were married at St. Marys. Spurred on by Bishop Stephen's vision of "Transforming Presence", Stephanie has continued to encourage more members to participate in services and this has revealed a number of hidden Gifts amongst our church family. Pam regularly leads All Age Worship once a month and gets members involved in these services. Rob and Daniel deserve a special mention for their music contribution at our services throughout the year which is immeasurable.

At Church of the Holy Spirit we continue to hold services at 10.30am; the first

Sunday of the month is an all-age worship service, second and fourth is Holy Communion and the third Sunday is a service of morning worship. If there is a fifth Sunday in the month we have enjoyed sharing services with other members of the South-West Chelmsford churches group and taking part in different styles of service. We have held additional one-off services such as a service of remembrance and messy church. At Christmas we held a nativity service, a Christmas eve children's service, a Christmas day present service and the carols by candlelight – all of which were very well attended. We continue to encourage more and more people to get involved with aspects of the services.

***B**uildings.: As far as the fabric of the building of St Mary's is concerned, this year was marked by the cleaning & repairing by Aurovision, of our stained-glass windows, some roof repairs and a new kitchen fitted by Roger Gillingham. Together with other work (improved lighting) this has set the ball rolling for more works to follow on in 2017.*

At Church of the Holy Spirit we had a section of the fence around the car park repaired and paid for by the Co-op after it was damaged by one of their delivery lorries.

***T**he PCC had an away day in the autumn at the octagon rooms in Maldon. We discussed the Diocesan vision and decided on our priority focus areas for the coming year.*

***W**e continue to build good relationships with the schools. Church of the Holy Spirit has hosted them for assemblies on three occasions—Easter, harvest and Christmas.*

***S**adly for us, Joan Crisp, Percy McDonald and Margaret Granville died during the year but we are confident their faith has assured them a place in heaven. They will be remembered.*

***T**hroughout the year St. Mary's has continued to hold special events from a cream tea afternoon to fireworks on November 5th.*

***O**n the 7th May, CHS was the venue for 'Called out' - a vocations day that brought vocations into everyday life. It was an enjoyable and inspirational day.*

***A** lot of our church family involve themselves in a multitude of duties which keep the place running, all without seeking recognition. So, this is an opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who plays a part in the life of our two churches and helps us to fulfil our responsibilities.*

LYNCHPIN'S REPORT

The Southwest Chelmsford Churches lynchpins group met approximately every 6 – 8 weeks to discuss ideas to help our parishes to work together. We helped to support Gemma as she arranged 'Called Out' – a vocations day that brought vocations into the everyday and showed that everyone can do something.

The lynchpins have been involved in planning united services that happen if there is a 5th Sunday in a month.

We were approached by a group of churches that included East Hanningfield, Downham, Ramsden Heath and Ramsden Bellhouse who were interested in joining our Mission and Ministry Unit (MMU) and welcomed them at one of our meetings. They decided not to join our unit.

We have discussed at length the Diocesan requirement for each MMU to have a mission focus, and decided that ours would be to try to tackle loneliness and isolation in the parishes that make up our MMU, and begun to think about ways in which we can do this together.

RECTOR'S REPORT

As we reach the end of another church year – we look back, but often it is equally exciting to look forward!

In Matthew 10: 40 we read,

'Whoever welcomes you welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.'

As a church family we have been working hard on our safeguarding; a big thank you to Vicky for this work, and secondly the focus was on organising our finances – which always seems such a difficult topic and yet is so important to everything we do (big thank you to Roger). We have also been working on our welcome – a little thing, but it makes so much difference – with a smile and a few thoughtful words, people will come again. Getting to know one another in our shared meals, and breakfasts are also important – and thanks go to so many people who make all these things happen.

Tracy has decided to stop working in the office – this has meant a big change for us as a Parish – a big thank you goes first to Tracy for all she has done over many years, and then to the amazing team who are keeping us going – thank you all.

In Matthew 10: 41 we read,

'Whoever welcomes Gods messenger because he is Gods messenger, will share in his reward.'

