

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WATERINGBURY



**REPORTS FOR THE
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
21ST APRIL 2015**

A Message from your Churchwardens

We are pleased to provide this booklet, comprising our Annual Reports, in advance of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Tuesday 21st April at 8pm** here in Wateringbury Church. Please make an effort to read the reports and this will save us a great deal of time at the meeting and allow for a more meaningful discussion to take place on issues which warrant more of our attention. If you have any queries or comments to make there will be ample opportunity during the course of the evening. We hope that once you have finished reading this report you will be very impressed by all that is taking place and we hope it will provide you with some real food for thought! It may prompt that question “Is there anything I could be doing for my Church?”

There is such a great deal happening within our church life and we trust that you will continue to pray for each other as we serve Christ in all that we do!

Eddie Scarlin and Joanna Fyson
Churchwardens

Parish Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury

Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on Tuesday 21st April 2015

AGENDA

Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Presentation of Notice convening the meeting
3. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Tuesday 1st April 2014
4. Election of Churchwardens

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

1. Presentation of Notice convening the meeting
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Tuesday 1st April 2014
4. Submission of Electoral Roll
5. Annual reports
 - a) PCC Report
 - b) Vicar's Report
 - b) Church Warden's Report
 - c) Building Committee Report
 - d) Worship and Mission Group Report
 - e) Pastoral Report
 - f) Events Report
 - g) Deanery Synod
 - h) Ministry Leadership Team Report
 - i) Healing Report
 - j) Benefice Mothers Union Report
 - k) Prayer Chain Report
 - l) Choir Report
 - m) Toddlers Praise Report
 - n) JAM Club Report
 - o) Sundays Cool Report
 - p) Watch Report
 - q) Wateringbury School Report
 - r) Flower Arrangers Report
 - s) Holy Dusters Report
 - t) Bellringers Report
 - u) Fairtrade Report
 - v) Weekly Newsletter report
 - w) Audited Accounts for the financial year ended 31st December 2014
6. Election of Auditor for the current year
7. Elections to Deanery Synod
8. Elections to Parochial Church Council
9. Election of Sidespersons
11. Any other business
12. Date of 1st PCC Meeting

Parish Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury

Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of the Parish of St John the Baptist held in the Church on Tuesday 1 April 2014

1. PRAYERS

The Meeting opened with prayers.

WELCOME

Barry Fisher, Vice Chair of the PCC welcomed all to the meeting and explained that in Revd Jim's absence, the churchwardens had asked him to chair the meeting. Revd Jim had emailed Barry to send good wishes for the APCM and give an update on his health. His last treatment is on Thursday and then there is a period of recovery. Jean is now recovering from her illness. Revd Alan has sent his apologies as unfortunately he is not well either.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

Barry then explained that the Diocese has set out a rule that meant no churchwarden could serve for longer than six years at a time, and Eddie has reached that term this year. The rules do provide for the parish to dispense with the time limit if there is an imminent interregnum or the current churchwarden continues to serve enthusiastically and effectively.

Barry said that it was necessary to pass a resolution to the effect that 'this annual meeting of parishioners resolves that Section 3 of the Churchwardens Measure 2001 shall not apply in relation to the parish of St John the Baptist, Wateringbury'.

The resolution was proposed by Jack Tate, seconded by Ian Betts, and all were in favour.

2. PRESENTATION OF NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

Barry explained the format and purpose of the Vestry meeting, and confirmed that the appropriate notice had been posted outside the church.

3. MINUTES OF THE VESTRY MEETING OF 24 APRIL 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as an accurate record, and were proposed for acceptance by Mike Pursey, seconded by Ian Betts, and all were in favour. They were signed by Barry Fisher.

4. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Barry said that he could only take written nominations for the role of Churchwarden and nomination forms for the office of Churchwarden had been received as follows:-

Joanna Fyson proposed by Jane Bates, seconded by Jan Pursey
Edwin Scarlin proposed by Ian Betts, seconded by Mike Pursey.

Barry proposed that we accept the nominations as these were the only candidates, and he thanked Eddie and Joanna for standing.

Eddie and Joanna were willing to serve as Churchwarden and were duly elected for the year of office 2014-2015.

Barry went on to say that we are blessed with Joanna and Eddie. They do an enormous amount of work in the background, and we are immensely grateful and blessed indeed.

Barry gave sincere thanks to Eddie and Joanna for all that they have done and will do over the next year.

The Vestry meeting was then closed.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
for the Parish of St John the Baptist Watlington
held in the Church on Tuesday 1 April 2014**

1. PRESENTATION OF NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

Barry opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending the meeting. He confirmed that the appropriate notice had been posted outside the church.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Revd Jim Brown, Revd Alan Searle, Eddie Scarlin, Ted Bates, Gordon and Mrs Ros Diment, Colin and Mrs Edna Craig, Hilary Cayzer, Gordon Self, Alice English, Richard Dunn.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 24 APRIL 2013

The minutes of the previous meeting had been checked by the PCC and issues arising had been addressed by the PCC over the year. The minutes were taken as an accurate record and proposed for acceptance by Mike Pursey, seconded by Ruth Dunn and all were in favour. They were signed by Barry Fisher.

4. SUBMISSION OF ELECTORAL ROLL

Hilary Fisher provided a report on the Electoral Roll. The electoral roll has been updated and there are 91 persons on the roll. Last year the roll was 90. There were the following changes – 2 people have moved away, and there are 3 new members. Barry thanked Hilary for all her work with the Electoral Roll.

5. ANNUAL REPORTS

Barry introduced the annual reports by explaining that by issuing the report pack before the APCM, it allows the congregation time to read it in advance of the meeting. He said that he did not intend to read out the reports and would comment on them as the meeting progressed.

The first report was from the PCC and Barry said that we are grateful for all the work that the secretary Sheena Stewart carries out. He noted that there was a good attendance at the meetings leading to productive discussions on a range of issues.

Revd Jim has provided a written report. Barry made reference to the tremendous amount of work done by Revd Alan Searle and Canon Derek Carpenter especially in view of Revd Pam's unplanned absence. We are very grateful for all they are doing to cover funerals, baptisms and weddings. These all take time to prepare as well as carry out.

Turning to the Churchwarden's report, Barry observed that their report was a comprehensive report and he thanked Eddie and Joanna for their report.

The Building committee is a subcommittee of the PCC and much work has been accomplished. Thanks to Jack Tate for leading the group to make sure things are done. The latest work is the resurfacing of the path and removal of the asbestos from the boiler room. Hilary Fisher asked about the holes that have appeared in the path that appear to have been caused by ladies' stiletto heels. Also it had been noted that some crocuses had come through the tarmac earlier in the spring. After discussion it was agreed we need to talk to the contractors about these issues.

The Worship and Mission group is another subcommittee of the PCC and within this a small working group of Becky Bowie, Kate Millar, Ruth Dunn, and Sally Barton have been working together to lead family worship. This has been very helpful in view of Revd Jim's absence. Another issue that the Worship and Mission group have been considering is the Christmas Eve midnight communion service due to the low numbers and they are considering a number of options including the timing of the service.

The Sundays Cool group go from strength to strength and thanks go to Becky Bowie for organising this. A small group has been set up to consider the possibility of placing a building in the churchyard to provide a meeting room. It is positive that the numbers are high and the age range is wide and this presents a good opportunity.

Within the Pastoral committee there is lots of good work being done among the community. The monthly coffee morning is well supported and very popular.

We are very grateful to the Events committee for their support and activity. They are a good success story. The East Peckham Silver Band was a magnificent event and a good fund raiser, and events such as this encourage village people to come through the door. We do put the building to good use for example for Wateringbury Players events and we are serving the community by providing that sort of facility.

The Deanery Synod has benefitted from Revd Jim's enthusiasm and leadership. The bishop extended Revd Jim's term of office from the original three years for a further two years, but unfortunately he had to step down early. A letter has been sent to the Diocese on behalf of the Synod expressing concern over the lack of replacement Rural Dean, but to date no reply has been received. Canon Chris Dench is Acting Rural Dean and technically he is the Priest in Charge while Revd Jim is on sick leave.

The Ministry Leadership Team is not simply about planning and making decisions. They provide support to learn, study and pray together and it does a lot of good work.

With regards to the Healing Services, Barry felt that we could all use this ourselves and to commend to others. He encouraged all to come along, pray, and/or participate.

Turning to the Mother's Union, Frances Selman from East Malling is the new Enrolling Officer as Jean Brown stood down at the end of June.

The Prayer Chain underpins our ministry and it is important not to forget the dimension of prayer in our lives. Thanks to Mike and Jan Pursey for running this group.

Heartfelt thanks to the choir for their singing and all that they do. Sheena Stewart offered a vote of thanks to Hilary Fisher, the organist on behalf of everyone.

Regarding the Toddlers Praise, Barry said that this was a good activity out in the community. He observed that Revd Alan has got involved in Revd Jim's absence. One or two of the Greensted residents have been adopted by some school children who go in and visit them. This is a good development.

