

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST WATERINGBURY



**REPORTS FOR THE
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
5TH APRIL 2016**

A Message from your Churchwarden

We are pleased to provide this booklet, comprising our Annual Reports, in advance of our Annual Parochial Church Meeting on **Tuesday 5th 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!

Peter Bond
Churchwarden

Parish Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury

Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on Tuesday 5th April 2016

AGENDA

Annual Vestry Meeting

1. Prayers
2. Presentation of Notice convening the meeting
3. Minutes of the Vestry Meeting of Tuesday 21st April 2015
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 21st April 2015
4. Submission of Electoral Roll
5. Annual reports
 - a) PCC Report
 - b) Church Warden's Report
 - c) Building Committee Report
 - d) Worship and Mission Group Report
 - e) School Liaison Group Report
 - f) Pastoral 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) Sundays Cool Report
 - o) Watch Report
 - p) Wateringbury School Report
 - q) Flower Arrangers Report
 - r) Holy Dusters Report
 - s) Bellringers Report
 - t) Fairtrade Report
 - u) Coffee Break Report
 - v) Monthly Coffee Mornings Report
 - w) Weekly Newsletter report
 - x) Poverty Group Report - *will be provided at the meeting*
 - y) Audited Accounts for the financial year ended 31st December 2015
6. Election of Auditor for the current year
7. Elections to Deanery Synod (*not required until 2017*)
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 21 April 2015

1. PRAYERS

The Meeting opened with prayers.

WELCOME

Revd Jim Brown welcomed all to the meeting and reminded all that this would be his last APCM as the vicar at Wateringbury.

2. PRESENTATION OF NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

Revd Jim 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 1 APRIL 2014

The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as an accurate record, and were proposed for acceptance by Eddie Scarlin, seconded by Joy Searle, and all were in favour. They were signed by Revd Jim.

4. ELECTION OF CHURCHWARDENS

Revd Jim 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 Ted Bates, seconded by Colin Craig.

Peter Bond proposed by Eddie Scarlin, seconded by Joanna Fyson.

Revd Jim proposed that we accept the nominations as these were the only candidates, and he thanked Joanna and Peter for standing for the forthcoming year.

Joanna and Peter were willing to serve as Churchwardens and were duly elected for the year of office 2015-2016. Revd Jim thanked them both for volunteering and confirmed that Peter will be formally sworn-in in May.

Revd Jim went on to say that we have been blessed with Joanna and Eddie who do an enormous amount of work in the background, and we are immensely grateful and blessed indeed.

Revd Jim gave sincere thanks to Eddie and Joanna for all that they have done and wished Eddie a happy retirement. Eddie has done a sterling job taking the role on at a difficult time for him personally, yet he took it on with enthusiasm. Eddie is grateful to everyone for their support. Revd Jim thanked Eddie for his seven years service which is a fantastic commitment and thanked him very much on behalf of everyone.

Thanks also go to Joanna for her two years service and for her commitment to the role. Despite work demands she has worked alongside Eddie and achieved a great deal. Revd Jim said he was aware that things will change later this year and wished her well in her decisions regarding her future. Revd Jim emphasised that his departure should not impact on any decisions she makes.

Revd Jim went on to say that he was really pleased that Peter was taking on the role. He thanked him for his commitment to the parish and to the legally bound role especially given that Revd Jim is leaving and the future is unknown. He felt that it was an exciting time in the parish having the opportunity to shape the future, and he had every confidence in Peter leading the way.

The Vestry meeting was then closed.

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
for the Parish of St John the Baptist Wateringbury
held in the Church on Tuesday 21 April 2015**

1. PRESENTATION OF NOTICE CONVENING THE MEETING

Revd Jim 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 Mrs Patricia Berry, Mrs Hilary Cayzer, Jack Tate, Mrs Audrey Allen, Ed and May Bennett, Mrs Emma Palmer.

3. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF 1 APRIL 2014

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 Joanna Fyson, seconded by Alan Searle and all were in favour. They were signed by Revd Jim.

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 91. There were the following changes – 2 people have moved away, and there are 2 new members. Revd Jim thanked Hilary for all her work with the Electoral Roll.

5. ANNUAL REPORTS

Revd Jim 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. The pack is also on the website.

The first report was from the PCC and Revd Jim gave thanks to the members of the PCC. There has been a good attendance throughout the year and thanks in particular to Barry Fisher who as Lay Chair often chairs the meeting.

Turning to the Churchwarden's report, Revd Jim noted that the Churchwarden role is an official role covering management of the church, the fabric and the churchyard. Thanks to Eddie and Joanna for compiling the report and thanks to them both for the fact that the services run smoothly. Thanks to everyone involved in the weekly services providing much enrichment. The report also refers to the school, health and safety etc and particular thanks to the Churchwardens for their closing comments.

The Building committee is a subcommittee of the PCC and much work has been accomplished. Thanks to Liz Gummer for leading the group to make sure things are done and for her report. Revd Jim said that he had an interesting day in July last year when the work on the weather vane was carried out watching the steeplejacks climbing the spire. Other work carried out included work on the trees in the graveyard.

The Worship and Mission group have quite a few things going on including planning the services. The changes to the 8.00 service have not impacted Watlington too much but the number of Healing services has been reduced due to low attendance. The Worship & Mission group ensure that the church commemorate and mark events appropriately as expected by the local community. Thanks to Becky Bowie, Kate Millar, Ruth Dunn, and Sally Barton for their creativity and input. We are very lucky that we have these people to call on.

The Pastoral committee have great team meetings on a regular basis and consider Posada, the Remembrance book, and the Christmas card among many other things.

Sadly the Events committee was disbanded in 2014 and so there is no report. We pray that a way forward will be found to continue with this important fund raising.

Revd Jim said that he felt a great relief that he did not have to chair the Deanery Synod anymore but he still goes along to the meetings. The representatives for Watlington are Barry Fisher and Jack Tate and Barry is also the Lay Chair. Sheena Stewart from Watlington is the secretary but Ros Hutchins from Teston has said that she wishes to step down from the treasurer role. Barry has been nominated to serve on the Tonbridge Archdeaconry committee and this has proven to be very timely as one of the roles of the committee is to advise the Archdeacon on filling vacancies in the Deanery. The Deanery Synod holds purposeful meetings following setting out their strategy. Revd Jim's successor – Revd Matthew Buchan is equally enthused with the role which has lots of responsibility. While in post Revd Jim filled six vacancies in two years and it was a privilege but he needed prayerful support.

Revd Jim said that the Ministry Leadership Team is a complete unknown for many but we are guided by them over matters across the benefice. The members gain a lot of support through being on the team and get a great sense of being part of something. He thanked all the members.

The Benefice Mother's Union is going well with lots of activities going on. Thanks to Frances Selman from East Malling for running this and Revd Jim encouraged all to feel free to join the meetings as it is not necessary to be a member.

Thanks to Mike and Jan Pursey for co-ordinating the Prayer Chain. They keep their finger on the pulse and circulate needs to members of the chain very quickly. We are very grateful for everything they do.

The choir goes from strength to strength and thanks to Hilary Fisher for playing the organ. She does it with a great deal of thought for the occasion, and always plays with purpose, although sometimes subtle. Thanks to her commitment as we are grateful for all that she does. There was a full choir recently for a Friday wedding and there is a social perspective to their service. They work as a team and look after each other and enrich our worship. They also help provide the refreshments after the services. Thanks to all involved.

Revd Jim thanked Edna Craig and her team for their work with the Toddlers Praise. They are expecting a dip in numbers as the older ones join reception class at school. Thanks to Sandra Corby who has taken on the role of deputy for Revd Jim and she does a good job.

The JAM club at the school has been running for quite a few years now as it started under Richard Arnold. Sue McLachlan is leaving in the summer and Christine Byron suggested that we should send her a bouquet of flowers when she goes. It is understood that Jenny Derry is taking it on in September.

The Sundays Cool group is run by a brilliant team of people. The children's activities have improved in recent years and it is good to hear about what they have been up to. They had a fantastic day at Mereworth Castle and thanks to Becky Bowie and her team for their preparation and organisation. Suzanne Rowlinson asked if there was an update as she understood last year there were some discussions around possible alternative venues for the group to meet in as they had outgrown the vestry. Barry Fisher confirmed that there had not been any progress to date but explained that the idea of a portacabin had been put forward. Kate Millar felt that this was ideal and Revd Jim said that he appreciated the issues with year 7 and 8s working alongside the very young ones. He felt it should be made a priority for the forthcoming PCC year.

The Watch club meet at the village hall but we sponsor them and they receive a grant from us. There will be summer activities at the school this year whereas last year they were at Teston. We are grateful to Lisa Glasscote for her report.