As your incumbent (Priest) – I was sent on a course with the diocese. They, in turn, gave me a project to do called 'Appreciative Enquiry'. I interviewed 10 people from St Marys church and 10 from Church of the Holy Spirit, and have collated and analysed the information. There has been so many exciting events in the life of our church over the years, and this is recorded in the full document (one available on the board in each church). Then people were invited to dream dreams for the future life of our church. CHS has had a chance to look at this and comment on it and St Marys will after Easter. Together we will find ways to engage with the ideas that are presented. Fourteen people said they wanted our churches to grow – and so together we will now make efforts to grow Gods Kingdom in this place. The future is exciting. Join in, keep our churches places of welcome and let's grow the Kingdom of God together.

In Matthew 10: verse 42 we read,

'You can be sure that whoever gives even a drink of cold water to one of the least of these my followers because he is my follower, will certainly receive a reward.'

Keep up the good work, and thank you.

PARISH OFFICE

2015 saw no change in personnel. However, there were changes in the office. A conversation with BT in April meant that our Parish Administrator, Tracy, negotiated a reduction of over £20 a month. She was unable to take up their offer of changing the broadband for a better offer as she didn't receive the information needed for this.

The aging copier broke down in April and the company supplying the maintenance contract was unable to replace the part required. They offered to supply us with a replacement second hand machine to see us through to the end of our contract. However, the decision was taken to dismiss this offer and buy us out of the original copier rental contract and the maintenance contract. This left the office without the use of a copier and with only desktop printers which resulted in the outsourcing of the major print runs. For most of the rest of the year, there were many discussions regarding the future of the printing and in September the decision was made to buy a copier outright. Sadly, this did not happen by the end of the year but it was hoped it would be resolved early next year.

In November, our Parish Administrator gave notice that she was intending to leave at the end of January 2017. She has been Administrator since the late 1990's, increasing in hours and moving from a voluntary to paid position, but felt it was time to leave. She wanted to be fair and give plenty of notice rather than the month she was contracted to give.

The band of office volunteers continued to provide sterling support to our Parish Administrator (with the newer Volunteers growing in confidence). Our Administrator could not have managed without them and is extremely grateful for their help and support for another year.

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our churchwardens Alan Davey, Tammy Squirrell, Bob Wiseman and Sylvia Skardon who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf, and Roger Bird who has helped us all to understand the church's accounts and its finances. We would also like to thank Peter Wood for his role as Lay chair.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At Widford St. Mary's and CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, churchwardens, the licensed lay minister and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New Member receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met ten times during the year with an average level of attendance of 75%. The PCC continue to meet on a monthly basis throughout 2016.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St. Mary’s church is situated in London Road, and Church of the Holy Spirit in Forest Drive. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is “Widford Parish Office, Forest Drive, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 2TS”. Registered charity number 1128307.’

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2015 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest-in-Charge:

Rev’d Stephanie Gillingham

Church Wardens:

- Mr. Alan Davey
- Miss. Tamzin (Tammy) Squirrell
- Mrs. Sylvia Skardon
- Mr. Robert (Bob) Wiseman

Licenced Lay Minister:

Mr. Roger Gillingham

Authorised Local Preacher:

Mrs. Tracy Davey

PCC Members:

- Mr. Roger Bird – Treasurer
- Mr. Lionel Blanks
- Mr. Tony Griffiths
- Mrs Pamela (Pam) Myall – PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod Rep
- Mrs. Barbara Oxlade
- Mrs. Victoria (Vicki) Smith
- Dr. Peter Wood (Lay Chair)

Report approved by the PCC on

and signed on their behalf by

The Parish of Widford
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday 24th April, 2017
in Church of the Holy Spirit, Widford