The Watch club is another story of development and expansion. Alice English helps and has recently completed a youth training course. The group now meet in the village hall as they have expanded and the Parish Council pays the cost of hiring the hall.

There are now seven foundation governors and it has been suggested that as many as possible of them come along to the next PCC meeting to update the PCC on developments under Mrs Crawford Usher the new Head Teacher. Suzanne Rowlinson pointed out that Claire Stockham had been missed from the list of governors in the APCM report. There is one vacancy currently. There is a strong feeling to establish good links with the school and this is a two way process.

The church is full of beauty and we owe a great debt to the flower arrangers. They would welcome new members as would the Holy Dusters team. Barry reminded all present about the Big Clean on 12 April in preparation for Easter.

We are blessed as we are summoned to church by bells in the old tradition. Some churches no longer have bell ringers and we are very fortunate to have a good team of ringers.

The Fairtrade stall is a very encouraging initiative and Barry commented that he particularly enjoys it when the children act as shopkeepers.

The newsletter report is a new item in the pack and thanks to Mike Pursey for this. The electronic version of the newsletter is an excellent development and allows a much wider audience.

6. PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2013

The Treasurer Ian Betts was asked to present his report. This is his last report as he and Norma are moving to Buckinghamshire to be nearer their family. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to him and to Norma for her support in managing the accounts.

Ian presented the accounts to the meeting and explained that there has been a large amount of capital expenditure in the last year. There is a projected deficit leaving us with no reserves by year end. In view of this there will need to be a new stewardship campaign this year. This will have a new additional angle this time in that you can give money, increase existing giving, or volunteer to do something in the church. There is also the possibility of leaving a legacy for the church in your will.

Ian pointed out that we need £45,000 just to run the church and services. The collections do not cover this but the Events committee have helped to fill the gap. Their efforts are much appreciated as well as those who provide physical donations for sales, raffles etc. Ian asked for prayers for the way forward as the reserves won't cover the entire deficit. We have always had substantial reserves but these have gradually been depleted due to the things that have gone on in the church.

Suzanne Rowlinson noted that the cost of electricity had shot up. Was this due to increases or were we using more electricity. Ian confirmed it was both. The more the church is used, the more we use the electricity and therefore the more we pay. We had joined the Diocesan fund for electricity and gas but

this has not been very successful. We seem to be paying more as we don't have gas. The account is very difficult to manage and as the diocese has asked for comments, Ian has feedback his views. He thinks we may have to look outside again. He believes it would have been cheaper if we had gas as well as electricity, and he anticipates the bill being in the region of £5,000 again this year.

Peter Mitchell the auditor lost his wife in 2013 but has contacted Ian to confirm he is happy to continue for now. Special thanks go to him for taking on the accounts this year in view of this. Ian asked that we consider taking on Peter Mitchell again. Mike Pursey offered a vote of thanks to Ian and Norma for all they do to run the finances in the church.

Barry reported that the PCC have set up a group to look at reviewing the 2007 stewardship campaign approach. The group is David Marks, Sally Barton, Barry Fisher, Ian Betts and Sheena Stewart. They met last week and Ian is updating the pack ready for use again now. The group is hoping to do a Q&A session and presentation at the May Family Service. A report will be provided to the PCC at the April meeting.

APPROVAL OF FISCAL REPORT AND ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

It was proposed by Alastair Byron that we re-elect Peter Mitchell as auditor for the accounts, seconded by Jack Tate, and all were in favour.

7. ELECTIONS TO DEANERY SYNOD

Barry explained that Alastair Byron was standing down from Synod, although Barry intended to carry on if re-elected. Ian Betts proposed that Barry be re-elected, this was seconded by Kate Millar and all were in favour. Jack Tate volunteered for the vacancy and so his election was proposed by Percy Billinge, seconded by Jan Pursey and all were in favour.

8. ELECTIONS TO PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Alastair Byron, Tim Haynes and Ian Betts are standing down from the PCC. Kate Millar had volunteered to stand.

Nominations for members of the PCC were as follows:-

Mrs Patricia Berry, Mrs Christine Byron, Mrs Liz Gummer, Mrs Joy Searle, Gordon Self, Mrs Sheena Stewart, Jack Tate, Mrs Emma Palmer, Mrs Kate Millar. Barry Fisher, Revd Alan Searle, Eddie Scarlin and Joanna Fyson are ex-officio members.

The members were proposed by Audrey Allen, seconded by Ruth Dunn, and all were in favour of electing the members en bloc.

9. ELECTIONS OF SIDESPERSONS

Barry thanked Liz Gummer who has volunteered to take on the sidespersons rota. Kate Millar volunteered to join the rota.

Nominations for Sidespersons were as follows:-

Mrs Jane Bates, Mrs Patricia Berry, Mrs Angela Billinge, Percy Billinge, Mrs Debbie Bond, Mrs Sylvia Buss, Mrs Liz Gummer, Mrs Kate Millar, Mrs Cathy Miller, Mrs Mandy Mitchelmore, Mrs Jan Pursey, Mike Pursey, Mrs Joy Searle, Gordon Self, Mrs Gillian Sessions, Mrs Sheena Stewart, Syd Thompsett, Mrs Alison Tibbals, Mrs Dawn Underwood, Mrs Maria White.

These names were accepted. These nominations for the sidespersons were proposed by Norma Betts, seconded by Ian Betts, and all were in favour of electing en bloc.

10. ADDRESS BY THE REVEREND JIM BROWN

No report due to Revd Jim's sick leave.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Joy Searle on behalf of Revd Alan gave thanks for everyone's caring attitude towards Revd Alan and for making sure that he is not doing too much.

Jane Bates asked if it were possible that we not use the York lent course next year as it has not proved popular. Others at the meeting agreed, and Barry confirmed that we will consider an alternative for 2015.

Suzanne Rowlinson asked if anyone had stepped forward for the treasurer's role. Barry confirmed that two people had shown interest and Richard Dunn has agreed to take on the role. He thanked Richard for taking it on.

Christine Byron asked that next year the APCM is not on the first Tuesday of the month, and Sheena confirmed that the provisional date set is not the first Tuesday of the month.

Joanna Fyson suggested that in view of the low numbers attending the meeting, an alternative format is considered for next year. Perhaps have the meeting as part of a social evening and use an overhead projector to present the main points of the reports. We would need to think carefully about how to publicise and encourage people to come along. Suzanne Rowlinson said that some parishes have their APCM straight after a Sunday service.

12. DATE OF 1st PCC MEETING

The first PCC meeting of the new parochial year will be on Monday 28 April 2014.

Barry thanked everyone for coming and supporting the spirit of faith in the church. He closed the meeting with the Grace.

Wateringbury PCC held meetings on the following dates and the numbers of attendees were:

April = 15
July = 10
September = 14
November = 12
January 2015 = 13
March not available at the time of printing

During the year our often lively debates covered many topics of discussion such as:

Changes at Wateringbury C of E Primary School
Stewardship campaign
Church finances and budget
Madonna and Child painting
Events committee
Health & Safety

There were no joiners or leavers during the year, and no members were co-opted.

Sheena Stewart
PCC Secretary

Vicar's Report

By the time you have finished reading this APCM report you can't help but realise that running a Church is a very complex management exercise! A good and successful church, a church which achieves much for the Kingdom of God, is a well organised church which makes use of all of its member's skills, talents and time. We are so blessed here at St John the Baptist, Wateringbury, with such a cheerful bunch of givers. People whose ministries are so well rooted in their faith in God. It is such a joy and a privilege to be a part of all that is happening but this makes leaving all the more difficult! I do believe that the Apple Tree Rooms project is a wonderful example of such a commitment and with only 6 months of fundraising we are just under half-way towards our target figure. Well done and congratulations, but I am not surprised!

It is always my privilege to offer you my personal thanks for everyone's contribution to the running of our church at our APCM. I will, therefore, be restrained in mentioning anything at this stage and use the opportunity at the meeting to thank you all (I'll try and keep it succinct and not too long!).

Finally, this is my last APCM with you all. The meetings are not too long and are of great importance to the life of our church. It is only once a year, as the name suggests, and so please make every effort to come along and join us. There may be a role that you are called to perform or you may simply be wanting to be better informed and supportive of the various activities. Whatever your reason, your presence will be greatly valued. I look forward to seeing you there for my final APCM!

God Bless

Fr. Jim Brown

Churchwardens' Report

Weekly Services

This year your two Churchwardens have continued to take turns being responsible for normal Sunday services and this arrangement is still working well.

We are very grateful to our various assisting teams who contribute to the smooth running of our weekly services:-

- The Sound System team, who make sure that we can all hear the pearls of wisdom and priceless quips uttered by those leading the service. A number of young helpers look after the sound system at Family Services, and their input is also much appreciated.
- The Sidespersons, who assist with preparing the church, and do such a fantastic job of welcoming us as we arrive
- The Readers, Servers, and Chalice Bearers, without whom our worship would be much the poorer

Fabric and contents of the Church and Churchyard

The weather vane at the top of the spire was damaged in a storm in October 2013. Work has continued to get it repaired and further details can be found in the report of the Buildings Committee.