Chris Clark has taken over as chair of the Watlington School governors and is doing a fantastic job. He took over from Anita Handley and his commitment never wanes. We are blessed with our foundation governors who have had challenging times in recent years. Their report gives a good insight into what is going on and thanks to Chris Clark for his report.

Revd Jim commented that he is always stunned by the flower arrangements in church. The flowers were beautiful at the recent wedding on Friday. There is no end to the arrangers' talents and they also hold flower festivals. The PCC is grateful for their work.

Turning to the Holy Dusters report, Revd Jim said that you always get the sense that the church is well looked after and it is clean and tidy, but that doesn't just happen. We are grateful to all the team.

We don't always hear the bells from inside the church which is a shame as they are a great team of dedicated ringers. They deal with all sorts of things and tour other towers and get a lot of fun as well as providing us with a lot of pleasure.

The Fairtrade stall has raised a fantastic amount of money and people appreciate that the goods are put out each week. Revd Jim observed that East Malling are looking to emulate us. He thanked Ros Diment for doing this very important part of church life. Debbie Bond agreed as the children love helping out and she gave thanks to Ros for allowing it to happen.

The weekly newsletter had been a new edition on the report pack in 2014 and it had not been intended to provide a further report in 2015. However Mike Pursey gave a verbal report detailing that the newsletter is widely circulated as it goes to the desert as well as to the United States. The newsletter is much appreciated. About 25 hard copies are taken now but this is at no cost to the church. Thanks to Denise Tate for doing the printing for free.

6. PRESENTATION OF AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

The Treasurer Richard Dunn was asked to present his report.

Richard presented the accounts to the meeting and explained that last year we had ended the year with a deficit of £15,000 but this year we had ended with a surplus of £2,000 which is mainly due to the successful stewardship campaign and fund raising. There has also been a large reduction in capital expenditure in the last year, and to break even we need to maintain the position this year but this may not continue due to the imminent quinquennial inspection. The budget for the forthcoming year projects a very small excess so our reserve position should remain as described in the report.

The accounts have been approved by the PCC and Revd Jim commented that the information was laid out very clearly. Suzanne Rowlinson asked about the electricity costs as she recalled that last year at the APCM she had noted that these costs had rocketed. She was really pleased to see the drop from £5,000 to around £2,000 and the cost saving measures have been so successful. Richard explained that following the change from EDF to Total Power a small refund was received, and he is also expecting a VAT refund as this has been charged at 20% when it should be 5%. Revd Jim said that Richard is doing a fantastic job and congratulated him on spotting this error.

Jan Pursey asked about the income from the Christmas Bazaar and Richard confirmed that this was included in the fund raising figure. Revd Jim said that we were very glad and lucky that Richard has taken over from Ian Betts and indebted to him for his careful stewardship.

6. APPROVAL OF FISCAL REPORT AND ELECTION OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Peter Mitchell the auditor has contacted Richard to confirm he is happy to continue for now and special thanks go to him for offering to take on the accounts again this year. Richard asked that we consider using Peter Mitchell again and confirmed that he has given Peter a gift in line with Ian's tradition.

It was proposed by Alan Searle that we re-elect Peter Mitchell as auditor for the accounts, seconded by Gordon Self, and all were in favour.

7. ELECTIONS TO DEANERY SYNOD

No elections due this year.

8. ELECTIONS TO PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Jack Tate has asked to stand down from the PCC but he is the PCC representative on the Deanery Synod. As he was not at the meeting, Barry offered to speak to him to ascertain what he wanted to do. Bob Bowie and Eddie Scarlin had volunteered to stand.

Nominations for members of the PCC were as follows:-

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

The members were proposed by Jan Pursey, seconded by Colin Craig, and all were in favour of electing the members en bloc.

9. ELECTIONS OF SIDESPERSONS

Barry thanked Liz Gummer who has taken on the sidepersons' rota. Unfortunately there were no new volunteers to join the rota and Revd Jim expressed his sadness at this as he considers this role to be a very important one as the sidespeople are often the first welcome as people come through the door, possibly for the first time.

Nominations for Sidespersons were as follows:-

Mrs Jane Bates, Mrs Patricia Berry, Percy Billinge, Mrs Debbie Bond, 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 Dawn Underwood, Mrs Maria White.

These names were accepted. These nominations for the sidespersons were proposed by Joanna Fyson, seconded by Mike Pursey, and all were in favour of electing en bloc.

10. ADDRESS BY THE REVEREND JIM BROWN

Revd Jim gave thanks to Christine Byron for her input to the Rostrum magazine as she always has her finger on the ball, and has given a continued commitment over the last 21 years. The church community is very grateful. Revd Jim noted that he was reliant on certain people in the Benefice eg Suzanne Rowlinson doing the Benefice accounts and other matters. We are blessed as she is a great manager of money.

He thanked Sandra Corby who is doing such a good job having had such a steep learning curve. She doesn't have Janet Saunders' church background but she is learning fast. She will prove invaluable during the forthcoming vacancy and he expressed his own personal thanks to her. She is great to work with and very willing although he said he was unsure of what she will be able to do in the interregnum.

Revd Jim thanked Barry Fisher and Alastair Byron for leading the services, as well as Edna Craig, Becky Bowie and Pauline Welch. We are so well provided for in this church and this is where the growth has been. These people are so reliable and he gave thanks for being able to fall back on them. Revd Jim said he was glad that Revd Alan Searle is slowly coming back and he values his friendship and professional ministry. Thanks to Revd Alan and also to Joy for her support. We are incredibly grateful to them both for this area of their ministry. Revd Alan thanked Revd Jim for all he has done to support him.

Revd Jim also thanked his other colleagues – Canon Derek Carpenter and Revd Pam Rink for their support and help during this year. They have both been very supportive and it has been very helpful to have their input.

Joanna Fyson gave a vote of thanks to Sheena Stewart the PCC secretary as she is always on the ball. Revd Jim agreed that she is administratively well organised which is vital and keeps things ticking over.

Alastair Byron said that he felt that Revd Jim had done a wonderful job over the last 14 years and it had been a revelation working with him. He thanked him for his sterling prayerful leadership and his comments were supported by a standing ovation. Revd Jim confirmed his last service will be on 11 October at East Malling.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Pursey explained that following an appeal in the newsletter for fund raising ideas, he had decided to try and organise a coach trip to a rose garden in the south east in a similar way as he used to for the Horticultural Society, and outlined his idea to gauge interest. The trip would be for church members and friends and if the coach was filled it would raise funds for the church.

Peter Bond offered thanks to Patricia Berry and Christine Byron for helping with the updates to the church website. He said that he had tried to get some of the sermons on there and Revd Jim confirmed he will send Peter some. Joanna suggested a discussion forum in relation to the sermons. Peter asked if anyone had any suggestions for new items to let him know.

Revd Jim thanked Peter for maintaining the website which is a vital tool now. It gives details of the parish office, forms, and information especially useful for potential marriage candidates as they can look it up for themselves. Gordon Self suggested that Revd Jim's words and picture be updated periodically for regular viewers to the home page and Joanna agreed suggesting that the current page was moved to a factual page and change the front page.

Bob Bowie observed that a website gives static information and regular users have moved to social network pages eg Facebook. He said that if we want to go into a different area, we may need to discuss and consider this. Revd Jim agreed we need to consider a Benefice page incorporating the three parishes. Teston doesn't have a website but do use Facebook.

Joanna Fyson said that the verger Gillian Sessions give so much of her time, and wondered whether an assistant verger should be appointed. She was reminded that Jan Pursey already acts in this role which Joanna appreciated but noted that she only acts when Gillian is not available and wondered if it was appropriate to share the duties more equally.

Frank Underdown requested agreement to renovate the two bench seats in the graveyard and it was suggested that he speak to Liz Gummer about this. Permission would only be granted if he claimed his expenses, and he was thanked for volunteering.

Mike Pursey gave a vote of thanks to Liz Gummer for taking on the sidespeople rota along with the other rotas.

Kate Millar said there was some very good feedback on the Lent course this year and there had been an excellent discussion on poverty which had a huge impact on the contents of the blessing bags. Revd Jim

felt we needed to take these discussions forward and will think about how. He said there were things we can do working together as a Benefice.

12. DATE OF 1st PCC MEETING

The first PCC meeting of the new parochial year will be on Tuesday 19 May 2015.

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

PCC report to APCM 2016

Wateringbury PCC held meetings in the months below and the numbers of attendees were:

May	= 15
July	= 14
September	= 13
November	= 15
January 2016	= 12
March	not available at the time of printing

During the year our often lively and challenging debates covered many important areas of church life such as:

- Interregnum and appointment of a new vicar
- Parish Profile
- Quinquennial inspection
- Changes at Wateringbury C of E Primary School
- Church finances, budget and fund raising
- Events
- Building projects – spire and church meeting room
- Poverty action
- Health & Safety

Emma Palmer resigned from the PCC in September, Rev Jim Brown retired in October, and Joanna Fyson tendered her resignation at year end as Church Warden and an ex-officio member of the PCC. No new members were co-opted.