A. Meeting of Parishioners

Election of Churchwardens

B. Annual Meeting Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Prayer
- 2) Apologies for Absence
- 3) Notification of Any Other Business items (to be taken at the end.)
- 4) Minutes of previous APCM held on Monday 18th April 2016
- 5) Matters Arising
- 6) Stephanie's Report (Priest to Widford Parish)
- 7) Electoral Roll
- 8) Annual Reports
- 9) Finance
- 10) Wardens' - Fabric Report
- 11) Deanery Synod Report
- 12) Election of second lay representative to Deanery Synod
- 13) Lynchpins Report
- 14) Election of a Lynchpin Member
- 15) Election of PCC Members
- 16) Appointment of Sidespeople
- 17) Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 18) Any Other Business
- 19) Date for first meeting of the new PCC - Monday 15th May 2017
- 20) Close with prayer

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings
of the Parish of Widford
Held on 18th April 2016
at St Mary's Church

A. Meeting of Parishioners, at 7.45pm.

Election of Churchwardens

Rob Perry (Lay Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting to elect Churchwardens. There were four nominations:-

Alan Davey was proposed by Sheila Schofield and seconded by Alan Jones.

Tamzin Squirrell was proposed by Colin White and seconded by Nicola Davey.

Robert Wiseman was proposed by Pamela Myall and seconded by Lynette Hunwicks,

Sylvia Skardon was proposed by Pamela Myall and seconded by Lynette Hunwicks.

The meeting unanimously voted to accept these nominations and to appoint Alan and Tammy as Wardens for The Church of the Holy Spirit and Bob and Sylvia as Wardens for St Mary's, for the coming year.

Rob thanked all four wardens for the work they had done in the past and, in advance, for what they will do.

B. Annual Parochial Church Meeting, at 8pm.

Welcome and Prayer Rob opened the meeting with prayer.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Gill Wood and Keith Schofield.

2. Notification of Any Other Business Stephanie had one extra item to bring to the meeting.

3. Minutes of previous APCM held on Monday 20th April 2015 (These had been signed at a PCC meeting) were agreed to be a true record.

4. Matters Arising There were no issues that would not be covered within other items on the agenda.

5. Rector's Report

Stephanie led the meeting in a time of remembering members of our church family who have died in the past year – Brenda, Gerry and Joan. Thanks for their lives, for God's care of them and for comfort for those who specially miss them.

Stephanie drew the meeting's attention to Psalm 127, verse 1;

Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.

She expressed thanks for all the work that goes on in the Parish, in the Lord's name, and wanted to share the plan that has emerged through prayerful work in the PCC, in particular during an Awayday in October 2015.

It was agreed that, as a Parish, we should concentrate in three particular areas:

Firstly, **Interdependence** – working with others, especially those in the South West Chelmsford churches. We also work with Churches Together in Chelmsford (on the Walk of Witness, the Passion Play etc.). Ran a joint project with Skylark Church (when the Bar 'n' Bus came in the summer). Have close links with the Salvation Army – through Women's Fellowship, and next Sunday a Salvation Army choir would be coming. Our

Secondly, **Generosity and Financial Security** – As a Parish, monetary giving and the willingness to invest time and effort in God's work are quite high. Thanks to Roger, the finances are in safe hands, but, we still struggle to ensure that outgoings are met by income.

Thirdly, **Nurture** – ever since the Awayday, we have included the Mission Statement Prayer in our services. Contact cards for newcomers are being used again. Bible reading is encouraged – notes were given to some folk who had not used them before. Housegroups are being promoted. Tammy has agreed to be Housegroup coordinator. Anyone interested in joining a group, or starting a new one was invited to speak to Tammy or Stephanie.

A recent Messy Church saw several families who do not currently belong to any church enjoying hearing the Gospel.

The Course in Christian Studies, which has been taking place for the last two years, is due to end soon. Would there be a demand for another CCS? What would we like to see going on in the Parish? – Perhaps a Pilgrim Course, or a Welcome Course?

The Lord is building our house. It takes many hands to help in His work. Stephanie expressed thanks to all the Church members for all they do.

7. Electoral Roll

A correction was noted to the entry in the Annual Report. The figures related to April 2016. Three people had been added to the Roll and two removed.

8. Annual Reports

Thanks to Tracy's hard work, members had had the opportunity to read these before the meeting, so Rob invited questions or comments as the report book was scanned. There was a question about the caravan used at the V Festival.

Pulse Youth Club. (Page 5) Nicola wanted to mention two items. One, a frustration, that there is often untidiness in the Store Room, when she comes to prepare for Pulse. It seemed that the Stay and Play group, on Mondays, were not very good at clearing up after themselves. Peter said he would keep an eye on this.

On a positive note, the Pulse group was going well. However, Nicola gave notice that more help will be needed in future, since she and Matt are to be married. Rob expressed thanks to Nicola and the congratulations and best wishes of the whole meeting on her forthcoming marriage.

Housegroups. (Page 9) Shirley was concerned that there had been no report included about the 'Friday Group' – the fortnightly Bible study that meets at Lionel's home, under the leadership of Revd Janet Allwright.

At the beginning of 2015, the group had looked at Matthew's Gospel.

In view of Brenda's declining health, no meetings took place in the second half of the year.

However, Lionel had invited the Group to re-commence its meetings, and, at the time of the APCM, they were looking at readings from the Passion to Pentecost.

Tammy apologised that she had not known to request a report on other than email. Rob thanked Shirley for her verbal report, and Tammy, for agreeing to be Housegroup Coordinator.

The Tithe. Peter regretted that there was no mention of the charities we supported in 2015, in the Annual Reports. It was agreed to enter them in Churchtalk.

Funerals (Page 10). In response to a question from Bob, Tracy informed the meeting that the red figure in brackets referred to the number of funerals that Stephanie took in St Mary's Church in 2015. The larger number was of funerals conducted at Chelmsford Crematorium.

Lynchpins (Page 13) Rob explained that the Lynchpins are concerned with how the churches work together within our Pastoral Group. With the need for interdependence, this is clearly an important body, which is likely to become more important in the coming years.

Parish Office (Page 27) Tracy drew the attention of the meeting to her appreciation of the volunteers who serve in the Office.

9. Finance

Roger made a few additional points. It was a relief to end the year in a virtually neutral position, just 'in the black'. So, this was the third year in which we had ended in credit.

However, considering our turnover, despite a good level of giving, our expenditure remains too high.

Roger itemised the proportion of total income that is spent in different areas:-

The Parish Share (the largest part, over which we have no control at present), accounts for 45% of costs.

Tithe (usually 10%), but restricted to 5% in 2015. (In the 2014 accounts, because of the exceptional year end payment for 2013, the Tithe appeared to be 17%).

General Running – Energy, water etc, 10%. (Enquiries are being made to reduce these).

Maintenance – 8%.

Miscellaneous – 9% (Wid Wads and Lunch Club cover their own costs.)

Administration – 23%. (Despite efforts to economise, this was only 3% lower than in 2012).

2015 was a difficult year for Roger. His work load had increased by a quarter.

He informed the meeting that he had already had some discussions with other Treasurers about the coming changes in structures. In 2017, the Parish Share would no longer be set by the Deanery Synod, but by each Mission and Ministry Unit. Treasurers will have to get together to discuss and apportion financial contributions.

There is much that is unknown. However, Roger could see that there are potentially useful factors – with the cross-fertilisation of ideas and the possibility of money saving.

Roger thanked all those within the Parish who have helped in his work.

Rob thanked Roger, on behalf of the whole meeting, for all his work as Treasurer.

Nicola also expressed thanks to Roger – 'for doing a job that most of us do not understand'. She noted the relatively high level of giving, bearing in mind the number on the Electoral Roll; that much work is done without a large financial cost and, above all, that God is faithful – and we should celebrate His provision.

Joan reinforced Nicola's comment, reminding the meeting that, if we look to God, He will supply. Roger agreed.

10. Wardens' – Fabric Report Page 13 of the Annual Reports contained much information. Bob invited comments and questions. The process of developments at St Mary's had been very slow and frustrating, but was starting to move.

Alan added one item relating to CHS. A roof repair had been needed and Jeff Gilbert had carried it out. Thanks were expressed to him.

Rob invited the Meeting to accept the Annual Reports and Accounts, as presented. Alan Davey proposed this motion and Sylvia Skardon seconded it. The meeting agreed unanimously. They were duly signed.

11. Deanery Synod There was nothing to add to the report. However, Bob had expressed willingness to be a Parish representative. Pam had been voted to this position (for three years) in 2014, and we are entitled to 2 lay representatives.

12. Election of second lay representative to Deanery Synod

Bob (Robert) Wiseman had been nominated by Pam Myall and seconded by Coralie Gullick. Everyone present approved the election, for 3 years.

13. Lynchpins Report already accepted.

14. Election of Lynchpin Members

Since this appointment is made for one year only, nominations were required for both our lay representatives. Tamzin Squirrell was nominated by Pam Myall and seconded by Pat Brown. Linda Stephens was nominated by Pam Myall and seconded by Lynette Hunwicks. Tammy and Linda were unanimously elected.

15. Election of PCC Members

Rob Perry (Lay Chair) and Dave Walker had both served their term on PCC. Neither of them were standing again this year. In addition, Sue Cogram had decided to stand down, after one year. New nominations had been received from Lionel Blanks (proposed by Pam Myall, seconded by Lynette Hunwicks) and Tony Griffiths (proposed by Pam Myall, seconded by Jane Wiseman). It was unanimously agreed to elect Lionel and Tony onto PCC. There remained a vacancy. It was noted that it would be possible to co-opt someone in the coming year. However, the comment was made that vacancies coming up on PCC had not been advertised effectively. It was true that these had not been specifically discussed from the front in either church, but the statutory Notices had been displayed on the doors, including the fact that there would be vacancies on PCC. In addition, the APCM had been advertised for several weeks in Churchtalk and many people had been approached by the PCC Secretary. Bob's enquiry about the position of the Treasurer, led to the explanation that he attends PCC ex officio, in view of his important role with finance. There was no question of any of the elected members wishing to take on this role!

16. Appointment of Sidespeople

For St Mary's Daphne and Reg Blowers; Rosalyn and Tony Griffiths; Barbara Oxlade; Linda Stephens; Roger Bird; Jackie Dickens and Colin Groves had all expressed willingness to fulfil this role.

For CHS Pat Deal and Vicky Smith were willing to welcome members and visitors. The meeting approved their appointment.

17. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Roger proposed that George Large be invited to examine the Parish accounts again next year. Bob seconded the proposal and it was unanimously agreed. Asked about a gratuity to George, Roger confirmed that a small gift had been made to George each year. Roger suggested that the discussion about this in detail should be considered in PCC.

18. Any Other Business

The request was made that all members of the Parish should complete and return a Skills Audit form, if they had not already done so.

Stephanie showed the meeting, a book produced by the Bible Society/ Hope/London Institute for Contemporary Christianity, to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

Called 'The Servant Queen and the King She Serves', it stresses the Christian basis of Her Majesty's life and reign.

At a cost of £10 for 10 copies, it would seem to be a lovely gift for members of Women's Fellowship, Lunch Club and for visitors to the special Tea being arranged on 12th June 2016. Everyone present agreed to Bob's suggestion that we purchase 100 copies of the book.

19. Date for the first meeting of the new PCC

Monday 16th May 2016, at 7.30pm, in the Parish Centre.

20. Close with Prayer

Stephanie led the meeting in prayer and closed the meeting with The Grace, at 9.05pm.

Thanks were expressed to Rob for chairing the meeting.

Leadership of Widford Parish

We are developing teams – do let us know if you would like to join one.

Wardens: Alan Davey, Tamzin (Tammy) Squirrell, Sylvia Skardon & Robert (Bob) Wiseman

Treasurer: Roger Bird & Assistant Dr. Peter Wood

Deanery Synod: Pam Myall & Bob Wiseman

South West Chelmsford Lynchpins: Tammy Squirrell & Linda Stephens

Licensed Lay Minister: Roger Gillingham

Licensed Lay Preacher: Tracy Davey

Preachers: Rob Perry, Pam Myall, Peter Wood, Gill Wood, Keith Schofield

All Age Service Leaders: Pam Myall at St. Mary's and Gill Wood at CHS

Caretaker: Tammy Squirrel

Office Volunteers: Peter Wood, Barbara Oxlade, Pat Deal, Bob Wiseman Shirley Deering , Valerie Hayward, Sylvia Skardon and Will Wiseman.

Baptism /Thanksgiving home visiting team: Pam Myall and Jane Wiseman, Rosalynd Griffiths, Tracy Davey, Gill Wood

Children's work: Tammy Squirrel

Churchtalk: Barbara Oxlade and Peter Wood

Flower Arranging: Reg & Daphne Blowers, Sylvia Skardon, Shirley Deering, Janet Bird and Barbara Oxford at St. Marys, Joan Barker and Barbara Jones at Church of the Holy Spirit

Friday Afternoon St. Marys Open Church Working Group Coordinator: Bob Wiseman

Gift Aid: Sheila Schofield

Home Communion Assistants: Pam Myall, Shirley Dearing, Gill Wood and Peter Wood

Home Groups Co-ordinator: Tammy Squirrell

Knit and Natter: Pat Deal

Men's Club coordinators: Alan Davey and Colin White

Messy Church Team: Peter Wood, Gill Wood, Pam Myall, Roger Gillingham, Pat Deal, Shirley Deering, Sheila Schofield, and Stephanie

Mission and Evangelism Team:

Music and Hymn Choice: Dan Gullick and Rob Perry at St. Mary's. Tracy Davey, Keith Schofield, Sheila Schofield, Keri Schofield, Nicola Davey, Roger Gillingham and Lisa Quilter at CHS.

Pastoral Team Coordinator/Pastoral Care Team: Pam Myall & Stephanie, Shirley Deering, Lisa Quilter, Peter Wood, Gill Wood, and Tracy Davey.

Prayer Chain: Dave & Maz Walker

Prayer Ministry Coordinator: Joan Barker

Prophecy: Pat Brown

Quiz Masters: Bob Wiseman, Alan Davey, Nicola Davey and Alan Jones

Safe-guarding: Vicki Smith

Sound and Visuals: Alan Davey, Tammy Squirrell, Colin White & Elizabeth Olatunji at CHS and Dan Gullick & Rob Perry at St. Mary's.

Sunday Children's: Tammy Squirrell, Gill Wood and Joan Barker at CHS and Pam Myall & Will Wiseman at St. Mary's.

Website and Other Media: Peter Wood, Will Wiseman and Roger Gillingham.

Wednesday Lunch Club: Sheila Schofield & Pam Myall

Wid-Wads Team: Jane Wiseman, Sheila Schofield, Zoe Myall and Stephanie.

Women's Fellowship: Pat Deal & Pat Jackson

Youthwork:

Refreshments Teams: Valerie Hayward, Lisa Quilter and Barbara Jones at CHS. Sylvia Skardon, Jackie Dickens, Linda Stephens, Will Wiseman, Shirley Deering, Janet Bird, Barbara Oxford, & Beryl Clark at St. Mary's.

Church Cleaning Teams: Jill White, Lisa Quilter, Barbara Jones, Elizabeth Olatunji & Lynette Hunwicks at Church of the Holy Spirit and Shirley Deering, Janet Bird, Jackie Dickens, Barbara Oxford, Jane Wiseman, Sylvia Skardon, Sheila Schofield & Beryl Clark at St. Marys.



Office,
Forest Drive,
Chelmsford,
Essex.
CM1 2TS
t: 01245 355 989
m: 07777641 694
e: admin@chschelmsford.com
w: stmaryswidford.com / chschelmsford.com
f: [facebook.com/CHSWidford](https://www.facebook.com/CHSWidford)