The restoration of the Madonna and Child painting at Courtauld's in London was completed during the year, and with the help of an anonymous donation the frame was restored and glazed and the painting re-hung in the baptistry. Alysia Sawicka, who carried out the restoration of the painting, visited the church in August and gave an illustrated talk on the work involved, after which Father Jim performed a re-dedication.

Eddie has continued to be a member of the committee of the Friends of the Church. The Friends are to be congratulated on raising a further £2,000 since last year, giving a balance of around £6,000 which is likely to be donated to help fund the replacement of the spire shingles, which will need to be done soon.

Thanks are due to many people who generously donate money, gifts or time in many ways and for many reasons and invariably wish to remain anonymous. Thanks are especially due to our treasurer, Richard Dunn, for all his work with the funds of the church and particularly when money is needed for a project or repair. Thanks are also due to the Parish Council for funding and organising the mowing of the churchyard, and to all those who turn up for the twice-yearly spring and autumn clean of the church and churchyard. These are fun days but within the space of a couple of hours so much is done in a happy and friendly atmosphere, so thank you to everyone for their time and effort. Unfortunately the number of people turning up to help seems to be dwindling, so if you can spare some time on these occasions you would be very welcome.

We are fortunate to have such a wonderful circle of friends in and around our church and how willing these friends are to help when needed. Without them it would have been very difficult for us to carry out our duties as churchwardens

Spiritual Life and Ministry

The spiritual life of the church goes beyond the building to the village hall, the school and to the homes of members of the congregation and benefice, and is well detailed in the many group reports within these papers.

Rev. Jim continues to inspire us with his unfailing support, enthusiasm and energy and his high qualities of leadership, and he is ably supported by Canon Derek Carpenter, Rev. Alan Searle and Rev. Pam Rink in his duties.

Alastair Byron, Barry Fisher, Edna Craig, Pauline Welch and Becky Bowie continue to perform superb roles in supporting our clergy in the service of our Lord within our parish and benefice. Thanks also to Hilary Fisher, our organist, and Gillian Sessions, our verger, for all that they do.

Health and Safety

We now have a formally documented Health and Safety Policy, which will help ensure we take proactive measures to maintain a safe church environment. We have also initiated regular Risk Assessments throughout the church building and churchyard, to capture potential hazards before they turn into incidents.

Closing Thank Yous

We would like to thank the team of volunteers who produce our weekly newsletter, those who organise the refreshments after services, sell Fairtrade goods, clean the church, empty the bins and do all the other jobs essential for the smooth running of the church. There are many people who see something that needs doing and just go ahead and do it without receiving any thanks. Your work is very much appreciated. Thank you.

Once again we would like to thank all those who have been so generous with their help, advice and support during the year. We will no doubt have to call on you again in the coming year!

Joanna Fyson and Eddie Scarlin

Buildings Committee Report

The weather vane on top of the church spire was damaged in a storm in October 2013. Part of it fell to the ground, damaging the roof of the north aisle on its way. The roof was quickly repaired, but getting the weather vane repaired has proved to be a much slower process. Steeplejacks visited the church in July 2014, erected ladders and took down the undamaged part. Following the appointment of loss adjusters by our insurers, the repair and reinstatement of the weather vane has now been approved, and we look forward to seeing it back in its rightful place before too long.

Following a meeting with the Tree Officer, several estimates were obtained for the most urgent tree work, and by the time of the APCM, this work will have been completed. It involves the felling of the golden Lawson cypress on the south side of the chancel, and the trimming back of several yew branches overhanging the chancel roof. The PCC decided that all other tree work could safely be undertaken by volunteers.

We are due another quinquennial inspection this year – date to be advised.

Liz Gummer

Worship and Mission Group Report

1 Services

The group has continued to review and plan for services at key times of the year and noted the Ministry Leadership Team's decisions to review the continuation of the **8am service** at St James East Malling and to hold **Healing Services** on a bi-monthly basis. The dates for these services are now: - 2nd June East Malling Taize; 4th August Watringbury Praise; 6th October Teston Taize; 1st December, East Malling Praise, all starting at 8pm.

Taize service

Becky and Bob Bowie had discussed with Fr Jim the low attendance at these services on Tuesday evenings as some attendees had not in the end transferred from the monthly Sunday evening service. The services had now been suspended.

Rev Alan confirmed that for personal reasons he would be keeping ministerial commitments to 2 Sunday services a month.

Easter Day service: there had been a good attendance especially the numbers of children (23) which continued to highlight the need for accommodating the breadth of ages involved. The service had flowed well using the Family Communion liturgy. The group also thanked Debbie Bond for organising the **Easter Project** which had again been a vibrant occasion.

First World War Commemoration: Fr Jim and Alan Bramley had prepared a service for use in the Benefice on Sunday 3rd August and arrangements were made for the display of Year 6 pupils school project material.

Advent/Christingle: feedback from some of the congregation had been received that it would be preferable to use , instead of glow sticks, the candles used at the 9 Lessons and Carols service. To minimise the risk of using candles they would not be light until the final circle around the church had been formed and glow sticks would continue to be available for those who preferred them.

It was discovered that the large print version of the service differed from the standard one and Rev Alan and Barry would review the service sheet.

Christmas services: these had been well received and attendances had increased year on year. It had been a good idea to roster people for activities at these services.

The group's view remained that an 11pm start for the Christmas Communion service would encourage more to attend.

2 Courses

Advent

There had been no course last year and this year the group reviewed a number of options published by Kevin Mayhew and chose a 4 session course which was well received although attendance tailed off at the end.

Lent

A number of participants had commented adversely on last year's 'York course' and this year the benefice has followed the Diocesan course 'Challenging Poverty' prepared by Bishops Brian and James which has been well attended.

'Pilgrim' Study Course

Becky had researched and discussed with Fr Jim this new course which is aimed at achieving a deeper level of understanding and building up the faith of church members. It follows a traditional Anglican 'middle of the road' approach. The first set of 6 sessions focusses on material in use in services Sunday by Sunday. It is suggested that it take place after Easter.

Barry Fisher

Pastoral Report

Pastoral Team – *Edna Craig, Becky Bowie, Pauline Welch, Christine Byron, Gillian Sessions, Joy Searle.*

We continue to visit people in the village who are ill, housebound or bereaved when possible. We would be grateful if people could let us know of any visits needed in the village.

As the Christmas card from the church was successful in 2013, we decided to continue with it for Christmas 2014, changing the front cover. It contained a Christmas message from the church and listed the Christmas services with a short description of each service and was distributed to everyone in the village. We hope this encouraged more people to join us in our Christmas services.

We thank the Rostrum distributors for help with delivering the cards.

In May we helped with the Christian Aid collection in the village. This was well supported and raised £843.13.

We continue to help with Baptism services and encourage families to come to other services.

We were grateful for the harvest gifts from the children of Wateringbury School and with flowers and produce from our Harvest Festival service we were able to take gifts to those in the village who were ill, housebound or bereaved. Produce was also given to Maidstone homeless charity, Pilsdon at West Malling, and the Wateringbury Blessing Bag scheme.

Children from Wateringbury School joined Edna and Becky in taking harvest gifts to Abbeyfield Greensted. The children enjoyed the visit, singing and talking to the residents, who were grateful to see the young people and receive the gifts.

We thank everyone who helped us with the Harvest distribution.

The annual toy service was supported by the school and congregation, the toys and gifts were taken by Edna and Becky to the Women's Refuge in Maidstone where they were gratefully received.

Our members organised the preparation of 100 Christingles for the service at the beginning of Advent. We are grateful to Farmers Farm Shop who donated the 100 oranges and for the people who helped make up the Christingles.

We set up the Posada event and organised the figures to travel round the village arriving back in church on Christmas Eve.

The Remembrance Book was taken to Epsom in Surrey for six new entries to be added. The entries are written and painted by hand and are unique to each individual entry. Please take time to admire our beautiful book.

The book was on display at the Thanksgiving and Remembrance service held in November when we were able to give pastoral care to people recently bereaved.

Deanery Synod Report

Rev. Matthew Buchan, the incumbent of Leybourne, is now our Rural Dean and he was licensed at a service in Leybourne church on 7th July 2014.

The Deanery Synod has met 3 times and the first meeting of the new Synod took place on 8th October at Aylesford when officers were elected. The officers of the Malling Deanery Synod are:

Rural Dean Rev'd Matthew Buchan

Lay Chair Barry Fisher

Deputy Lay Chair Michael Richardson

Secretary Sheena Stewart

Treasurer Ros Hutchins

Lay Rep Tonbridge Archdeaconry Barry Fisher (1 Year)

Mission & Pastoral Working Group

New arrangements for pledging contributions to the Diocesan budget have been discussed and there is a new updated version of the Malling Deanery Strategy which is now actively being used at each meeting to help focus discussions.