Sheena Stewart
PCC Secretary

Churchwarden's Report

This last year has been dominated by one event – Father Jim's retirement in October 2015. Father Jim has given our Church so much over the years it was always going to be an emotional farewell and a sense of how to carry on without his guidance and leadership. In fact within 3 months, the benefice went from having 4 vicars down to 1 following the retirement of Revd Alan Searle and the departure of Revd Pam Rink. Add to this the departure in December of our Church Warden Joanna Fyson, leaving just myself, a newly elected churchwarden of but 6 months, and this could have been an unsettling time with major disruptions to our Church.

However, what we have seen is that services have continued as normal and the range of activities seems to have increased rather than what might have been expected to be the case.

I believe that this is due to several factors; the wonderful leadership, inspiration and encouragement that Father Jim showed and the dedication and commitment from so many people in our church which has resulted in a really well run parish Church.

I would therefore like to thank the Ministry Leadership Team of Alastair, Barry, Bob, Becky and Pauline for their great dedication and commitment in leading our services - as well as the very important part played by all the Sunday School Leaders/Family Service Team. To Lisa and her team for doing such great work with the youth (WATCH) club; to Edna for her many branches of her pastoral work; to all the members of the PCC for all their time and commitment; to the Sides people who do such a great job in welcoming people into our Church; to those on Chalice, Sound, Coffee Rota Team; to all the volunteers who turned up for the Easter and Remembrance Church clean and tidy-up, to the Parish Council for paying for the mowing of the Churchyard and not forgetting our Holy Dusters who ensure our Church is so well presented week in week out.

Music is such an important part of our worship, so a particular thanks to all the choir, to the bell ringers and of course not forgetting our 2 wonderful organists Hilary and Luka.

As in all good organisations there is very often people behind the scenes that ensure everything is organised as it needs to be. We are lucky indeed to have Mike and Denise producing the weekly Newsletter, Mike and Jan running the Prayer Chain, Gillian as vergers, Ros on fair trade, Richard as treasurer, Sheena as secretary and Sandra in the parish office - especially in this time of interregnum.

As in previous years, 2015 saw many Events held - some as outreach while others helping to raise money for our Church. Apologies for not naming you all in fear of omitting someone however a huge thanks for all your hard work.

As mentioned above, we are well into our interregnum period and I would like to thank the dedicated team for their hard work in producing an exceptional Parish Profile and of course our representatives Barry and Kate who by the time of the APCM will have already conducted interviews for the vacant role as well as having the heavy responsibility of help choosing our new incumbent. We are indeed lucky to have 2 people of such quality.

The interregnum was also felt an appropriate opportunity to update the Church Website. The Events page was superseded by replacing it with a newly created 'Calendar' page. If you don't use it, I suggest you do. My thanks go to both Christine and Patricia in helping me maintain the website.

Away from the interregnum, other activities have been the creation of the Poverty & Action group ably lead by Bob; the 5 yearly (quinquennial) report undertaken in April highlighted that our spire requires re-tiling within 2 years. This will be one of the focuses in 2016 and I would like to thank Liz for her hard work in pulling this together.

I therefore see a Church built on firm foundations, an active Church expanding God's mission and I feel privileged to play my small role in all this.

It would also be remiss of me if I didn't acknowledge the wonderful work done by Joanna who departed in December. I wish her well and thank her for all her help, guidance and patience while I was 'learning the ropes'. Having one church warden is not ideal however at this point I would thank all those, particularly the previous Church Wardens, who have and continue to offer up their help and support to me.

2016 promises to be an exciting and wonderful year in our Church with hopefully a new incumbent under a new, water tight roof!

God Bless
Peter Bond

Buildings Committee Report

A quinquennial inspection took place in April 2015, which identified several minor items as needing prompt attention. One major item resulting from the inspection is the necessity to replace the wooden shingles on the spire. Estimates have been obtained for this work, and at the time of writing we intend to apply for funding for various sources approved by the Diocese. In addition we are grateful that the Friends of Wateringbury Church will take on this work as their next/current fund raising project. It is difficult to put a timescale on this work, since it will depend largely on the success of our fund-raising efforts.

The PCC is also actively considering the provision of an additional small meeting room which will be particularly welcomed by Sunday's Cool, possibly in the form of an additional building in the church grounds. This is likely to be a temporary building, though we would hope that the need for it will continue well into the future. This is in the very early stages of planning and discussion, but clearly will also need funding.

We have had a couple of work parties to fell and clear small trees in the churchyard, and we are very grateful for those who have taken part in these.

Liz Gummer

Worship and Mission Group Report

We've had only 2 meetings in the year since the last APCM when we have reviewed and planned arrangements for services and seasonal study courses as required.

The focus outside meetings has been on keeping things going during Fr Jim's illness and following his retirement.

Particular thanks go to Becky Bowie and the team of Ruth Dunn, Kate Millar, and Sally Barton who so creatively organise and lead the Family Services.

School Liaison Group report

With the change in status of Wateringbury Primary school to Church Aided, a school liaison group was established to review links and Foundation Governor membership. The group members were agreed as the Incumbent, Vice Chairman of the PCC, Head Teacher and Chairman of Governors

Following Fr Jim's retirement the PCC felt it very important to sustain the close links with the school which he had established and nominated Kate Millar and Bob Bowie as additional members.

Meetings have been held to plan arrangements for school services in church and in the interregnum for a priest (Rev Brenda Hurd – recently retired) to preside at these. We have also had the pleasure of the school choir singing on occasion at a Family service. Church members have also assisted in leading assemblies at school.

An informal meeting between governors and PCC members was held following a Sunday service and the Chairman of Governors is arranging a similar event at the school.

Barry Fisher

Pastoral Report

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.

In May we organised the Christian Aid collection in the village. This was well supported and raised £1002.35, thank you to everyone who helped with distribution and collection of envelopes.

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

We organised the distribution of 45 harvest gifts in the village and encouraged more of the church family to help with the deliveries so that time could be spent with the recipients. The majority of the tins and packet foods were donated to our Blessings Bag scheme and Maidstone Christian Care which supports homeless people. Any surplus fresh fruit and vegetables were donated to the Pilsdon Community at West Malling. We appreciate the generous gifts from the School Harvest Celebrations and our church community for their response to our request for plants, chocolates and home-made cakes and jams.

As the Christmas card from the church was successful in 2014, we decided to continue with it for Christmas 2015, 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.

The annual toy service was supported by the school and congregation, members of the pastoral team took the toys and gifts 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.

In December we organised an Angels and Cribs weekend which we hope gave people the opportunity to quietly reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. There were displays of various nativity and crib sets and Angels. An Pray Angel was specially made for us with real swan feather wings and visitors placed prayers upon the angel. A Little Book of Angels, a collection of prayers and thoughts about angels was produced and appears to have been appreciated.

Pastoral Team

Edna Craig, Pauline Welch, Christine Byron, Gillian Sessions, Joy Searle.

Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery meets 3 times a year at different venues and as well as one off presentations there are standard items on each agenda.

Parish Profiles

At the beginning of each meeting the incumbent of the parish in which the meeting is being held gives a 'thumb nail' sketch of the parish, its particular features and the work on which it focuses and the resources available for ministry and worship. These have given useful insights into the challenges faced in some parishes and how they are tackled.

Deanery Strategy

This includes a number of features such as Training and Events which are kept under review.

Arrangements are made for at least one Deanery service a year, last year's being at Ascensiontide when Ros Oliver (wife of Canon Gordon Oliver – former Director of Training) was licensed to the Deanery to work as a Reader.

Particularly encouraging has been the growing church of St Gabriel's at Kings Hill and the feasibility of constructing a church there is being investigated by the Diocese.

Deanery Audit

This emerged from the Deanery Strategy and has been led by our Secretary Sheena Self who has collated responses from parishes in the Deanery as to the facilities and resources they have, both material and personnel, to which parishes might have recourse. A valuable schedule indeed.

Specific topics: these have included the following:

New Parish Offer scheme and the deficit between the finance it raises and the actual cost of employing the current number of stipendiary clergy. There is one parish in the Deanery that pays nothing at all to the Diocese.

Children and Holy Communion: presentation by Nick White (Diocesan Youth Officer). The Benefice has adopted the Diocesan policy on children receiving communion.

Church Growth: a discussion of the features associated with growth introduced by Gordon Hunt the Treasurer of Aylesford PCC.

School Chaplaincy: a presentation of her work as a School Chaplain by Alice Scarlin

The usual **Elections** have taken place for representatives to serve on the Diocesan Synod, Diocesan Board of Education and the Tonbridge Archdeaconry Mission and Pastoral Working group.

Barry Fisher

Lay Co Chairman, Malling Deanery Synod

The Ministry Leadership Team (MLT) Report

The Ministry Leadership Team consists of those who assist in leadership within the Benefice – Clergy, Readers, Pastoral Assistants, and Evangelist – together with others whom Fr Jim has invited to join the group. The Team meets bi-monthly on a Saturday morning at 8.30am in one of the churches in the Benefice: three meetings each year are gatherings for prayer, and the other three, beginning with breakfast, are longer meetings which include a time of prayer, a bible-study, and discussion about parish matters which particularly relate to the roles which team members have. Some Services are planned, diaries consulted, Courses arranged, and matters discussed which may be appropriate within the parish or Benefice setting. It is a sort of 'enlarged staff meeting' and we are continuing to meet in the absence of an Incumbent; in the interregnum we have also been joined by churchwardens. It will, of course, be for the new Incumbent to decide whether he or she wishes this format to continue.

Canon Derek Carpenter

Healing Services Report

Services for healing take place at 8pm on the first Tuesday in alternate months, beginning in February, in one of the three churches within the Benefice. They are held within the context of a Eucharist, a Service of Praise, a Taize Service, or one of Meditation. Each gives the opportunity for the laying-on of hands for healing to be given, and at a Eucharist anointing may also be administered. During the past year the principal officiants have been Fr Jim and Fr Derek, who is continuing until the appointment of a new Incumbent, assisted by Pauline Welch (the commissioned Evangelist based at Wateringbury) and, until his retirement, Fr Alan. Alan Bramley, Barry Fisher and Dawn Page (all Licensed Readers) have given the short Address from time to time, together with Susan Levett.

A regular few attend the Service to receive the laying-on of hands either for themselves or for someone else whom they are holding in their thoughts and prayers, or simply to use the time as an occasion of prayer for the sick without necessarily receiving the laying-on of hands themselves. The healing ministry is part of the church's natural ministry in which all of us are involved, and we hope that more might be encouraged to come to offer their presence and their prayers: in this way God-given time is offered back to Him for the benefit of both ourselves and others.

Canon Derek Carpenter

Benefice Mothers' Union Report

Currently we have a membership of 19 members, both men and women. Unfortunately this year we have lost two clergy members with Fr Jim (and Jean) retiring and Revd Pam Rink moving away.

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. Membership is very flexible and not onerous and simply involves an annual subscription to the Mothers' Union Charity in December each year and a commitment to support the work of The Mothers' Union in prayer and action where possible. Members often cannot commit to attending every month due to family demands, but are always welcomed when they can come.

In the last twelve months we have had various different meetings: in January an AGM and social get-together; a talk in February by Jean Brown on her time as a Prison Chaplain; a talk on Traidcraft in March by Moyna Bridge; in May an afternoon reflection at Pilsdon led by Revd Pam Rink; in June a talk on the work of the Salvation Army (we donated three hand-knitted blankets for a hostel); in July afternoon tea at Hadlow when we said farewell to Fr Jim, Jean and Revd Pam; in September we shared Hymns, Poems and Prayers; in October we had a talk on researching the family tree; in November Canon Katrina Barnes gave us an illustrated talk on Walking the Camino de Compostela and in December Moyna Bridge returned to give us a talk on Fairtrade. We have given hand-knitted items for the premature baby unit at Pembury Hospital and also collected toiletries and donated them to Maidstone Women's Refuge. We continue to collect plastic milk bottle tops for guide dogs.

Lesley Marsh, now Mothers' Union Vice President of Tonbridge organises Deanery Meetings a couple of times a year for the branch leaders of Coxheath Benefice, West Malling, Barming, Yalding and East Malling, Wateringbury & Teston Benefice to get together and share ideas.

Thank you to all who loyally support Mothers' Union. Particular thanks to Elizabeth Allen our Treasurer and to Audrey Allen who has taken over the position of Committee Member from Jill Boardman. Liz and Audrey help run and support our Benefice Branch. Particular thanks also to Ros Diment and Belinda Hunter who open up Wateringbury and East Malling Churches respectively for our Meetings 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 pray, to support family life in its many forms and to raise some funds for disadvantaged families both in Rochester Diocese and around the world.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support The Mothers' Union: whether it is in prayer, action or funding. All support is vitally important but above all please continue to pray.

Our theme for 2016 is 'Turning Faith into Action'.

Frances Selman
Mothers' Union Secretary

Prayer Chain Report

In 2015 the Prayer Chain despatched only 31 Requests for prayer; this is our lowest number ever but is still an indication of the continued need for prayer, be it for members of our own congregation, or for souls further afield.

During the year we lost two members of the Prayer Chain, both of whom have moved away, but happily we have two new members, so our total of Praying Warriors remains at 29.

We welcome new members at any time, do please consider this, as part of your own private ministry, it is immensely worthwhile, and need not take very much of your time.

We know that God hears every prayer, He does not always answer them in the way one would hope, but we must remember that in all things, His will must be done, not ours. Regardless of the end result, prayers are never wasted, and those for whom we pray are always uplifted and drawn closer to Our Lord simply because others, whether known to them or not, have held them in prayer.

There are no 'rules' as to when, or for how long, you are expected to pray in response to a Request, the Holy Spirit will guide you, all that is asked is a willingness to respond to the need for prayer. Should you feel that God is guiding you towards joining the Prayer Chain, please speak to one of us, or email on mikejan.pursejuk11@btinternet.com

We should be very happy to have more members! More Prayers can only do good.

Mike & Jan Pursey

Choir Report

More than ably coaxed along by our organist the choir continues to enjoy its singing

The prime function for all of us is to help lead worship in song whether it be at Family Service with its lively hymns and choruses or the more traditional offerings from Hymns Ancient and Modern at Matins and Evensong. As the words go of one of the hymns we sing not infrequently ; 'Craftsmen's art and music's measure for thy pleasure all combine'.

We need to continue to support the breadth of our worship and styles of music which is a huge blessing compared to other parishes where issues of musical style can be very divisive indeed.

As was said in the parish profile: 'Our worship, supported by our choir, reflects the breadth of the age range in the congregation: a balance of continuity and change.'

We have a great sense of cohesion as a group and are always on the lookout for new tuneful voices to share in that.

Barry Fisher

Toddlers Praise Report

The Mums, Carers, and Toddlers, plus helpers have had another enjoyable year learning about Jesus during our story time, and remembering to say Thank you for all our Blessings. In September, several of our little ones left to go to school, and we miss them, but we have welcomed others into our group, as well as Ruth with her puppet called Scruffy.

Father Jim had a BIG Surprise one Monday afternoon in October, when previous toddlers were allowed to have time away from school to join us to offer their Best Wishes, and say Thank you and Happy Retirement for all the fun and pleasure Rev'd Jim had given them, and us, every Monday afternoon since he and Jean moved into our Benefice.

Sandra, who has been with Toddlers since her daughter Emily joined our group, follows the same routine, of marching, story time, and is a great help to us all. The Nativity story was described by Sandra with the aid of the crib figures, instead of singing and pretending to go to Bethlehem. At this time, Angela who has been helping at Toddlers since it commenced in the Church, acted as Father Christmas and distributed gifts to us all. She decided to retire, and we thanked her for her help and many cups of tea. She will be missed, but Angela is always welcome to come along and join the fellowship of Mums and children.

Ros has also been a very active member of our small team, who meets and greets, and takes care of anyone child who is upset, or takes over a baby when the Mum has to deal with the brother or sister. Fortunately, Ros is staying with us to help where necessary and to assist with the welcome refreshments at the close of the afternoon.

We are very grateful to the Scouts and Guides for the use of their headquarters. The children enjoy the space to run free and safely, plus the advantage of being near the school, for the Mums and Carers to collect their other Toddlers.

From the Senior Toddler and helpers.

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."

We now have between 15-20 children who attend Sunday School regularly and a further group who attend from time to time. Many of our members are now either already at secondary school or shortly to move up, so it will be essential to consider appropriate provision for them during Sunday services as well as continuing to encourage new younger members. One new child joined us this year; our average attendance over the whole year was 11 children and our maximum attendance was 25 (Easter Sunday).

The Sunday School team has remained steady and still consists of 10 adults as of February 2016. 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 to provide sessions during the school holidays which has proved popular, although attendance during the summer holidays was a little lower this year.

We continued to take 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. Most recently the children purchased several charity gifts at Christmas from World Vision, including a mini-library, toys for a children's centre and a catch-up lesson for a working child.