There is to be a Deanery audit where a central register of what tangible and intangible assets all the parishes have e.g. halls, photocopiers, people with certain expertise, can be drawn up and used as a resource.

The Diocese Day will take place in this deanery on Sunday 19 July 2015 at Leybourne Castle during the afternoon and evening and all PCCs within the deanery are invited. There will be an Ascension Day evening service on Thursday 14 May in Birling at 7.30pm.

Other things that have been discussed are:

- The setting up of an internal Deanery website
- Credit Unions
- The West Malling Abbey project

There has been a report from the Diocesan Synod and a forthcoming election of clergy and laity for the Diocesan synod will take place in June. Candidates need not come from the Deanery synod and could be anyone from a parish who is interested. Nominations are welcome.

A new innovation to the meetings has been to have a short presentation from the incumbent hosting the meeting on what is happening in their parish. So far, this has proved to be a very interesting and useful way of finding out what other parishes are doing. Our next meeting will be in June in Snodland.

The Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) Report

Our Ministry Leadership Team meets every 4 months with a full meeting comprising worship, breakfast, Bible study and business matters. In the intervening months we meet for Prayer as often as we can manage. We have considered many matters of ministry including Confirmation, First Communion and our Lent and Advent Courses. We have also considered how we resource the various activities and services within the Benefice.

The MLT is about to engage in a most important challenge since its creation all those years ago. The interregnum will inevitably mean that they are to be most busy in its leadership of the ministry within the Benefice. They are well-equipped and skilled to manage the ministry of our churches and I do ask that you support their work.

I am so grateful to those who are a part of our MLT, they serve our Benefice well and it is a privilege to lead such a wonderful group of gifted people. I thank them all.

Revd Jim Brown

Healing Services Report

We continue with the ministry of Healing in our Benefice. I have always maintained that this ministry should be accepted as a normal part of our pattern of services. We hold our services as a part of our normal pattern of worship. We should all understand that Healing is a most fundamental aspect of our worshipping life and has been for Christians throughout the centuries. It is a great shame that so few avail themselves of such opportunity to receive the ministry of healing. Perhaps we need to offer more teaching in this area. Because of the lack of attendance at these services we decided to reduce the monthly services to bi-monthly. This is simply to enable us to resource these events more sensibly and we shall review this during the course of the year. I should like to say that to those who have never been to a Healing Service "Try it"! You may well be very surprised.

Thank you to my colleagues who minister in this area, Fr Derek, Pauline and our Readers and MLT members.

Revd Jim Brown

Benefice Mothers' Union Report

Currently we have a membership of 22 members, both men and women, including two members of clergy. We continue to meet, in general, on the first Thursday of the month at 1pm in either St James the Great Church, East Malling or in St John the Baptist Church, Wateringbury. Our meetings begin with refreshments and fellowship and we usually have a speaker from 1.30pm on varying topics ending around 2.30pm. Anyone is welcome to come along to our Mothers' Union fellowship meetings with a view to joining, which only involves an annual subscription to the Mothers' Union Charity in January each year. Membership is very flexible and not onerous. Members often cannot commit to coming every month due to family demands, but are always welcomed when they can come.

Lesley Marsh and Gail Crutchfield organise Deanery Meetings a couple of times a year for the branches of Coxheath Benefice, West Malling, Barming, Yalding and East Malling, Wateringbury & Teston Benefice leaders to get together and share ideas.

In the last twelve months we have had various different meetings. In February 2014 Fr Kenneth Clarke, Chaplain to Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union, came to talk to us on the fourteenth century mystic Marjory Kemp. Rev Dr Linda Shuker, Vicar of Ryarsh Church, spoke to us on the topic "An Alien in a Foreign land". We had a Tea & Bring & Buy Sale at Liz Allen's House, Wateringbury and the following month a Deanery Lunch & Quiz at Tastebuds Café Spadework. One month we spent an afternoon of reflection at The Pilsdon Community, West Malling led by Reverend Pam Rink. In June 2014 we went to a Healing Service and lunch at Burrswood, Groombridge and in July we had a very pleasant Summer Garden Party at The Vicarage, East Malling, organised by Jean Brown.

In September we had a talk on "Exercise for Health" by a Yoga Teacher and the following month a talk by Wendy Ray on "Hands of Compassion" a charity that has built a school and orphanage in Zambia. We had a very successful Ploughman's lunch at Bob and Anne Ede's house in Wateringbury to raise funds for holidays for underprivileged families in the diocese and some money was also given to the Mothers' Union campaign for Make a Mothers' Day for funding and educational needs in the third world. In November 2014 we attended a Communion Service followed by a talk by Mike Latham on "The Challenge of living with Downs Syndrome". Also in November we ran a cake and biscuit

decorating stall at the East Malling Christmas Fair. Then in early December we held a Christmas Lunch at The Wateringbury Hotel and a Social Gathering in January 2015.

Thank you to all you loyally support Mothers' Union. Particular thanks to Elizabeth Allen, Annabel Sims and Jill Boardman who help run and support our Benefice Branch as well as all the helpers who make refreshments at our meetings and for our occasional cake sales.

May God be always with us in our endeavours to support family life in its many forms and to raise some funds for disadvantaged families both in the UK and around the world.

Frances Selman
Enrolling Member

Prayer Chain Report

On the face of it, 2014 appears to have been a 'quiet year' for Prayer Chain Requests, with only 44 despatched, instead of our average of 70.

However, it didn't feel like that to us, or to our Prayer Warriors, we did seem to be as much in demand as ever !

The need for prayers is constant, not only for those in our community, but for others in different parts of the country and abroad.

The Prayer Chain of St John The Baptist is only one of many hundreds, but our Method is perhaps different to many in that we have no set rules for our members as to how and when to pray.

We ask only that they do pray, and leave it to them and to the Holy Spirit to decide what form their prayers take.

Thus some will pray daily for some time in response to a Request, while others might simply echo the message with "Amen"

Either way is perfectly acceptable to God, He listens to even the briefest prayer, and always responds, although not always in the manner we expect.

We were delighted to welcome two more to the Prayer Chain in 2013 & 2014, bringing our number to 29 people committed to responding to requests for prayer; to this we would add probably at least another half a dozen who are spouses of Prayer Chain members, and will join in praying as requested.

Needless to say there is always room for more Prayer Warriors !!

If you are interested in this particular way of serving God, please talk to us, it won't commit you to anything, but we know that those who pray for others find it spiritually strengthening and often, very rewarding.

Requests for prayer arrive in various ways, usually by email but also on scraps of paper, by phone, swift conversations, and very very occasionally, via the box in church labelled "Prayer Requests"

We try to send the requests out as soon as we can, although we know that God will hear a prayer for someone even if it comes days after everyone else has asked – He works to a different time scale to us, so prayer is never wasted!

So, if you have a request for prayers for anyone at all, you can be assured that we shall do our best to ask our members to pray as soon as possible, and more importantly, be assured that God will hear and respond.

Mike & Jan Pursey

Choir Report

The choir is now 16 strong, (Margaret is our newest chorister), and has been in good voice throughout the year; many thanks to everyone and to Barry and Hilary for all the work and continued dedication. Being part of the choir brings a great deal of pleasure and fellowship for us all and we trust it complements the work of those leading the services and is welcomed by the congregation.

This year the Palm Sunday service at St. James the Great, East Malling on 29 March was Faure's Requiem. In addition to the Benefice services the Palm Sunday service is an opportunity for members of all three choirs to sing together and is always well received. Thank you to the members of our choir who took part in the service. Comments from the congregation were full of praise and appreciation for the time and effort put in by the joint choirs. Thanks must go to Belinda and her team for all their hard work.

A number of the choir together with members of the congregation are members of the weekly/monthly Coffee Ladies team. Our thanks to them for giving their time after Sunday services to provide refreshments for the congregation – it is a good social time for all and we appreciate all you do to make this happen.

David Walsh

Toddlers Praise Report

Father Jim and his merry band of helpers have been meeting for Toddlers Praise, at the Scout & Guide Headquarters in Glebe Meadow, since early 2003 and it is still going strong. We have fun each Monday (with the exception of Bank Holidays) when we march and dance to music, which is good exercise for the adults as well as the children. Our favourite play is with the parachute, and the banners, but we do have a quiet time when Father Jim produces a surprise puppet from his suitcase and we have a story, plus a special prayer.

We welcome new babies and toddlers up to the age when they leave us to go to school, and that is when we miss them, but that is natural progression, and we wish them well. Numbers fluctuate, and in September 2014 many left our group to start their education, but numbers have started to pick up now and new Mums and carers have come along with children to join us, and long may it continue.

Edna Craig

JAM Club

I am so pleased to say that we have had another amazing time this year at JAM club .(Jesus and Me) We have had seventeen keen, excited and loving children regularly attend after school on Thursdays where we play games, act out and discuss Bible stories make crafts, sing and a prayer time. I am so very proud of these kind, caring wonderful young people.