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

Sunday School ran a stall of pocket money games and a quiz at the Christmas Bazaar. We also ran a stall at the Village Fete, involving pocket money games. Young Sunday school members also assisted Ros Diment in running a Fair Trade stall at that Fete.

In July, we held our third annual Sunday School picnic, held again on this occasion by kind permission in the grounds of Mereworth Castle. We played a creative and competitive scavenger hunt, lots of team games, enjoyed the spectacular surroundings and shared fellowship over food and drink. It was another really special and popular day, and the Sunday school picnic tradition seems to have been firmly re-established.

Christmas was also a busy time for Sunday School. We held our usual children's Nativity during the December Family Service, and were extremely grateful to Ruth Dunn for her organisation of the performance. 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. Money raised through running stalls has also allowed us to give the children small birthday gifts and to fund food and games for the Christmas party; an important aspect of showing our love and care for each of them.

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 Report

The youth group which was named "The WATCH Club" by the youth, standing for Wateringbury and Teston Churches together, started in September 2011. However we also have youth not just from Wateringbury and Teston, but also Nettlestead and East Malling.

We meet fortnightly in term time at Wateringbury village hall and sometimes at St John the Baptist, on a Sunday evening between 5-7pm.

We have over 30 children on our register, but the average is 24 youth who attend a meeting. Ages ranging from 10-18 years.

One of the aims of the youth group is to provide a safe, fun environment where the youth can discuss and learn more about the Christian faith in our ' God Slot'.

We also have lots of fun and often very messy games, many of which link into the discussion topic for that week. We regularly try to break world records and have our own Youth Group record book of our own achievements.

We enjoy playing large games making the most of the Village Hall facilities by playing large games such as dodgeball etc.

During a normal session we always have a craft table set up with an activity from modelling to card making. This area is always very popular.

We also have board games out, table tennis, air hockey, pool and badminton most weeks when we are in the village hall, unless we have a planned activity.

This years planned activities have been an activity day on climbing walls, rolling in Zorbs , bungee runs, a driving simulation day ,first aid training session and Jaws and Claws organised through our affiliation with Young Kent. We hope to do more events like this over the next year.

We have organised for a local chef to come in this year and teach the youth how to prepare a value, but nutritional meal. This will be of particular benefit for the youth who will be leaving us in September to go to university.

During every session we eat supper together. Eating together is a Biblical model that Jesus used himself when teaching and fellowshiping with disciples. We value this time as a group to listen to one another. But because we also meet over teatime and teenagers tend to feel hungry most of the time food is essential! both actual and Spiritual.... And our youth do display a wonderful Spiritual Hunger which is very exciting. Together we have times of fun and times of serious discussion and prayer. The WATCH Club is a place of love, acceptance, encouragement, Spiritual growth , friendship and a lot of fun.

We have 6 regular leaders, who are amazing and work with such passion and love to this group of special young people. It is a privilege for me to work alongside these inspiring leaders who all bring so much to the group. The Youth Leaders devote so much of their own time to dealing with the administration and preparation of the Youth Group, and there is a lot, and I am so thankful for the gifting of the different leaders within the group. These leaders also give their time along with the youth to raise funds for the youth group, in the last year we had a toy stall at the village fete, a raffle and sold vintage jewellery at the Church Christmas bazaar.

I can honestly still say that I never laugh as much, or feel as moved as on those youth group nights. As a Church we are so blessed to have such wonderful youth, who are so caring towards one another and have a hunger to learn all about Jesus and I thank God for that, and pray that God will continue to bless and build on this group.

Lisa Glasscote

Wateringbury School Report

The Foundation Governors are Chris Clark (Chair), Richard Dunn (Vice Chair), Suzanne Rowlinson, Steve Wright and very recent appointment Kathryn Millar. We are very pleased to welcome Kathryn to the Governing Body with her governance and education experience and skills. Chris Clark was re-elected Chair and Richard Dunn Vice Chair in September 2015.

Unfortunately Claire Stockham decided to stand down as a Foundation Governor at the end of the 2015 academic year. We would like to thank Claire for her work and enthusiasm as a Governor. We were pleased to be able to fill the Local Authority Governor role in 2015 with the appointment of Mark Warren who lives in the village and brought skills in management and data analysis to the governing body.

We have two vacancies for Foundation Governors and discussions regarding potential candidates are progressing with the Church School Committee.

SAT results have steadily risen over the last four years with 95% of our Year 6 children achieving Level 4 in Reading, Writing and Maths. Progress is also an improving picture with 98% achieving expected progress from Keystage One (age 7) to Keystage Two (age 11). These results place Wateringbury in the top 10 Maidstone primary schools.

Younger pupils are also making good progress with 82% passing their Year 1 phonics test (above the national) and 88% achieving 2b or higher in Reading, 84% in Writing and 92% in Maths.

A parent survey, carried out in March 2015 found that 100% of parents felt their child was happy, making good progress and taught well. This was up from 90% in 2013.

Our next SIAMs inspection has been confirmed for 11th March 2016 (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). The inspector will be focusing on four key areas: Christian Distinctiveness, Collective Worship, Leadership and Management and Religious Education. Results will be published once confirmed.

FOWPS (Friends of Wateringbury Primary School) continue to be an invaluable support to the school as well as providing a great social forum. Their main purchase in 2015 was 16 new computers for the IT suite. Their plans for 2016 include outdoor covered seating areas and a new audio/lighting system for the hall.

The Premises Committee is focusing on building improvements for the library windows and roof which need replacing. This coincides with the school's 40th anniversary and plans are shaping up for a joint 40th celebration and launch of a capital campaign.

The school has dedicated Friday afternoon to the arts. The school now has a brass group, a string club and an orchestra which is conducted by a professional musician parent. There are many other activities, too numerous to mention here, from which the children benefit.

Chris Clark
Chair of Governing Body

Church Flowers

2015 was a very busy year for the flower arrangers. There were seven weddings and one wedding blessing needing our attention, together with all the usual weekly services and special festival services. We also helped Teston with their flower festival. There are still just 8 ladies on the flower rota. As ever, I am very grateful for their help and, as ever, more help would be appreciated.

2016 promises to be busy too. We will be helping East Malling with their flower festival in July and we have three weddings to look forward to.

Thank you to all the flower arrangers for their help and support.

Gillian Session

“Holy Dusters” Report

I am pleased to report that we now have seven 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 Richard and Ruth Dunn very kindly agreed to join the "Holy Dusters" and I would like to thank them for their support.

At the end of December Angela and Percy Billinge decided to step down from the rota. I personally would like to say a huge thank you to them for all the hard work and support they have given over the years to help keep our Church clean.

I am pleased to report that Lisa Glasscote has very kindly offered to join the "Holy Dusters" together with her husband, Peter, to replace Angela and Percy on the rota.

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 Churchyard as well as carry out a more “deep clean” in the Church itself. We have a very small but loyal band of people who attend the major Church cleans and I would like to make a plea that more volunteers come forward on these occasions so that more areas of the Church itself and the Church yard can be tackled.

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

Hilary Cayzer

Bellringers Report

2015 saw little change for the Wateringbury bellringers, apart from the addition of another year to our ages. Several of us have been ringing at St John the Baptist church for more than 30 years.

Sunday ringing continues with 4 or 5 ringers depending on who's on holiday etc. and we're still practicing every other Tuesday. Occasionally there's a bigger gap as we do have to rely on the availability of ringers from other towers, particularly Fran and Dave from Leigh. Thanks mainly to Glynne and Fran Tuesday ringing is usually pretty good fun and a chance to learn new methods.

The annual inspection and maintenance last year July confirmed the bells, bell frame and ropes remain in fairly good, serviceable condition. However a small amount of wood dust was noticed under one of the beams in the ringing chamber. Although possibly inactive this should ideally receive the benefit of a specialist opinion.

Our annual outing this year was a cycling tour of local churches, Mereworth, Hadlow, Old Peckham (the redundant church) and Nettlestead, stopping for lunch at the Bush Blackbird and Thrush at East Peckham.



Just arrived at Nettlestead

Many will be aware of recent media reports drawing attention to an apparent split in the bellringing fraternity as to whether or not bellringing should be classified as a competitive sport to encourage more to take part. Although portrayed as quaintly amusing, many if not all bellringers are concerned about the demographics of the ringing and churchgoing community and what this means for the future of ringing. A number of radical ideas have been made in recent issues of the Ringing World which can only be applauded. It would surely be a great loss to our culture and traditions if the sound of church bells ringing out across the countryside were to become a thing of the past.

Justin Southwell, Tower Captain

Fairtrade Stall Report

A huge thank you to everyone for their continued support for Fairtrade, by their generous shopping. The stall is open after most Sunday services, when appropriate, and at Church Events.

In July I received a letter from Traidcraft, which was reported in the Newsletter, saying Traidcraft accounts had shown a trading loss for the fourth consecutive year, and asking for our help to support them by buying their goods. I am pleased to report that I received a letter recently, to thank you all for responding to their plea as Fair trader sales were up on the previous autumn season, after eight years in decline.

20,000 Fair trader orders were processed and Christmas card sales through Fair traders were also higher. All of which is good news for Traidcraft and their charity Traidcraft Exchange, so that they can continue their work supporting the world's poorest farmers to trade fairly and thrive.

Sales from the stall 17th February 2015 to 31st January 2016 amounted to £2131.97 which exceeded the previous year by £302.65 and enabled £300 profit to be given to the PCC Treasurer in December 2015.

At the stocktake in January, we had goods to the value of £358.99, all invoices have been paid and cash in hand is £87.47.

During Fairtrade Fortnight 2015 the stall took part in Traidcraft Big Brew by sponsoring the after service refreshments. Thanks to your voluntary donations £52 was raised for Traidcraft Exchange. This year Fairtrade Fortnight is from 29th February to 13th March and again we are taking part in the Big Brew on Sunday 6th March.

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

My heartfelt thanks to all the many helpers and to you all for supporting Fairtrade.

Ros Diment

Coffee Break

Coffee Break has been meeting fortnightly during the past year. We have continued our support of the Homeless of Maidstone, the orphanage in Swaziland and premature babies. Our new projects for this year are Twiddlemuffs for people with dementia, clothes for Fish and Chip Babies in Uganda, and prayer shawls.

We have visited Santa's Grotto at Brookside Garden Centre and we are looking forward to having an owl joining us shortly. Also, we had a stall at the Wateringbury Village Fete, the proceeds for this going towards providing sleeping bags and underclothes for the homeless, along with 45 hats we knitted.

Apart from all that, we have enjoyed lots of tea, coffee and cake whilst enjoying each other's company. There's always room around the table for one more person, so come and join us soon.

Pauline Welch & Gillian Sessions

Monthly Coffee Mornings Report

You might be surprised to see a report for a venture which is in its infancy. The suggestion to write a report is to bring the monthly coffee mornings to a wider audience and thus engender more support. In fact we have just run the second session. The first one in January raised £93+ but only because we were able to sell most of our cakes, so kindly made by people, on the Sunday morning as the morning itself only attracted 13 people. However, those people felt they spent some quality time relaxing and chatting with friends.

Our second coffee morning fell just before Valentine's Day! A good excuse to have small appropriate gifts on our gift stall. More people came along and again enjoyed a relaxing time with friends. Our total for this month was £106. Next month we will be looking forward to Easter.

Why not pop in for a coffee on the second Saturday of the month from 10:30 am – noon?

Ruth and Richard Dunn

Weekly Newsletter Report

This report is prepared to acquaint readers with an idea of what goes on behind the scenes towards publishing our newsletter every week throughout the year.

This is also a good opportunity to offer sincere thanks to Sandra Corby in the Benefice Office for her invaluable contribution in supplying details of Services and events for the forthcoming week together with a Prayer for the Week and the Readings. Grateful thanks, too, to other correspondents who supply other useful information (especially if it is sent by email which saves additional typing). Warmest thanks, too, to Denise Tate for having the hard copies printed (at her own expense); for delivering them to the Church; and to Jan for proof-reading. Fact gathering, typing and formatting is down to the editor.

The process starts every Wednesday when the editor collates items of interest which have come to notice since the previous publication. With these he types and formats the content together with any other items which are received, usually by email, up to the closing time of 9.00am on the Thursday. The finished product is then emailed to Denise who arranges for the hard copies to be printed after which she delivers them to the church ready for distribution on Sunday.

On Saturday morning the editor emails copies of the newsletter to about 70 addresses to a range of different readers far and wide, not necessarily connected directly to our church, but is an invaluable form of outreach. The number is too large to send as one posting so it is now divided into two, to addresses under the Bcc facility to preserve confidentiality and security of addresses.

The success of emailing has meant that we have been able to reduce the number of printed copies from 50 per week to 25, and this number remains under review as often a number of copies are left over.

The weekly newsletter is produced at no cost to the PCC but is a useful means of communication and publicity for the benefit of our beloved Church at Wateringbury.

Mike Pursey
Editor

Poverty Group Report

Will be provided at the meeting by Bob Bowie.

The Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury

Annual Report

and

Financial Statements

of the

Parochial Church Council

For the year ending 31st December 2015

Bank

Nat West PLC
Swan Street
West Malling
Kent

Honorary Treasurer

Richard John Dunn
Wateringbury
Kent

Independent Examiner

Peter Mitchell Esq.
Wateringbury
Kent

St John the Baptist Wateringbury Parochial Church Council

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 (INCLUDING 2016 BUDGETS)

All reports have been produced using Excel spreadsheets.

I would like to begin this submission to the APCM by formally thanking Gordon Self for his 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 2015 Wateringbury PCC expenditure was only **£28.31** in excess of that budgeted (excluding the cost of the weather vane and retirement gift which were not included in the budget). In addition our income for 2015 was **£10,816.53** more than our expenditure (including transfer of £1,540 to our RDBF Church Repair Fund and excluding retirement/leaving gift donations and insurance payment for the weather vane). This compares to 2014 when our income was £2,125.19 more than our expenditure.

(Note: Expenditure in 2014 included **£4,818** on the removal of asbestos.)

You will see from the accounts that our **total income in 2015 was £60,574.84** compared to the income in 2014 of £51,687.73, an increase of £8,887.11, although this does include a donation of £1,000 together with £5,875.20 insurance premium and £1,769.80 in retirement/leaving donations)

The PCC's **overall expenses including capital expenditure in 2015 was £49,363.11.**

Our Parish Pledged Offer to the Diocese for 2015 was **£8,200**. The PCC has agreed to increase this by 2.5% in 2016.

Wateringbury PCC's share of The Joint Benefice expenses for 2015 was **£16,341.00**, relating to approximately 33% of the Joint Benefice Expenses and it has been agreed that this will increase by 2.0% in 2016, but remaining at a 33% share. This figure comprises our Stipend contribution for 2016 together with our Benefice contribution. Wateringbury PCC's share of the Benefice pledged offer to the diocese for 2016 will therefore be £16,854.00, agreed at the Meeting of the Benefice Treasurers and Wardens on 2nd September 2015. This figure will however reduce during the interregnum while no stipend payment is being paid.

Gift Aid and Covenanted Donations in 2015, including income from regular standing orders of **£21,138.00**, amounted to **£25,054.44**, compared to a total of £25,510.16 in 2014. Our total collection income was **£3,160.91**, compared with £3,196.04 in 2014. We are still allowed to recover tax on this collection income.

An increase in the number of weddings in 2015 resulted in an income, less expenses, of **£3,181** compared with just £2,390 in 2014.

There was a decrease in income from funeral fees in 2015 of **£303.20**, a total of **£1,261.00** compared to a total of £1,564.20 in 2014.

During 2015 the PCC did not hold any 'restricted funds', although the PCC have agreed to set aside £9,000 as 'unrestricted designated funds' towards the cost of a cabin as premises for Sunday Cool. The shortfall of about £4,000 will be raised as part of the ongoing planned fund raising events during 2016. It is hoped that the cost of the work to the Church spire will be funded largely from grants and the Friends of Wateringbury Church.

At the end of the 2015 fiscal year the PCC reserves have increased by £1,554.90 in the RDBF Church Repair Fund to **£5814.01** with **£2,266.25** in the RDBF General Deposit Account and **£490.30** in RDBF Loan Account. The PCC's Business Reserve Account had a balance of **£10,094.55** at the end of 2015.

It can be seen from the Statement of Assets and Liabilities that the PCC held total assets as at the 31st December 2015 of **£27,603.47**, an increase of **£12,751.73** which relates to the increase in income compared to expenditure for the year.

In the Budgets for 2016 our general income is projected to be some **£39,316** and it is anticipated that the PCC general expenditure is likely to be some **£32,671**. In addition the PCC have budgeted capital expenditure of **£2,600**, some £200 for possible tree work and £2,200 payment to the RDB Church Repair Fund .

The PCC wish to thank you all for your generous Covenants during 2015. In addition they would also like to thank all of you who have organised fund raising events during the year, in particular Jan and Mike Pursey and Ros Diment, raising in total **£5,757.33**. It is hoped that these efforts will continue into 2016 with more people coming forward with both event ideas and the running of these events.

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 Church Wardens Eddie Scarlin (now retired), Joanne Fyson and Peter Bond and all the members of the PCC for their help and support during 2015.

Finally I would like to draw your attention to the Budgets for 2016 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, if available, for the 2016 Accounts.