I can't believe it but we are now in our tenth year!! God is so good and faithful!

Over the year we have arranged a beautiful floral display representing the school at the flower display at the church. We made a poster of The Lord's Prayer which is on the wall outside the office at school. It was made out of individual letters cut out of magazines and looks brilliant.

We have taken part in school assembly's and church services at Easter time, harvest and Christmas . At harvest we took some food parcels to Abbeyfield and sung and chatted to the residents there. I know the children were impacted by this.

Thank you for your continued prayers for us.

Sue McLachlan

Sunday's Cool Report

“Remembering Jesus’ instruction to ‘let the little children come to me’, we run our Sunday school with the aim of bringing children closer to Jesus, developing their Christian faith and understanding of the Bible. We do this both through what we teach and how we behave, modelling the Christian values of love, care and forgiveness.”

The past year

We continue to have over 20 children who attend Sunday School regularly. The team are very pleased to have so many children joining us, but of course this does bring challenges of overcrowding in the vestry. In fine weather we still make use of the churchyard whenever possible, but in the meantime we continue to seek and pray for a solution to our accommodation difficulties. Several new children joined us this year; our average attendance over the whole year was 12 children and our maximum attendance was 23.

The Sunday School team consists of 10 adults as of February 2015. We were delighted to welcome Kate Millar to the team during the year, which brought us back up to full strength. We continue to work in pairs on a rota-basis.

The Sunday School team has continued to provide good quality sessions during Holy Communion services (2nd and 4th Sundays, and 5th Sundays where needed) over the last year, using the Roots materials that we subscribe to. These are lectionary-based so that we are covering the same readings as the rest of the congregation. We have continued last year’s development of providing sessions during the school holidays which has proved popular, in particular running a series of sessions on Moses during the summer holidays.

This year we started a collection during Sunday school sessions, which the children donate to voluntarily. The aim is for the children to choose themselves which charity they would like their money to be given to. To date the children have collected £47, and have donated to a chocolate farm through Christian Aid. They are currently deciding how they would like to donate the rest of their money.

The Sunday School team continues to meet to work together, planning collaboratively in keeping with best practice.

Sunday School ran a stall of craft activities at the Christmas Bazaar.

In July, we held our second annual Sunday School picnic, held on this occasion by kind permission in the grounds of Mereworth Castle. We played a bible treasure hunt, lots of team games, enjoyed the spectacular surroundings and shared fellowship over food and drink. It was a really special and popular day, and one which I hope will be repeated.

Christmas was also a busy time for Sunday School. We held our usual children’s Nativity during the December Family Service, made easier by Wateringbury School kindly allowing us to hold our rehearsals there at lunchtimes. We also celebrated with a Sunday school party.

Sunday School are grateful for the funding we have continued to receive from the church for our materials and resources, and for training in children's ministry that four of our team members attended in March 2014. Money raised through running stalls has also allowed us to give the children small birthday and Christmas gifts; an important aspect of showing our love and care for each of them.

Future plans

The Sunday school team has recently met to discuss plans for the coming year. We are currently planning another summer picnic, and a stall at the Village Fete.

I am always happy to answer any questions about our plans for nurturing the Christian faith of the children at St John the Baptist, Wateringbury, and sharing Jesus' love with them.

Becky Bowie

Pastoral Assistant

On behalf of the Sunday School team:

Sally Barton

Debbie Bond

Ros Diment

Ruth Dunn

Kate Millar

Suzanne Rowlinson

Carolyn Scott

Claire Worrall

Natalie Wright

The Watch Club, Annual Report (Wateringbury Youth Group) 2015

We have had a rather eventful year with Watch Club. We welcomed a number of new youths ,which has been exciting and always adds another dimension to the group, as they bring with them their own personalities and gifts. We have had over 40 different young people visit the group over the last year, an average meeting is 16 youth.

We continue to use the Village Hall most of the year and use the Church 3 or 4 times each year. The different venues provide a change in environment which is always pleasant, each with its own opportunities for learning and fun.

A typical evening starts with the hall set up with Badminton equipment and games tables, this year we gained an air hockey table. Alice English provides an excellent arts and crafts area each week. We usually have other games or challenges played as a group together, often linked to the theme for that session.

Most weeks we use the laptop and project onto the screen something to get us thinking, this may be a clip from a film which has been released, a worship song, adverts, something from our modern culture which can help us understand a Christian topic, theme or date from the Christian Calendar just to name a few. Our aim is to increase understanding through discussion, quizzes or challenges to think of the Christian values in our lives and living the Christian life, which can provide different challenges to the young person in this modern society. Each year we discuss and share different ways we "Hear from God", "The work of the Holy Spirit", and look at what the Bible says about different issues. Hearing the testimonies of other Christians has been very powerful this year, and always brings about a good discussion. We were also very blessed to have one of our youth share his

experience of volunteering in Ghana, where he went with his school. This was very powerful coming from one of the youth and inspired many fellow members.

When we meet in the village hall, we are able to eat our supper together at one large table, where we say 'grace' before enjoying fellowship together.

We continue to meet fortnightly on a Sunday evening from 5:00-7:00pm, The village hall is very kindly being funded by the Parish Council, at a cost of around £500 a year.

We have had an action packed year, which has included, A cooking evening led by Rod (not our Rod!) a Wateringbury man who was a chef before he retired, he taught the youth how to make a chicken stir fry, this was enjoyed so much that he is going to come back again!. We also had a Watch Club Talent show, Easter egg hunt with hot cross buns and hot chocolate. Water pistol fights and parties for most of the major dates on the Christian calendar. During the summer holidays a large number of the youth were young helpers at the Holiday Club and then helped again at the Shining Bright party in October.

This year we have established a link with the Youth Group from St Peters and St Pauls Church Yalding, called "The Cyclones". The Cyclones visited us during the summer, and it was great to be able to meet up with the other young people, and encouraging for the leaders to be able to share teaching ideas and game suggestions. Our Christmas party was a shared event when The watch Club went to Yalding and watched " Elf " the movie and enjoyed a table of food provided by a bring and share supper.

I am very proud that last year the youth group raised a lot of money for Sport Relief, It is wonderful that the young people see it important to help those less fortunate than themselves. They also helped make and run a stall at the Village fete in June and raised the £95 needed to become affiliated with "Young Kent". Thank you for your support of their work.

This year we had our first Youth Service with the Pioneers in Teston. This was on the Shroves Tuesday evening, we enjoyed a live band with modern worship songs, a talk linking to Lent and a cafe after serving... pancakes. This attracted a large number of young people and their families.

In the last year some of our leaders had some training with 'The Family Trust' and Alice and I attended the "Toolbox conference" for people working with children and youth in March 2014. In 2015 we hope to attend a child protection course again.

Thinking ahead, we are still trying to become affiliated with Kent Youth, this is a KCC initiative that will provide us many more opportunities like, mini buses to hire, events that visit your venue, like circus skills, reduced entrance fees to places like Chessington, as well as covering insurances and training costs. Also being affiliated with Kent youth enables application to KCC funding for youth work. One of our leaders Rod has recently acquired his mini bus driving licence, which is incredibly exciting for us for the future.

In the next year we hope to join with Yalding Church and run a youth Alpha course, have a session that teaches basic first aid and CPR, learn more cooking skills, litter pick around Wateringbury, raise money for "comic relief" and many other things.

The leaders also try and meet regularly to pray for the young people who attend 'Watch' and for God's guidance on how to lead the group.

It continues to be such a privilege to work with the Watch Club, the Young People are an amazing group of young people, who have become like a big family, encouraging and helping one another. It is just so wonderful to see them growing in their faith. There is so much love and laughter on a Watch Club evening that it is very difficult not to come away smiling. It is such a rewarding calling, we are however in need of more leaders, if you feel God has put working with youth on your heart please do pray about it. We would love to welcome new leaders to our lovely group.

Again the leaders of Watch Club are so inspirational; their passion for the young people and for Jesus is just wonderful. They really do shine Christ's light and love to the youth. I am so thankful for this opportunity to work alongside such special leaders and young people, and can't thank God enough for that. I pray that God continues to bless this group.

Lisa Glasscote

Wateringbury School Report

The change to a Voluntary Aided school in April 2013 has continued to bring benefits in terms of the school's relationship with St John the Baptist and Rochester Diocese. In addition, having taken on wider powers, the Governors elected to reduce the Published Admissions Number (PAN), the number of new children taken into reception class each year, to 30. This will assist in minimising mixed year group classes in the future.

The Foundation Governors are Chris Clark, Richard Dunn, Suzanne Rowlinson, Claire Stockham and Steve Wright. Chris Clark was re-elected as Chair of the Governing Body in September 2014. Unfortunately Bob Bowie retired as a governor in 2014 due to work commitments. We would like to thank Bob for his many years' service as a governor and, in particular, his extensive knowledge of education and religious education of which he gave generously.

Bob's retirement means we have 2 vacancies for Foundation Governors and 1 vacancy for an LA Governor. We have updated our skills audit and are in the process of identifying suitable candidates. Rochester Diocese recently published updated guidelines for the appointment of Foundation Governors which we are using. We will shortly be approaching the PCC school committee to discuss potential candidates.

Mrs Crawford Usher has proven to be a strong leader driving necessary change at the school with the full support of the Governing Body. This was recognised by the Ofsted Inspectors during their inspection on 4 and 5 February 2015 who rated the schools' leadership and management as "Good".

The school was also commended for raising the achievement of disadvantaged pupils and for promoting the children's spiritual, moral, cultural and social development.

Inspectors confirmed: "Teaching is improving strongly" while progress at Key Stage 2 has "improved significantly over the last two years". Parents who responded to an online questionnaire form Ofsted were also "very positive about all aspects of the school".

Ofsted noted that it is "too early" to measure the impact of some improvement initiatives on children's achievement as some teachers are relatively new to their posts. Accordingly, the school has missed out on a "Good" rating overall because the quality of teaching and the achievement of its pupils require further improvement.

While we are disappointed with the overall official outcome, the Ofsted report clearly recognises that the school is on the right path in its aim to become 'Outstanding'. We recognise the efforts and commitments of the staff that has helped achieve such improvements and we look forward to working with them to reach our ultimate goal.

Chris Clark

Church Flowers

The flowers have been arranged in the Church week by week by eight ladies again this year. It has been quite a busy year with the addition of five weddings for which the church was decorated. In May we held a Flower Festival "Dreams of Chelsea" which was lovely and was held in conjunction with the annual plant sale on the week following the Chelsea Flower Show. We also helped with Teston's Flower Festival again.

During the coming year, we are expecting to arrange flowers for seven weddings and a blessing as well as all the weekly flower arrangements and those for special church festivals.

As ever, my thanks to all the ladies for their lovely work. If anyone else would like to join the rota, please let me know.

Gillian Session

"Holy Dusters" Report

I am pleased to report that we have six teams on our "Holy Dusters" rota and I would like to personally thank them for the work that they do to keep our Church clean on a weekly basis.

During the year we sadly had to say "good-bye" to Norma Betts who has now moved to Haddenham to be close to her family. Norma had faithfully served on the rota for many years and I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all the cleaning work she undertook during that time.

I am pleased to say that Pauline Welch has very kindly offered to join Gillian Sessions as Norma's replacement. I am also pleased to report that I have been given the name and details of another lady who has very kindly offered to join the 'Holy Dusters' and although we do not have a vacancy at the moment it is always good to have people who can substitute for sickness/holidays should the need arise.

As always I would like to say a huge thank you, on behalf of the Parochial Church Council, members of our congregation and people who visit our Church to all our teams who do a splendid job keeping our Church clean week by week.

Two major Church cleans have been carried out during the year and I would like to thank everyone who attended on these occasions to help tidy the Church yard as well as carry out a more "deep clean" in the Church itself. Unfortunately on both occasions the major cleans were attended by a loyal small band of helpers and it would help enormously if more volunteers would come forward to help on these occasions so that "more hands make light work"!!

Many thanks again to everyone on our cleaning rota for their dedication and hard work – it is very much appreciated.

Hilary Cayzer

Bellringers Report

2014 saw bellringing at Wateringbury carrying on much as usual. Sunday ringing continues to remain fairly sparse at times although we can usually muster 4 or 5 ringers. Five is enough to do some good ringing. Occasionally we have a full complement of 6 ringers.

Ringling practice continues to be every other Tuesday evening depending on availability. We always try to have at least 6 for practice nights partly to help with tuition but also to tackle some more challenging methods. On a few occasions over the past year we've joined ringers at other towers to share their practice sessions. Specifically at Mereworth, East Farleigh and West Malling, the latter two with the aim of practicing ringing on 8 rather than 6 bells. This was with the aim of fulfilling a long held aspiration to ring at towers in the city of London, most of which have 8 bells. This we achieved at our annual outing on 8th November when we rang at five city towers including St James, Garlickhythe which is the church where the Jubilee bells first rung on the barge in 2012, now reside. The day of the outing was as wet as the jubilee but immensely enjoyable nonetheless including glimpses of the Lord Mayor's show and a visit to the field of poppies at the Tower. Ringing at the last church, St Botolph Without was memorable for what felt like an alarming amount of sway in the tower structure when the bells were rung, significantly more than our own tower, which also sways.

The yearly maintenance and inspection morning again took place July. Bearings were greased, ropes adjusted and the structure inspected. Everything was found to be in order but the continued presence of several woodpecker holes in the roof shingles was again noted.

We are always looking for new ringers and are considering setting up a website to improve visibility.

Justin Southwell, Tower Captain

Fairtrade Stall Report

A Huge thank you to everyone who supported Fairtrade by their generous shopping. The stall is open after most Sunday Services, when appropriate, and at Church Events.

Sales from the stall between 16/2/14 to 15/2/15 amounted to £1829.32 which is less than the previous year by £261.82 but this still enabled £300 profit to be given to the PCC Treasurer in December 2014.

At a stocktake on 10/2/15 we had goods to the value of £430.05 and on 17/2/15 all invoices were paid which left cash in hand of £18.84.

During Fairtrade Fortnight 2014 the stall took part in the Traidcraft Big Brew by sponsoring the after service refreshments and thanks to your voluntary donations £53 was raised for Traidcraft Exchange a charity which works with farmers and producers in the developing world to help them win their fair share of world trade.

This year Fairtrade Fortnight is from 23rd February to the 8th of March and again we are taking part in the Big Brew on Sunday 22nd February. The good news is that the Government will match pound for pound your donations.

New products are introduced to the stall whenever possible, however if there is a product you require, or wish to see on the stall, please speak to Ros who is happy to help. The new spring catalogue is now available for you to browse.

My heart felt thanks to all the many willing helpers and to you all for supporting Fair trade.

Ros Diment

Coffee Break

Coffee Break has been very successful during the last year, going from meeting on one Wednesday morning per month to meeting Wednesday morning every other week.

We are there for anyone who feels the need of company and a chat over a hot drink and cake. The group enjoy making items that help people in need, hats and gloves were made for the homeless. At the coffee break donations for the refreshments can be made and we were able to buy sleeping bags for the homeless this Christmas with the money raised.

Blankets were made for the Premature Baby Unit at Pembury Hospital also blankets for Moses Baskets.

Large blankets and quilts were made for a Children's Charity in Swaziland.

A charity requested special items for still born babies to be wrapped in, these were made and also tiny teddy bears to go with the babies.

We have a couple of new ideas for the coming year and will have a stall at the Watlington Village Fete in June. We will sell Christmas tree decorations, knitted dolls and other items. We will also have a display of the kind of items we give to various charities.

Pauline Welch, Gillian Sessions

The Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ending 31st December 2014

Bank

Nat West PLC
Swan Street
West Malling
Kent

Honorary Treasurer

Richard John Dunn
Wateringbury
Kent

Independent Examiner

Peter Mitchell Esq.
Wateringbury
Kent

**TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2014
(INCLUDING 2015 BUDGETS)**

All reports have been produced using Excel spreadsheets.

I would like to begin this submission to the APCM by formally thanking Gordon Self and Barry Fisher for their assistance in dealing with Gift Aid and Covenants including all the necessary Income Tax recovery processes.

The Budgets for 2015 were formulated for the Standing Committee and then presented to the PCC on 25th January 2015 and were approved for presentation to the ACPM. In addition to submission of a budget it is a requirement for us as a PCC to submit a 'Reserves Policy' for 2015, a copy of which is included in the Annual Report.

I am pleased to report that during 2014 Wateringbury PCC expenditure was only **£269.54** in excess of that budgeted. In addition our income for 2014 was **£2,125.19** more than our expenditure (including transfer of £2,830 to our RDBF Church Repair Fund), compared to 2013 when our income was some £15,005 less than our expenditure. This was reduced in 2013 by a donation from the Friends of Wateringbury Church for the new porch works of £6,000.

Expenditure in 2014 included **£4,818** on the removal of asbestos.

You will see from the accounts that our **total income in 2014 was £51,687.73** compared to the income in 2013 of £44,288, an increase of £7,399.73, although this does include a donation of £1,842.30 for the restoration and re-hanging of the Madonna and Child painting. This is partly due to the effect of an increase in giving as a consequence of the stewardship campaign, but also to an increase in fund raising.

The PCC's **overall expenses including capital expenditure in 2014 was £49,562.54.**

Our Parish Share for 2014 was **£8,200** and this will remain the same for 2015, however from 2015 it will now be combined with the churches stipend contribution to form a 'pledged offer' to the diocese.

Wateringbury PCC's share of The Joint Benefice expenses for 2014 was **£17,568** relating to approximately 33% of the Joint Benefice Expenses and it has been agreed that this will increase to £17,659 in 2015, still a 33% share. This figure comprises our Stipend contribution for 2015 of £12,007 (an increase of 2%) and £5,652 Benefice contribution (reduced to £4,334 in 2015 as a consequence of the Benefice accounts being in surplus).

Hence our Joint Benefice expenses for 2015 will be £16,341. Wateringbury PCC's share of the Benefice pledged offer to the diocese for 2015 will therefore be £20,207 agreed at the Meeting of the Benefice Treasurers and Wardens on 24th November 2014.

Gift Aid and Covenanted Donations in 2014, including income from regular standing orders of **£18,360**, amounted to **£25,510.16**, compared to a total of £20,236 in 2013. This increase was largely due to a generous donation to meet the restoration costs of the Madonna and Child painting now hanging in the Baptistry, and two substantial donations resulting from the Stewardship Campaign. Although the Stewardship Campaign has increased regular giving to the church its effect will not be fully evident until the end of 2015, as it only happened part way during 2014.

Again, partly as a consequence of the Stewardship Campaign, the decrease in the income from collections has been halted and has shown an increase in 2014. Our total collection income was **£3,196.04**, compared with £2,176 in 2013. We are still allowed to recover tax on this collection income.

An increase in the number of weddings in 2014 resulted in an income, less expenses, of **£2,390** compared with just £44 in 2013.

There was a decrease in income from funeral fees in 2014 of **£456.60**, a total of **£1,564.20** compared to a total of £2,020.80 in 2013.

During 2014 the PCC did not hold any 'restricted funds'.

At the end of the 2014 fiscal year the PCC reserves have increased by £2,830 in the RDBF Church Repair Fund to **£4,259** with **£2,257** in the RDBF General Deposit Account and **£488** in RDBF Loan Account. The PCC's Business Reserve Account had a balance of **£2,093** at the end of 2014.

It can be seen from the Statement of Assets and Liabilities that the PCC held total assets as at the 31st December 2014 of **£14,851.74**, an increase of **£5,040.94** which relates to the increase in income compared to expenditure for the year.

In the Budgets for 2015 our general income is projected to be some **£41,560** and it is anticipated that the PCC general expenditure is likely to be some **£40,611**. In addition the PCC has budgeted capital expenditure of **£2,500**, some £500 for necessary tree work and £2,000 towards the repair and re-fixing of the weather vane if this is not covered by insurance. The projected capital expenditure will reduce the anticipated level of our reserves at the end of 2015 to some £13,279.

The PCC wish to thank you all for your generous Covenants during 2014 and also wish to thank the Events Committee who raised a net amount in excess of **£6,000** in 2014. Although the Events Committee no longer exists from 2014 onwards it will be important that individuals take on the responsibility of existing and new Fundraising Events as these are important in enabling the PCC to balance expenditure with income.

The members of the PCC are pleased that the 'Friends of Wateringbury Church' continue to raise funds to support any future capital expenditure required to improve the fabric of the Church. Our thanks go to all those who have supported the Friends of Wateringbury Church and especially to William English and his committee.

My thanks also go to our Benefice treasurer Suzanne Rowlinson for all her hard work during the year as well as to Gordon Self for his work in submitting our annual tax refund claim.

In addition my thanks go to Eddie Scarlin, Joanne Fyson and all the members of the PCC for their help and support during 2014. In addition Eddie Scarlin has managed to recover in 2014 VAT to the value of £2,760.20 for building works carried out to the church over the past few years.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the Budgets for 2015 and the Reserves Policy included with this Report and would request your formal approval to the Fiscal Report as presented.

In addition we need to formally approve the appointment of Peter Mitchell who has again agreed to be our Independent Examiner for the 2016 Accounts.

Richard Dunn (Honorary Treasurer)

Wateringbury Parochial Church Council

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2014

	2014	2013
	£	£
RECEIPTS		
Voluntary Receipts:		
2 From Collections	3,196.04	2,176.42
1 From Covenants and Gift Aid	23,667.86	20,235.53
3 All other giving/voluntary receipts	1,842.30	0.00
4 Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	5,676.33	5,686.94
Other Receipts:		
14 VAT Recovered	2,760.20	0.00
6 Funeral Fees	1,564.20	2,020.80
6 Wedding Fees	4,110.00	44.00
Fees Other	0.00	496.00
5 Fair Trade Received	300.00	300.00
6 Donations Specific	109.00	6,080.00
6 Donations Received	692.13	1,977.95
5 Fund Raising - General	1,673.29	5,216.05
5 Flower Festival	2,130.94	0.00
6 Remember a Person	115.50	0.00
6 Votive Candles	28.65	0.00
5 Sunday Coffee	310.00	0.00
6 History Society	86.00	0.00
5 Christmas Bazaar	1,668.61	0.00
5 Kent Police Choir Concert	1,686.23	0.00
5 Book Sales	48.30	0.00
15 RDBF Church Repair Fund - Interest	10.16	17.83
15 RDBF Loan Account - Interest	1.95	2.46
15 RDBF General Deposit - Interest	9.00	33.95
15 Business Reserve - Interest	1.04	0.32
	51,687.73	44,288.25

PAYMENTS				
8	Donations Paid	734.93	551.00	
7	Fund Raising & Publicity	961.22	453.27	
7	Flower Festival	312.88	0.00	
7	Christmas Bazaar Float	131.90	0.00	
13	Wedding Expenses	1,720.00	0.00	
11	PCC Expenses	1,897.97	3,029.17	
10	ETW Joint Benefice Expenses	17,568.00	17,568.00	
11	Ecclesiastical Insurance	3,953.67	4,024.89	
13	Training	48.00	68.64	
9	Parish Share	8,200.00	8,200.00	
11	Church Repair & Maintenance	881.50	5,958.59	
12	RDBF Church Repair Fund	2,830.00	0.00	
13	Sunday School Expenses	56.48	47.00	
13	Youth Group	349.92	363.00	
13	Salaries	720.00	720.00	
11	Electricity	2,148.44	0.00	5,720.58
11	Water & Drainage Rates	141.00		202.10
13	Printing	100.00		255.09
13	Family Service	8.79		0.00
11	Removal of Asbestos	4,818.00		0.00
11	Church Music Licence & Copyright	137.54		0.00
8	Madonna & Child Restoration	1,842.30		0.00
	New Porch/Chancel Window	0.00		12,131.99
		<u>49,562.54</u>		<u>59,293.32</u>
16 FUNDS				
	At 31 December 2013	9,810.80		24815.87
	Incoming Receipts	51,687.73		44,288.25
	Outgoing Payments	49,562.54		59,293.32
	At 31 December 2014	11,935.99		9,810.80

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER
2014**

		2014	2013
	Note		
RECEIPTS			
Planned Giving	1	23,667.86	20,235.53
Collections at Services	2	3,196.04	2,176.42
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	1,842.30	0.00
Gift Aid Recovered	4	5,676.33	5,686.94
VAT Recovered	14	2,760.20	0.00
Activities for Generating Funds	5	7,817.37	5,516.05
Church Activities	6	6,705.48	10,122.75
Fees Other		0.00	496.00
		51,665.58	44,233.69
Interest from Accounts	15	22.15	54.56
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		<u>51,687.73</u>	<u>44,288.25</u>
PAYMENTS			
Cost of generating funds	7	1,406.00	453.27
Donations	8	2,577.23	551.00
Parish Share	9	8,200.00	8,200.00
Joint Benefice Expenses	10	17,568.00	17,568.00
Church Running Expenses	11	13,978.12	18,935.33
Transfer between funds	12	2,830.00	0.00
Church Activities	13	3,003.19	1,453.73
			12,131.99
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		49,562.54	59,293.32
NET INCOMING RESOURCES		2,125.19	-15,005.07
Total Fund Brought Forward at 01.01.14		9,896.55	
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31.12.14	16	<u>12,021.74</u>	

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER

	2013	2014
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Prepayments	£19.00	£0.00
Petty Cash	£100.00	£100.00
Bank Current Account	£3,550.99	£5,654.03
Bank Reserve Account	£2,092.00	£2,093.04
RDBF Loan Account	£486.40	£488.35
RDBF Church Repair Account	£1,418.95	£4,259.11
RDBF General	£2,248.21	£2,257.21
<u>Total Current</u>	£9,915.55	£14,851.74
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
	£0.00	£0.00
<u>Current Assets less Current Liabilities:</u>		
	£9,915.55	£14,851.74
<u>Represented by :</u>		
<u>Capital &</u>		
General Fund Brought Forward	£24,815.87	£9,810.80
Surplus Brought Forward	£0.00	£0.00
Income Expenditure Account	-£15,005.07	£2,125.19
Transfer to RDBF Church Repair Fund		£2,830.00
Previous Year	£0.00	£85.75
<u>TOTAL</u>		£14,851.7

WATERINGBURY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - Year to 31st DECEMBER 2014

	INCOME 2013	INCOME 2014
Collections	£2,176.42	£3,196.04
Covenants/Gift Aid	£20,235.53	£25,510.16
Tax Recovered	£5,686.94	£5,676.33
VAT Recovered	£0.00	£2,760.20
Funeral Fees	£2,020.80	£1,564.20
Wedding Fees	£44.00	£4,110.00
Fees - other	£496.00	£0.00
Donations Received - Specific	£6,080.00	£109.00
Donations Received - General	£1,977.95	£692.13
Church Repair Fund - Interest	£17.83	£10.16
RDBF Loan Account - Interest	£2.46	£1.95
RDBF General Deposit - Interest	£33.95	£9.00
Fund Raising - General	£5,216.05	£1,673.29
Flower Festival	-	£2,130.94
Remember a Person	-	£115.50
Christmas Bazaar	-	£1,668.61
Kent Police Male Voice Choir Concert	-	£1,686.23
Fair Trade	£300.00	£300.00
Votive Candles	-	£28.65
Sunday Coffee	-	£310.00
Book sales	-	£48.30
History Society	-	£86.00
Business Reserve Account Interest	£0.32	£1.04
Total Income	£44,288.25	£51,687.73

	EXPENDITURE 2013	EXPENDITURE 2014
Books, etc	£0.00	£0.00
Grants and Donations Paid	£551.00	£734.93
Fund Raising & Publicity	£453.27	£961.22
Insurance	£4,024.89	£3,953.67
Wedding Expenses	£0.00	£1,720.00
P.C.C. Expenses - General	£3,029.17	£1,906.76
ETW Joint Benefice Expenses	£17,568.00	£17,568.00
Training	£68.64	£48.00
Parish Share	£8,200.00	£8,200.00
Church Repair and Maintenance	£5,958.59	£881.50
Church Quinquennial Works	£4,543.19	£0.00
New Porch	£7,588.80	£0.00
Salaries	£720.00	£720.00
Electricity	£5,720.58	£2,148.44
Printing	£255.09	£100.00
Water & Drainage Rates	£202.10	£141.00
Flower Festival	£0.00	£312.88
RDBF Church Repair Fund	£0.00	£0.00
Youth Group	£363.00	£349.92
Madonna & Child Painting	£0.00	£1,842.30
Asbestos Removal	£0.00	£4,818.00
Church music Licence & Copyright	£0.00	£137.54
Christmas Bazaar Float	£0.00	£131.90
Sunday School Expenses	£47.00	£56.48
Total Expenditure	£59,293.32	£46,732.54
Transfer to RDBF Church Repair Fund		£2,830.00
SURPLUS/ (-DEFICIT)		
	-£15,005.07	£2,125.19

The Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury

Financial Statements for 2014

Budgets for 2015

And

Reserves Policy for 2015

of the

Parochial Church Council

Budget 2015

	Actual 2013	Budget 2014	Actual 2014		Budget 2015
Courses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	E	£0.00
Books	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	E	£0.00
Church Repairs & Maintenance	£5,958.59	£4,500.00	£881.50	E	£1,000.00
Curate expenses	£0.00	£100.00	£0.00	E	£0.00
RDBF Pledged Offer	£17,568.00	£17,568.00	£17,568.00	E	£20,207.00
Parish Share	£8,200.00	£8,200.00	£8,200.00	E	£0.00
Benefice Expenses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	E	£4,334.00
Electricity	£5,720.58	£4,900.00	£2,148.44	E	£4,000.00
Fund Raising & Publicity Costs	£463.27	£500.00	£1,406.00	E	£200.00
Grants & Donations Paid	£551.00	£550.00	£734.93	E	£750.00
Insurance Premiums etc	£4,024.89	£4,200.00	£3,953.67	E	£4,100.00
Office & General Stationary	£0.00	£30.00	£0.00	E	£30.00
PCC General Expenses	£2,285.17	£2,000.00	£3,877.81	E	£1,900.00
Petty Cash	£146.00	£100.00	£0.00	E	£100.00
Postage & Carriage	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	E	£20.00
Printing & Publications	£255.00	£250.00	£100.00	E	£150.00
Sunday School	£47.00	£190.00	£65.27	E	£100.00
Salaries	£720.00	£720.00	£720.00	E	£780.00
Fun with Faith	£152.50	£0.00	£0.00	E	£0.00
Training	£68.64	£50.00	£48.00	E	£50.00
Youth Group	£363.00	£350.00	£349.92	E	£300.00
Water & Drainage	£202.10	£240.00	£141.00	E	£200.00
Wedding Expenses	£0.00	£1,975.00	£1,720.00	E	£1,444.00
	£46,725.74	£46,463.00	£41,914.54		£39,665.00

Bequests and Legacies	£0.00	£0.00		I	£0.00
Collections	£2,176.42	£2,200.00	£3,196.04	I	£1,900.00
Covenants & Gift Aid	£20,235.53	£21,000.00	£23,667.86	I	£24,500.00
Donations Unspecified	£1,977.95	£1,500.00	£692.13	I	£0.00
Fees Received (others)	£496.00	£300.00	£230.15	I	£200.00
Friends of Wateringbury Church	£6,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	I	£0.00
Fund Raising General	£5,216.05	£5,500.00	£7,517.37	I	£4,000.00
Funeral Fees	£2,020.80	£2,200.00	£1,564.20	I	£1,000.00
Interest received on PCC Acc's	£54.24	£20.00	£22.15	I	£20.00
Donation Specific	£1,438.90	£90.00	£1,951.30	I	£100.00
Tax Recovered from Gift Aid	£5,686.94	£5,500.00	£5,676.33	I	£6,250.00
Traidcraft	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00	I	£300.00
Wedding Fees	£44.00	£4,060.00	£4,110.00	I	£4,223.00
VAT Recovered		£0.00	£2,760.20	I	£0.00
	£45,646.83	£42,670.00	£51,687.73		£42,493.00

**BUDGET SURPLUS /
DEFICIT**

	-£3,793.00	£9,773.19		£2,828.00
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Church Quinquennial Works	£4,543.19			E	
Works to Church Porch	£7,588.80			E	
Church Roofing & Spire	£0.00	£200.00		E	
Removal of Asbestos	£744.00	£4,800.00	£4,818.00	E	
Tree Works				E	£1,000.00
Weather Vane				E	
RDBF Church Repair Fund		£3,270.00	£2,830.00	E	£1,420.00
	£12,875.99	£8,270.00	£7,648.00		£2,420.00

Expenses	£59,601.73	£54,733.00	£49,562.54		£42,085.00
Income	£45,646.83	£42,670.00	£51,687.73		£42,493.00
Surplus/Deficit	-£13,954.90	£12,063.00	£2,125.19		£408.00

St John the Baptist Wateringbury Parochial Church Council

RESERVES POLICY 2015

In conjunction with our proposed budgets for 2015 the PCC has agreed a 'Reserves Policy' to ensure that our 'Church' and related services to the Parish can be maintained at an acceptable level during the coming year.

At present the Parish's financial reserves, excluding designated and restricted funds are approximately **£14,852**. The PCC will require some **£41,000** in 2015 to cover the running of the church, including the Benefice expenses, the Pledged Offer to the Diocese, salaries and general PCC expenses, excluding any repair and improvement works to the church fabric.

The majority of our income is derived from collections, Gift Aid Donations and fund raising activities which in the past, together with use of our Reserves, has been able to meet the growing deficit between income and expenditure. The Church Reserves in 2013 had been reduced to such a point that it was necessary to undertake a Stewardship Campaign to raise additional regular income to meet the annual running costs of the church. The PCC is very grateful to those parishioners who were able to support the church in this way. We are also very grateful to the Friends of Wateringbury Church who continue to raise money for church projects when they arise. It is because of these generous donations that we have, in the past, been able to run the church on the amount of regular donations received and additional income from fund raising through our Events Committee's efforts. In 2015 the Events Committee will no longer exist in its present form although we very much hope that individual members of the church will continue to organise fundraising events under the umbrella and support of the PCC.

Following the Stewardship Campaign we have budgeted that our income from regular Covenants and collections in 2015 will be some **£26,000**. Additional income from fund raising activities, recovery of tax, fees and donations is estimated to be around **£14,000**.

The total projected income in should allow the PCC to cover the general running costs for the Parish and our share of the Benefice without having to eat into our reserves in 2015.

Wateringbury PCC is committed to continue regular fiscal reviews throughout 2015 to ensure that expenditure is maintained within the budgets parameters and if necessary review amend the budgets.

Richard Dunn (Honorary Treasurer)

Independent Examiners Report to the PCC of St John the Baptist Church **Wateringbury**

This report on the Wateringbury Parochial Church Council Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2014 which are set out on pages 5 to 10, and the Benefice Expenses Accounts is in respect of an examination carried out under Charities Act 2011

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the Examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and it is my responsibility to issue this report on those accounts in accordance with the terms of this Act.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under Terms and Regulations as set out in the Charities Act 2011

The examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and the comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiners statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with The Charities Act 2011
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Peter Mitchell ACMA
18, Leney Road
Wateringbury
Maidstone
ME18 5DQ

Dated: 29.01.15