Richard Dunn (Honorary Treasurer)

Wateringbury Parochial Church Council

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2014	Unrestricte d Fund 2015	Unrestricte d Designated Fund 2015	Total 2015
	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS				
Voluntary Receipts:				
2 From Collections	3,196.04	3,160.91		3,160.91
1 From Covenants and Gift Aid	23,667.86	25,054.44		25,054.44
3 All other giving/voluntary receipts	1,842.30	0.00		0.00
4 Tax Recovered - Gift Aid	5,676.33	7,378.08		7,378.08
Other Receipts:				0.00
14 VAT Recovered	2,760.20	0.00		0.00
6 Funeral Fees	1,564.20	493.93	767.07	1,261.00
6 Wedding Fees	4,110.00	6,497.00		6,497.00
6 Fees Other	0.00	41.00		41.00
5 Fair Trade Received	300.00	300.00		300.00
6 Donations Specific	109.00	0.00	28.00	28.00
6 Donations Received	692.13	0.00	2,020.00	2,020.00
5 Fund Raising - General	1,673.29	0.00	68.00	68.00
5 Plant Sale		0.00	959.03	959.03
5 Flower Festival	2,130.94	0.00		0.00
5 Lent Lunches		70.00		70.00
5 12th Night Quiz		0.00	171.00	171.00
6 Remembrance Book Fees		612.00		612.00
6 Remember a Person	115.50	0.00		0.00
6 Votive Candles	28.65	0.00		0.00
5 Sunday Coffee	310.00	0.00	380.00	380.00
6 History Society	86.00	0.00		0.00
5 Christmas Bazaar	1,668.61	0.00	1,971.24	1,971.24
6 Toddlers Praise		0.00	100.00	100.00
5 Coffee Break		2.40		2.40

5	Ride + Stride		0.00	239.79	239.79
6	Memorial Inscription		22.00		22.00
5	Kent Police Choir Concert	1,686.23	0.00		0.00
5	The Marsh Warblers Concert		0.00	301.00	301.00
5	Kent Chamber Choir		0.00	603.80	603.80
5	Sale of Church Book		0.00	5.00	5.00
5	Quiz Night		0.00	541.00	541.00
6	Wateringbury Players		0.00	400.00	400.00
5	Book Sales	48.30	0.00	208.47	208.47
5	Angels & Cribs		0.00	228.00	228.00
6	Donations for Leaving Gifts		1,769.80		1,769.80
6	Bishops Fund for Mission		200.00		200.00
6	Christigle - Childrens Society		70.68		70.68
5	Sale of Mistletoe		0.00	8.60	8.60
6	Ecclesiastical Insurance		5,875.20		5,875.20
15	RDBF Church Repair Fund - Interest	10.16	14.90		14.90
15	RDBF Loan Account - Interest	1.95	1.95		1.95
15	RDBF General Deposit - Interest	9.00	9.04		9.04
15	Business Reserve - Interest	1.04	1.51		1.51
		<u>51,687.73</u>	<u>51,574.84</u>	<u>9,000.00</u>	<u>60,574.84</u>

PAYMENTS

8	Donations Paid	734.93	268.81		268.81
8	Rostrum		105.00		105.00
7	Fund Raising & Publicity	961.22	0.00		0.00
7	Flower Festival	312.88	0.00		0.00
7	Christmas Bazaar	131.90	137.00		137.00
13	Wedding Expenses	1,720.00	3,310.00		3,310.00
11	PCC Expenses	1,897.97	1,394.50		1,394.50
10	ETW Joint Benefice Expenses	17,568.00	16,341.00		16,341.00
11	Ecclesiastical Insurance	3,953.67	3,864.65		3,864.65
13	Training	48.00	0.00		0.00
9	Parish Share/Pledged Offer	8,200.00	8,200.00		8,200.00
11	Church Repair & Maintenance	881.50	2,130.59		2,130.59

12	RDBF Church Repair Fund	2,830.00	1,540.00		1,540.00
13	Sunday School Expenses	56.48	98.49		98.49
13	Youth Group	349.92	300.00		300.00
13	Holiday Club		200.00		200.00
13	Salaries	720.00	775.00		775.00
11	Electricity	2,148.44	1,355.19		1,355.19
11	Water & Drainage Rates	141.00	139.00		139.00
13	Printing	100.00	101.78		101.78
13	Book of Remembrance		589.26		589.26
13	Family Service	8.79	0.00		0.00
11	Cost of Weather Vane repair		5,875.20		5,875.20
7	Marsh Warblers Concert		39.32		39.32
7	Quiz Night		51.00		51.00
8	WPS Yr 6 Bibles		235.70		235.70
8	Leaving/Retirement Gifts		1,374.80		1,374.80
8	Friends of Kent Churches		10.00		10.00
8	Friends of Rochester Cathedral		10.00		10.00
11	Removal of Asbestos	4,818.00	0.00		0.00
11	Royal School of Church Music		97.00		97.00
11	Church Music Licence & Copyright	137.54	140.64		140.64
8	Madonna & Child Restoration	1,842.30	0.00		0.00
11	Petty Cash Top Up		39.18		39.18
8	Flowers		40.00		40.00
11	Tree Works	0.00	600.00		600.00
		49,562.54	49,363.11	0.00	49,363.11
<hr/>					
16	FUNDS				
	At 31 December 2014	9,810.80	11,935.99		11,935.99
	Incoming Receipts	51,687.73	51,574.84	9,000.00	60,574.84
	Outgoing Payments	49,562.54	49,363.11	0.00	49,363.11
	At 31 December 2015	11,935.99	14,147.72	9,000.00	23,147.72
<hr/>					

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015		Unrestricted		Unrestricted	Total
		2014	2015	Designated	
				Funds	2015
Note					
RECEIPTS					
Planned Giving	1	23,667.86	25,054.44	0.00	25,054.44
Collections at Services	2	3,196.04	3,160.91	0.00	3,160.91
All other giving/voluntary receipts	3	1,842.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
Gift Aid Recovered	4	5,676.33	7,378.08	0.00	7,378.08
VAT Recovered	14	2,760.20	0.00	0.00	0.00
Activities for Generating Funds	5	7,817.37	372.4	5,684.93	6,057.33
Church Activities	6	6,705.48	15,581.61	3,315.07	18,896.68
Fees Other		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
		51,665.58	51,547.44	9,000.00	60,547.44
Interest from Accounts	15	22.15	27.40	0.00	27.40
TOTAL INCOMING RESOURCES		51,687.73	51,574.84	9,000.00	60,574.84
PAYMENTS					
Cost of generating funds	7	1,406.00	227.32	0.00	227.32
Donations	8	2,577.23	2,044.31	0.00	2,044.31
Parish Share	9	8,200.00	8,200.00	0.00	8,200.00
Joint Benefice Expenses	10	17,568.00	16,341.00	0.00	16,341.00
Church Running Expenses	11	13,978.12	15,635.95	0.00	15,635.95
Transfer between funds	12	2,830.00	1,540.00	0.00	1,540.00
Church Activities	13	3,003.19	5,374.53	0.00	5,374.53
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED		49,562.54	49,363.11	0.00	49,363.11

NET INCOMING RESOURCES	2,125.19	2,211.73	9,000.00	11,211.73
Total Fund Brought Forward				
at 01.01.15	9,896.55	14,851.74	0.00	14,851.74
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD AT 31.12.15	16 12,021.74	17,063.47	9,000	26,063.47

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31 DECEMBER 2015

	Unrestricted Funds		Unrestricted Designated Funds	Total
	2014	2015	2015	2015
<u>Current Assets</u>				
Prepayments	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Petty Cash	£100.00	£100.00	£0.00	£100.00
Bank Current Account	£5,654.03	£8,838.36	£0.00	£8,838.36
Bank Reserve Account	£2,093.04	£1,094.55	£9,000.00	£10,094.55
RDBF Loan Account	£488.35	£490.30		£490.30
RDBF Church Repair Account	£4,259.11	£5,814.01		£5,814.01
RDBF General Deposit	£2,257.21	£2,266.25		£2,266.25
<u>Total Current Assets</u>	£14,851.74	£18,603.47	£9,000.00	£27,603.47
<u>Current Liabilities</u>	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
<u>Current Assets less Current Liabilities:</u>	£14,851.74	£18,603.47	£9,000.00	£27,603.47

Represented by :

Capital & Reserves

General Fund Brought Forward	£9,810.80	£14,851.74	£0.00	£14,851.74
Surplus Brought Forward	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Income Expenditure Account	£2,125.19	£2,211.73	£9,000.00	£11,211.73
Transfer to RDBF Church Repair Fund	£2,830.00	£1,540.00	£0.00	£1,540.00
Previous Year adjustment	£85.75			
<u>TOTAL RESERVES</u>	£14,851.74	£18,603.47	£9,000.00	£27,603.47

WATERINGBURY PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT - Year to 31st DECEMBER 2015

	INCOME 2014	INCOME 2015
Collections	£3,196.04	£3,160.91
Covenants/Gift Aid	£25,510.16	£25,054.44
Tax Recovered	£5,676.33	£7,378.08
VAT Recovered	£2,760.20	£0.00
Funeral Fees	£1,564.20	£1,261.00
Wedding Fees	£4,110.00	£6,497.00
Fees - other	£0.00	£63.00
Donations Received - Specific	£109.00	£298.68
Donations Received - General	£692.13	£2,120.00
Church Repair Fund - Interest	£10.16	£14.90
RDBF Loan Account - Interest	£1.95	£1.95
RDBF General Deposit -Interest	£9.00	£9.04
Fund Raising - General	£1,673.29	£7,559.23
Flower Festival	£2,130.94	£0.00
Remember a Person	£115.50	£0.00
Remembrance Book		£612.00
Christmas Bazaar	£1,668.61	£1,971.24
Kent Police Male Voice Choir Concert	£1,686.23	£0.00
Kent Chamber Choir		£603.80

Marsh Warblers Concert		£301.00
Quiz Night		£541.00
Angels & Cribs		£228.00
Ride & Stride		£239.79
Fair Trade	£300.00	£300.00
Votive Candles	£28.65	£0.00
Sunday Coffee	£310.00	£380.00
Book sales	£48.30	£208.47
History Society	£86.00	£0.00
Retirement/Leaving Gifts		£1,769.80
Business Reserve Account Interest	£1.04	£1.51
Total Income	£51,687.73	£60,574.84

	EXPENDITURE 2014	EXPENDITURE 2015
Books, etc	£0.00	£0.00
Grants and Donations Paid	£734.93	£524.51
Fund Raising & Publicity	£961.22	£227.32
Insurance	£3,953.67	£3,864.65
Wedding Expenses	£1,720.00	£3,310.00
P.C.C. Expenses - General	£1,906.76	£1,778.68
ETW Joint Benefice Expenses	£17,568.00	£16,341.00
Training	£48.00	£0.00
Parish Share	£8,200.00	£8,200.00
Church Repair and Maintenance	£881.50	£2,130.59
Salaries	£720.00	£775.00
Electricity	£2,148.44	£1,355.19
Printing	£100.00	£101.78
Water & Drainage Rates	£141.00	£139.00
Flower Festival	£312.88	£0.00
Youth Group	£349.92	£300.00
Madonna & Child Painting	£1,842.30	£0.00
Asbestos Removal	£4,818.00	£0.00
Church music Licence & Copyright	£137.54	£237.64
Christmas Bazaar Float	£131.90	£0.00
Sunday School Expenses	£56.48	£98.49

Book of Remembrance	£0.00	£589.26
Retirement/Leaving Gifts	£0.00	£1,374.80
Capital Expenditure	£0.00	£8,015.20
Total Expenditure	£46,732.54	£49,363.11
Transfer to RDBF Church Repair Fund	£2,830.00	
SURPLUS/ (-DEFICIT)	£2,125.19	£11,211.73

The Church of St John the Baptist Wateringbury

Financial Statements for 2015

Budgets for 2016

And

Reserves Policy for 2016

of the

Parochial Church Council

Budget 2016

BUDGET PLAN 2016

	Actual	Budget	Actual		Budget
	2014	2015	2015		2016
		£0.00	£2,020.00		£0.00
Collections	£3,196.04	£1,900.00	£3,160.91	I	£2,000.00
Covenants & Gift Aid	£23,667.86	£24,500.00	£25,054.44	I	£24,000.00
Donations Unspecified	£692.13	£0.00	£500.00	I	£0.00
Fees Received (others)	£230.15	£200.00	£41.00	I	£50.00
Friends of Wateringbury Church	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	I	£0.00
Fund Raising General	£7,517.37	£4,000.00	£5,757.33	I	£4,000.00
Funeral Fees	£1,564.20	£1,000.00	£1,261.00	I	£0.00
Interest received on PCC Acc's	£22.15	£20.00	£27.40	I	£20.00
Donation Specific	£1,951.30	£100.00	£932.68	I	£200.00
Tax Recovered from Gift Aid	£5,676.33	£6,250.00	£7,378.08	I	£7,000.00
Traidcraft	£300.00	£300.00	£300.00	I	£300.00
Wedding Fees	£4,110.00	£4,223.00	£6,497.00	I	£1,746.00
Retirement/Leaving Gifts			£1,769.80		£0.00
VAT Recovered	£2,760.20	£0.00	£0.00	I	£0.00
	£51,687.73	£42,493.00	£54,699.64		£39,316.00
Courses	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	E	£0.00
Books	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	E	£0.00
Church Repairs & Maintenance	£881.50	£1,000.00	£2,130.59	E	£1,500.00
Retirement/Leaving Gifts	£0.00	£0.00	£1,414.80	E	£0.00
RDBF Pledged Offer	£17,568.00	£20,207.00	£8,200.00	E	£8,405.00
Parish Share	£8,200.00	£0.00	£0.00	E	£0.00
Benefice Expenses	£0.00	£4,334.00	£16,341.00	E	£11,500.00
Electricity	£2,148.44	£4,000.00	£1,355.19	E	£2,500.00
Fund Raising & Publicity Costs	£1,406.00	£200.00	£227.32	E	£200.00
Grants & Donations Paid	£734.93	£750.00	£393.81	E	£500.00
Insurance Premiums etc	£3,953.67	£4,100.00	£3,864.65	E	£4,200.00
Office & General Stationary	£0.00	£30.00	£0.00	E	£30.00
PCC General Expenses	£3,877.81	£1,900.00	£1,632.14	E	£1,800.00

Petty Cash	£0.00	£100.00	£39.18	E	£100.00
Postage & Carriage	£0.00	£20.00	£0.00	E	£20.00
Printing & Publications	£100.00	£150.00	£691.04	E	£250.00
Sunday School	£65.27	£100.00	£98.49	E	£100.00
Salaries	£720.00	£780.00	£775.00	E	£780.00
WPS Y6 Bibles	£0.00	£0.00	£235.70	E	£185.00
Training	£48.00	£50.00	£0.00	E	£50.00
Youth Group	£349.92	£300.00	£500.00	E	£300.00
Holiday Club				E	£100.00
Shining Bright Party				E	£100.00
Wedding Expenses	£1,720.00	£1,444.00	£3,310.00	E	£870.00
Water & Drainage	£141.00	£200.00	£139.00	E	£150.00
	£41,914.54	£39,665.00	£41,347.91		£33,640.00
BUDGET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	£9,773.19	£2,828.00	£13,351.73		£5,676.00
Church Quinquentennial Works				E	£200.00
Tree Works		£1,000.00	£600.00	E	£200.00
Weather Vane			£5,875.20	E	£0.00
Weather Vane			-£5,875.20	I	£0.00
RDBF Church Repair Fund	£2,830.00	£1,420.00	£1,540.00	E	£2,200.00
	£2,830.00	£2,420.00	£2,140.00		£2,600.00
Expenses	£44,744.54	£42,085.00	£43,487.91		£36,240.00
Income	£51,687.73	£42,493.00	£54,699.64		£39,316.00
Surplus/Deficit	£6,943.19	£408.00	£11,211.73		£3,076.00
Current Account					£8,838.36
Reserve Account					£10,094.55
Church Repair Fund				£5,814.01	£8,014.01
Diocesan Loan Fund				£2,756.55	£2,756.55
TOTAL YEAR END FUNDS					£32,779.47

St John the Baptist Wateringbury Parochial Church Council

RESERVES POLICY 2016

In conjunction with our proposed budgets for 2016 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 **£18,603.47**. Unrestricted designated funds total **£9,000**. This is money set aside by the PCC towards the cost of providing more suitable accommodation for the youth of the church, whose ages range from 3-15. The PCC will require some £34,000 in 2016 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. This is lower than 2015 due to the interregnum.

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, have 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. Although our fiscal state is now much healthier, capital projects to re-shingle the church spire and provision of a cabin for Sunday Cool to meet will mean that by the end of 2016 our reserves may well be considerably depleted. This will depend on whether the PCC are able to secure any grants for the church spire. We are also very grateful to the Friends of Wateringbury Church who continue to raise money for church projects such as this. Although the Events Committee no longer exists a number of fund raising events have taken place during the year, co-ordinated by the PCC. These activities are the back bone of the church which is dependent on their income in the future.

The PCC has budgeted that our income from regular Covenants and collections in 2016 should be at least **£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 2016, apart from capital expenditure.

Wateringbury PCC is committed to continue regular fiscal reviews throughout 2016 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 2015 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: