

**St. Mary's Church, Hollingworth  
A.P.C.M.**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017,  
7.30p.m.**



**Vision Statement**

"Our vision is to see our church making a difference to the lives of the people in Hollingworth, Tintwistle and the surrounding area through the power of the Holy Spirit, our commitment to God's word and our worship of our Lord Jesus Christ. Through the power of prayer, inspiring worship and the gifts God gives us we want to see lives changed, disciples growing, people healed, needs met and God's Kingdom extended."

# **St Mary's Hollingworth – Annual Report for 2016 /17**

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, Rev Bruce Perrin, in promoting the pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical mission of the Church within the parish.

## **Membership**

During the year the following people served as members of the PCC:

Rev Bruce Perrin	Incumbent, ex officio & Chair
Mrs Frances Eagle	Church Warden
Mrs Kathy Hallam	Church Warden (Stood down in August 2016)

## **Deanery Synod representatives (Elected)**

Mrs Janet Malpas	(until 2017)
Mrs Brenda Evans	(Stood down Feb 2017)

## **Elected PCC Members**

Miss Rebecca Buckley	until 2018
Mrs Kath Cook	until 2017 Child Protection Officer
Miss Toni Horn	until 2019
Mrs Dorothy Crutchley	until 2019
Mr Christopher Deacon	until 2019 Electoral Roll Officer
Mrs Diane Deacon	until 2018
Mr Ken Evans	(Stood down Feb 2017)
Mrs Maureen Hobson	until 2017 Secretary
Mrs Cath Longmire	until 2018
Mrs Margaret Mellor	until 2018
Mr Michael Rigby	until 2017
Mrs Margaret Ryall	until 2018
Mrs Dorothy Turton	until 2019 Vice Chair & Treasurer

## **Committees**

The PCC has a standing committee which is required by law and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given to it by the Council. This met once in 2016.

## **Church Attendance**

There were 83 on the electoral roll as recorded in last year's report. There were four funerals at church and two baptisms. The attendances at Sunday services were typically 9 at Sam (BCP). At 11.15am there were between 10-16 under 18's (Typically 12), and between 35-50 adults (Typically 40). There were usually 5 attendees at the fortnightly Thursday Holy Communion Service prior to its closure.

## **Review of the year**

The full PCC met six times in the year.

The Foodbank continues to thrive and thanks are again extended to the volunteers who help on Mondays.

## **Priest-in-charge's Report- St Mary's Hollingworth - 2016**

I was amazed to realise that as I write this report, we've been in Hollingworth and Tintwistle for nearly two years! The time has flown, many of us have worked very hard **"To Grow Jesus' Kingdom Together"**, and there have been some amazing signs of growth and God's favour on us here at St Mary's, and in our community too. In last year's report I identified 5 Key areas for development in 2016 and beyond, they included...

- Developing children's and youth work further. Discussions about co-ordinated youth work and outreach across the valley, between Churches have begun.
- We need to grow more teams of people working together. "All involved - needs to become one of our core values".
- Development of missional small groups which equip people to live as disciples in all aspects of life.

- Further development of Sunday worship. We need to develop a greater sensitivity to God in our worship, and openness to what he wants to do with us and through us.
- To move beyond the church walls and Sunday mornings, out into the community with the good news, in ways appropriate to the people we are with.

It is very encouraging to me that as we have followed God's lead we have made good progress in all areas, as the APCM booklet and this report show. The life of a church cannot be reduced to a series of aims, but a healthy church will always take time to review things and seek God's leading. And whilst we can't rest on our laurels, our life and ministry at St Mary's show many hallmarks of a healthy church, and I'm sure we bring a smile to God's face.

***If I were to summarise 2016 at St Mary's I'd describe it as a time of consolidation, natural endings and new growth.***

### **CONSOLIDATION**

***Sunday Worship:*** We have gathered and grown in faith, in knowledge and encounter with God in 2016. The variety of services has remained the same, as has the joy we share gathering and worshipping, but there has been a growth in the sensitivity to God's Spirit speaking to us and transforming us. This has been helped by having a variety of speakers over the year. I would particularly like to thank Stephen, Sarah, Jan & Graham for their teaching and leading of services, they each bring something special. The role of prayer ministry has also grown in our services too. It is God's presence that defines God's people, in Exodus 33 Moses argues with God, imploring his presence to go with the Israelites, saying 'In this way, we shall be distinct'. It is only through being filled with God's presence, His Holy Spirit, that makes us the people he designed us to be, and enables us to live the lives that he calls us to live. I long for us to continue to grow in encountering God.

We had a number of 'invitation services' - 'Back to Church Sunday', Christingle and Carol services, - as well as the excellent 'Countdown to Christmas', all of which drew in visitors, family and friends. It was great to see people asking others to come along, and whilst not everyone became 'a regular' all seemed to have a positive experience of worshipping, and joining in. We never know how important this might have been for people in a journey to faith. We will continue with opportunities to invite others in 2017.

It has been encouraging to see people growing in Biblical knowledge, through Sunday teaching, the Lent course, and small groups, each applying the Sunday teaching to their everyday lives. During the first term we used 'The Purpose driven Life' to consider what God's calling and purposes are for every disciple. Then we looked at 'Encounters with Jesus', helping us to understand the character and values of Jesus, so we can grow in them ourselves. Then we considered some 'Unlikely Hero's' of the Bible, looking at how God can and will use anyone, if they will let him. And then in the Autumn, we started to look at the 'Big story of the Bible', creation, fall, and what Jesus has done for us. We continued this into 2017 following the Gospel of Luke.

**Young Church/Youth:** The number and regularity of attendance of our children and young people grew in 2016. Both groups have grown together in both friendship and faith. It is wonderful to see and hear what they have been learning. They are growing in Bible knowledge, but also in prayer and the things of the Spirit. They are growing as disciples. The youth work has continued to develop, the weekend away with Whitfield parish has paid dividends, and a monthly Sunday Night social has helped the group grow, with some bringing along friends.

After a number of years Diane Deacon stepped down as a young Church leader, but others have stepped up into roles leading young church, including Ben Buckley, Bev Snape, and Margaret Ryall. It is wonderful to see this team developing, and people discovering and using their gifts in the life of the church. Similarly, Toni Horn has become involved in leading the youth work. Each of these people are an answer to prayer, as we continue to invest in the family of the church. Our next challenge will be the babies who will soon have grown into toddlers! But what a wonderful challenge to face!

**Community and Schools:** The Foodbank continues to serve the poor and struggling in our community. We have partnered with 'Friends of Hollingworth' this year in hosting a Hollingworth Christmas Market, the church being set up as a cafe. This was a great success with hundreds of people coming in for a brew, and staying and chatting, again putting St Mary's at the heart of the community. It was wonderful to have a larger team of people involved in enabling this event. I suspect that the increased number of people coming to the Christmas services is a result of this. We also continue to have strong links with the primary school. The 'Open the Book' team continue to go in fortnightly, and at the schools request we have arranged some 'mini services' for the older children, teaching them about worship. We have also had a number of class visits. Our links with Longdendale High School have also grown, a joint team

have been taking termly assemblies and running RE lessons on 'forgiveness'. A number of our older members also enjoyed a Christmas party laid on for them by some of the Longdendale pupils.

***Finances and Buildings:*** Once again God has provided for all of our practical needs as a church. This year a lot of work has needed to be done on the building - the roof has been repaired and re pointed, the tower has been assessed and repaired, and the heating has required work. Special thanks go to Frances and Martin, for enabling all of this work to be done. Our financial position is a steady one, and we have been able to pay all of our bills. HOWEVER - I continue to be concerned that we are dependent on fundraising and bequests to balance the books. We need to continue to develop a lifestyle of generosity, and continue to work towards the situation that our regular giving covers our running costs.

### **NATURAL ENDINGS**

Over 2016 a number of church ministries came to a natural end; both the Thursday communion service and coffee morning drew to a close, as did the Ladies group, all of which had been running for over 20 years. Many thanks need to go to those who led these over the years. We also said goodbye to Kath and Peter Hallam as they moved off to Spain, and Brenda & Ken Evans stepped down as vergers after many years service. We also said goodbye to Stella & Steve who were 'promoted to Glory', they are much missed.

### **NEW GROWTH**

In God's kingdom as one season comes to an end, another often starts and we have seen some wonderful growth too. In addition to the things detailed above, we ran an Alpha course, as a result of which several people came to faith, others grew in faith significantly too. This has developed into a vibrant new small group, with new people growing into leadership. There is healthy growth in all three of our small groups, but we do face a challenge to increase the number of groups and develop more leaders. Small groups are the place where we grow in discipleship, and become a fuller part of the Church.

Another period of significant growth was the 'prayer week' in the lead-up to Pentecost, when St Mary's joined thousands of other churches around the nation in praying "Thy kingdom come". Whilst some started with trepidation about coming into the church to pray using the prayer stations for half an hour, no-one regretted it, one person wondered what they'd have to say to God for half an hour, and found themselves leaving 2

hours later, glowing! Others stepped out in courage to go prayer walking, and came back asking when they could go again. We even gathered prayer requests at the Festival on the Green, from the Brownies, and from neighbours and friends, each time demonstrating the love of Jesus. It was a week when many learned new depths and methods of prayer, and in doing so blessed our community, and delighted our heavenly Father.

We have also seen a wonderful growth in people connecting with God in our Sunday worship, coming forward for prayer, and praying for and with those in need. Our prayer ministry team are also growing in depth and faith. The Highlight of the year in this respect for me was baby Xavier's baptism, him having been healed from a life threatening illness. This followed hot on the heels of the great celebration of the baptism and Confirmation service with Bishop Libby, which marked a watershed moment in the candidate's lives.

### **2017 A NEW SEASON**

The end of 2016 seemed to mark the end of a season, but also raised a sense that 2017 will be the start of a new season in the churches life. The PCC have already spent some time thinking and praying about this, and we look forward to what God is leading us into. This will bring both new joys and new challenges.

Our purpose as a Church is unchanged **"To Grow Jesus' kingdom Together"**. Hence our aims for 2017 include the same 5 as for 2016, **but with a special emphasis on "moving beyond the church walls and Sunday services"**.

**"To Grow Jesus' Kingdom Together"** always includes our growth in discipleship and service as individuals and together as the family of the church, but also in telling and showing others the wonders of God's kingdom, his forgiveness and his Love. We are called to do this in our families, community and places of work. We all have a part to play in growing God's kingdom, and this year more people have discovered that for themselves.

**So could I ask you to continue to pray for God's leading of his church here at St Mary's** as we step out into this new season, remembering that everything in this report, and the many other good things that we could share come about through the power, equipping and work of the Holy Spirit. To the glory of God, to whom all honour and praise is due.

Your partner in Christ  
Bruce Perrin

# INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC OF ST. MARY'S HOLLINGWORTH

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2016, which are set out on the attached pages, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 145 of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").

## Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As the members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 144(2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations and the Act.

## Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the financial statements presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements, 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 financial statements.

## Independent examiner's statement

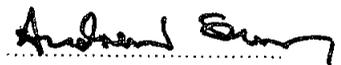
In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:-

which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- \* to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act;  
and
- \* to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act and the Regulations

have not been met; or

to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.



Hollingworth

Andrew Shaw

22 March 2017

Chartered Accountant

St Marys Church Hollingbury  
Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2016

	2016		2015	
	£		£	
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b><u>Regular Giving</u></b>				
Direct Debits and Envelopes	25322.63		23647.14	
Open Collections	2341.60		3516.74	
Recovered Tax (Church)	6132.96		6404.01	
		33797.19		33567.89
<b>Other Voluntary Income</b>				
Special Efforts (GIFT DAY, XMAS MKT, PLANT SALE ETC)	2519.54		1708.60	
Donations	5991.73	8511.27	2092.46	3801.06
<b><u>Other Income</u></b>				
Use of Church	1943.00		1507.50	
Coffee	537.76		417.88	
Photocopying	547.90		555.30	
Charity Collections * BOOTH FUND, UNICEF, YEMEN, CHRISTIAN AID, TEARFUND HARVEST	776.03 *		738.77	
PCC Fees	561.00		463.00	
Sundry Receipts (Sundry receipts see list below)	11721.35	16087.04	1750.38	5432.83
Christ Church Tintwistle repayment of invoices	418.22		365.95	
Diocese Fees/Organist/Verger	1123.00		1615.00	
Insurance Payment	9425.00		225.00	2205.95
Open the Book, Children & Misc	755.13			
<b><u>Special Items</u></b>	11721.35			
Doreen Williams Bequest	0.00	0.00	3000.00	
Bank Transfers From Charity Account	2007.40	2007.40	2510.00	5510.00
		<b>Total</b>	<b>60402.90</b>	<b>50517.73</b>
<b><u>Payments</u></b>				
To overseas and UK Charities		2380.75		2100.00
<b><u>The Work of the Church</u></b>				
Parish share	27714.84		27038.88	
Vicarage Rates	1655.66		1165.32	
Church running expenses Gas/Elect/Water/Ins	4856.82		5172.60	
Clergy expenses	984.06		585.26	
Maintenance Heating/Lighting/Fire/Electro Test etc	3382.89		2080.67	
Major maintenance and repair work (Roof and tower etc)	5150.42		0.00	
Insurance payments for window repair	7767.00		0.00	
Fees for Diocese and Verger/Organist	1123.00		1833.00	
Organ maintenance	493.20		223.20	
Church servants	0.00		36.00	
Web Site	231.00		215.00	
Sundry payments	1855.84		1369.70	
Payments made on behalf of Christ Church Tintwistle Repaid	418.22		365.95	
Step Nosings	0.00		425.00	
150 years expenditure	0.00		40.00	
Photocopying charges Purchased new machine 2012	512.75		309.75	
Readers Expenses	625.47		314.99	
Co-op Grant expenditure All used in 2016	89.79		0.00	
Charity Payments - Christian Aid (2016)	363.00		1008.00	
Christian Aid and RBL Collection (2015)	0.00		711.00	
Save the Children (2015)	0.00		145.00	
		57223.96		43039.32
		-		-
Bank Transfers Charity Account		3000.00		3000.00
		<b>62604.71</b>		<b>48139.32</b>
Deficit (2016)		-2201.81		2378.41

**ST MARY'S HOLLINGWORTH  
DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS AND INVESTMENT ACCOUNT 2016**

**CBF BUILDING ACCOUNT**

		RECEIPTS			PAYMENTS
		£			£
Opening Balance	01.01.16	657.51			
Interest		3.09			
			Closing Balance	31.12.16	<b>660.60</b>
		660.60			660.60

**GENERAL ACCOUNT**

Opening Balance	01.01.16	2325.80			
interest		10.92			
			Closing Balance	31.12.16	<b>2336.72</b>
		2336.72			2336.72

**JOYCE EVANS BEQUEST FUND**

Opening Balance	01.01.16	2194.16			
Interest		10.31			
			Closing Balance	31.12.16	<b>2204.47</b>
		2204.47			2204.47

**VICAR AND CHURCHWARDENS**

Opening Balance	01.01.16	336.04			
Interest		1.58			
			Closing Balance	31.12.16	<b>337.62</b>
		337.62			337.62

**NAT WEST CHARITY ACCOUNT**

Opening Balance	01.01.16	4003.53			
Transferred to current account					2007.40
Transferred from current account		3000.00			
Interest		2.23			
			Closing Balance	31.12.16	<b>4998.36</b>
		7005.76			7005.76

**INVESTMENT ACCOUNT**

Shares held	01.01.16	1481.55			
Dividends re-invested	No of shares	57.42			
			Valuation : 01.01.16		20052.19
			value of shares @ time of reinvest		805.40
Total shares		1538.97	MID MKT VALUE PER SHA	1503.70	Valuation : 31.12.16
					<b>23141.49</b>

**NATWEST CURRENT ACCOUNT**

	£
Balance as at 31.12.16	7341.80

PCC OF ST MARY'S HOLLINGWORTH

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES  
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	£	£
	2016	2015
ASSETS		
National Westminster Bank Plc accounts		
Church Account	7341.80	9543.61
Charity Account	4998.36	4003.53
	<u>12340.16</u>	<u>13547.14</u>
Central Board of finance of the Church of England deposit accounts		
Building account	660.60	657.51
Vicar and Churchwardens account	337.62	336.04
Joyce Evans Bequest Fund	2204.47	2194.16
General account	2336.72	2325.80
	<u>5539.41</u>	<u>5513.51</u>
Trust funds and deposits with Chester Diocesan Board of Finance		
CBF investment fund	23141.49	20052.19
	<u>23141.49</u>	<u>20052.19</u>
Total Assets	<u>41021.06</u>	<u>39112.84</u>
Liabilities	0.00	0.00
NET ASSETS	<u>41021.06</u>	<u>39112.84</u>

Brenda Evans and Jan Malpas..... are our deanery representatives. We meet regularly with representatives from all the parishes in the deanery. The deanery includes Dukinfield, Stalybridge, Mossley, Mottram, Longdendale, Hyde, and Hattersley.

We had three meetings of Synod in 2016.

The first meeting in February at St. Paul's, Stalybridge was concerned with the work of 'Open Doors'. The Rev. Trevor Green, an Ambassador for 'Open Doors', talked about the persecuted church and the work they do in this area. He made us all aware of the vast number of Christians around the world who are at risk of harm and even death for their faith.

The speaker at the AGM in July at St. George's, Hyde was Sarah Shelton, Children's Society Regional Fundraising Manager for the Diocese of Lichfield, Chester and Liverpool. She talked to us about Working Together to make a Difference to Young People.

The main issue raised in the business section of the meeting concerned the many areas we are not covering as a Deanery.

We need a new Lay Chair and are short of Lay and Clergy members at Diocesan Synod.

The Diocesan Synod Representatives can be anyone on the electoral roll of one of our parishes. Deanery representatives can seek to find parishioners who might find this to be their calling. Further information can be had by contacting the Rural Dean or the Deanery Secretary.

In addition, we need to ensure that each parish has a representative at Deanery Synod.

The final meeting of the year was in the form of a Communion Service at Holy Trinity, Gee X led by Bishop Libby.

The Deanery Church Growth Fund is still available for small grants to help parishes develop.

As we work together in the deanery we keep the following bible passage in our minds:

*'You, O Lord, are in the midst of us and we are called by your name; leave us not, O Lord our God'* Jeremiah 14.9

Thanks to all our representatives for their service and support and we look forward to furthering our understanding of Christ's work through the Deanery in 2016.

# CHURCH WARDEN ' S REPORT

It amazes me to see that about a fifth of our worshipping congregation are children. What gratitude we owe to our Lord for this! Rev Bruce is a gift to us as a man who loves everyone and has a family himself. The children have teaching during some of the services on Sundays. The younger ones use the Community room and the older ones occupy the Vestry. The babies and toddlers, with their carers, meet on Tuesdays under the leadership of Sarah Perrin. This is a growing ministry called " Little Fishes".

We have good connections with the junior school. A group called 'Open the Book' attend various school assemblies to read and illustrate the word usually by acting the parts. The junior and primary schools in Hollingworth come to St Mary's for services to mark Christian Festivals. Also, they have come to experience a traditional service and to ask the Vicar," What does a Vicar do?" In all this they are learning about Jesus and church life.

We still have four people who are able to lead Services and preach. They are the Vicar Rev Bruce Perrin, a retired Vicar Rev.Graham Harrison along with Stephen Cook and Jan Malpas who are Lay Readers. The Vicar's wife Sarah also helps and we have visiting speakers at church from time to time. There is variety and interest in our Services. Our speakers are recorded for the Web Site and are available to everyone.

Many people contribute to the smooth operation of St Mary's. We have cleaners and without their work we would not have a welcoming church. My grateful thanks to them. There are flower arrangers and gardeners. People to welcome us and people to make a cuppa. Some people like to read the Bible while others lead the Prayers. Then we have those who lead the children's work. The computer preparation for the Services and the operation during worship are demanding, skillful tasks. If you have a skill please offer it and become one of the team working for God's Kingdom. Everyone is welcome. We are pleased to have Lynn Betton as our new Verger, following the retirement of Brenda

Evans. My thanks to her and her husband Ken for their long and dedicated service.

At Christmas we had carols and refreshments round the tree in Treacle Garden. We join with "The Friends of Hollingworth" in this and for the Christmas Market with stalls round the church. St Mary's did the food and drinks which were a great success. Personally I liked the fairy lights all over the outside of St Mary's which were erected by the "Friends of Hollingworth."Thank-you.

The Kingdom Puppets have added to our enjoyment and drawn yet more families to church. One new innovation this year was a Baptism with full immersion by the Bishop of Stockport. During Lent, we are sharing prayer for the valley at Breakfast time in different churches. Then there is a Lent course for those who are seeking to hear God speak.

It is almost Easter. Such a great festival which brings death to the old life tainted by sin, and new life to those who seek to follow Jesus.

Frances Eagle.  
APCM2017

# FABRIC REPORT

The church building is in good structural condition. The roof is now waterproof following the building repairs and the chimney of the old boiler house has been lowered. A cherry picker was used to inspect and repair the little bell tower by the main entrance. The stones which had moved were hammered and glued back in place. This maintenance is likely to be effective for at least a decade.

The five yearly inspection of the church wiring is complete and there were no emergency repairs to be done. However, plenty of improvements were recommended. The fuse box has been replaced by Electricity North West and the asbestos removed.. The electric meter will be replaced by Total G P in due course.

The Gas heaters have had their annual maintenance and two heat exchangers were replaced this year and another two will need replacing next year. Each heater cost about £40 to maintain and over £900 for each heat exchanger. Our church heating is a big expense! The Fire Extinguishers have had their annual inspection. The inspection of portable electrical appliances was done this year and, since it has been agreed to do the tests on alternate years, the next inspection will be due in 2019.

Our garden for the burial of ashes has run out of space. A new garden is being prepared and will soon be available for use. The necessary permission has been obtained.

The locks on the Vestry door have been replaced by Frank Mellor and a new Key Register is in the filing cabinet. This was required by our Ecclesiastical Insurance. The notice board by the Vestry has had minor repairs to keep it secure in the ground.

The grass has been beautifully cut by Darrah.Tyrrel He has also prepared the ground for the Garden of Remembrance.

Some internal work, like making the Vestry more useful for a meeting room, is being considered.. It will also continue to be a functional Vestry. The Electrical report will need consideration in due course.

We are a busy and active church so the building is in regular use.

Frances Eagle

## **PCC Secretary's Report**

The PCC continues to meet on alternate months and has 15 members including Deanery Synod representatives. We elect 2 Deanery Synod representatives for a 3 year term and nominees will be put forward for election at the 2017 APCM. We elect Churchwardens and Sidespeople each year as well as a portion of the PCC so a lot to do at the 2017 APCM.

A Standing Committee is in place to make urgent/pressing decisions between PCC meetings and this happened recently to move quickly forward with the new Garden of Remembrance. Brenda and Ken Evans have retired from PCC duties and, in Brenda's case, as a Deanery Synod representative. We thank them for their support and dedication in this work over many years. PCC Agendas are pretty varied and can resemble a box of allsorts but with the Lord's guidance we seem to get there.

Maureen Hobson

## **CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2016/17**

There are 83 people on the electoral roll this year which shows a decrease of 8 on last year. 22 live outside the parish.

Chris Deacon Electoral Roll Officer

## **THE PRAYER GROUP**

The Prayer Group meets in the Church Vestry on Mondays between 1:30 and 2pm. We meet to praise God and to thank him for his love for us. Everyone is welcome to join us, or to write requests for prayer and leave them in the box in the community room.

Jan Malpas

## **Pastoral Care Group**

The Pastoral Care Group is very small in number but we continue to support people contending with illness, bereavement and loneliness. We are particularly pleased when people want us to pray for them. The 'church flowers' are well received and it is a wonderful outreach to our community.

Margaret Mellor

## **Kingdom Puppets**

A big thank you to everyone who has supported us by kind words or in private prayer during the last year.

Having new puppeteers is an exciting time for all. The new members have to learn very quickly and the more established ones have to show patience.

This is what has happened this year. Kath and I were away for quite a chunk of the year, and the faithful puppeteers showed a great deal of patience. Once we started back in earnest, preparing for "Countdown to Christmas" and the crib service, skill levels of the usual high standard soon returned.

Also we attracted four new puppeteers, through personal invitations of existing members, who turned out to be amazing. Their concentration was excellent and with the help of the more 'seasoned' puppeteers were soon up to standard.

The quality of the performances reflected their hard work; Kath and I were extremely proud of them in particular and everyone in general.

We will seek guidance through prayer as to our future.

Yours in His Service

Stephen & Kath Cook

## **OPEN THE BOOK**

Open the Book is now a part of the Bible Society.

Open the Book presents the Bible in primary schools in an accessible and enjoyable way. It is a programme of themed dramatised Bible stories of around 10 minutes long which are interactively performed in school assemblies using the Lion Story Teller Bible.

The churches of Tintwistle and Hollingworth launched an Open the Book team in February 2016.

A small team of volunteers from St. Mary's Church Hollingworth, Hollingworth Methodist Church, Christ Church Tintwistle and Tintwistle & Glossop United Reformed Church go into Hollingworth Primary School and Tintwistle C.of E. Primary School once every 2 weeks during term time.

In our first year we have been sharing the stories of Tea at Auntie's House, The Greedy Farmer, the Unforgiving Servant, Everyone Gets the Same, The Widow's Coins, Esther, Ruth, Deborah, In the Beginning, A sad Day, Joseph, Moses, David and Goliath and much more. We also took part in both schools Christmas Services. The children enjoy it very much having the chance to get involved, dressing up and doing various actions. Their only complaints are if they have to miss the assembly for any reason!!

It is a great example of the four churches working together to serve the community.

We would like to thank Mottram Deanery Development Fund for giving us a grant to help us to launch this important ministry.

Ruth Hobson  
Open the Book Team volunteer

## Young Church

This past year has been one of growing in maturity. As a team, we have strived to encourage friendships and, most importantly, offer children an encounter with our Lord and the Bible.

To encourage continuity week by week, we have established routines that all leaders follow. There are icebreakers to help build bonds and a study of a Bible passage with drama, games and crafts. We close with prayer and now have our own prayer diary to record prayer requests and celebrate answers to prayer.

One of the highlights of the year has been welcoming new adults to help the children week by week. We are so thankful for their willingness to serve. Each term we meet to review where we are and our future plans. Our next priority is to ensure that the children know how to apply God's Word to their daily lives.

There are around 7 children who are part of our group. Ages vary from 4 to 10 years old. It has been wonderful to see one member graduate from Young Church to the youth group.

After Easter, I will be stepping down from my work with the children. I would personally like to say thank you for the opportunity I've been given to teach the children and I am very grateful for all those who have been so supportive to me.

Rebecca Buckley

## St Mary's Youth Report 2017

We have had a fabulous, fun-filled year in the Youth Group! We started off by finishing our Foundations of Faith course, and with a **Bake -Off** to raise money for a weekend away with the young People from St James' Church in Glossop. The variety and quality of the cakes and biscuits was astounding (I think we have some budding bakers in the group!), and, thanks to the generous support from people at St Mary's we were able to raise enough money to send five of our young people to Edale for a memorable weekend.

In the Autumn term on Sunday mornings we attempted a rather sweeping overview of the Old Testament, through focussing on selected characters, finishing just before Christmas in the New Testament with Mary. Along the way we've enjoyed games, quizzes and competitions. We've also grown in confidence in praying. This term we have been looking at some of the parables Jesus told and what they mean for us and the way we live our lives. The Parable of the Sower, or Soils, was the subject of the first service led by our Young People, and I think everyone who was there will agree that they did brilliantly!! We were so proud of them!

We have also run a monthly social night on a Sunday evening, often at church, with activities such as pool (many thanks to Darragh for the table), table tennis, table football, a wii, and craft activities. Last month we had a very successful film night.

In my last years' report I noted that while we had a number of people who came in to help we really needed other people to help lead, so we were delighted when Toni Home agreed to come and help do that (actually I think she may have volunteered!) It's been great having her to help run the group, sharing ideas and the workload! Thank you so much!

It's been great to welcome a couple of new young people to the group too; one a friend of one of our existing young people, and the other a graduate of Young Church!

Overall it's been a year where we have got to know each other better, and grown in our knowledge and understanding of God, who He is and His love for us.

Sarah Perrin

## Little Fishes (formerly Praise and Play) Report 2017

We had thought long and hard about Praise and Play and whether it should continue after the summer, when two of our long standing families would be leaving as the children were starting school. However during the summer term we had a number of new families who came along, some who dipped in and out, and others who began to come more regularly.

Diane also stepped down from a leadership role at the end of the summer term, after many years service. I'd like to say an enormous thank you to her for her faithful service, for the love she showed the families who came, and the seeds that she sowed into their lives, and for keeping the group running. However she didn't manage to leave completely!

Following discussions with a group of very supportive women, it was decided that we would continue to run the group, with me leading it, supported by Diane and Margaret (Mellor), who do alternate weeks. A number of other ladies have also volunteered to help with the kitchen, or in the provision of refreshments for parents. We also decided to change the name - Little Fishes - was the winner, and have tried to advertise the group using a variety of media.

I also changed the format slightly, so there is time for the children to play while parents/carers can talk and get to know each other. Then following a snack we have a story, usually from the Bible, and song time.

We have been really encouraged to see numbers increasing overall - from averaging 4 children a week at the start of last year, to around 12 children a week. One week we had 17 children and a similar number of adults!

It has been a real privilege to get to know the families who have come, and to share God's love and good news with them. It was a real delight that one family who have come along had their son baptised last term.

I would like to say a huge thank you to all who have helped over the past year. However we could still do with other people to become part of the team. So do get in touch if you'd like to find out more or if you'd like to help in any way.

Sarah Perrin

## HOUSE GROUPS

### **Bible at the Boulevard!**

At the beginning of 2016 we joined Bruce and Sarah and other church members at the Vicarage for what was described as a 'Long Lent Course', running from January to Easter! The focus of which was Rick Warren's book 'Purpose Driven Life' and during each session was a time of praise, reading God's Word, followed by interesting discussions and prayers.

After Easter we return to 'The Boulevard' for our weekly Tuesday evening meetings. Most of our meetings this year have revisited and discussed the Bible readings and sermons from the previous Sunday at church. This has been great because we have been able to share our thoughts on what we had heard and question things we didn't understand.

We all enjoyed taking part in the 'Prayer Week' Events last May. We particularly found the village prayer walk a different but experience to be involved in. We can't wait for the next one this year!

Our meetings are a great time of fellowship but also a wonderful time to pray and worship in a more intimate size group. It's a chance to read the Bible and find those encouraging scriptures and exciting stories about our God and his Son our saviour, Jesus Christ.

We have had two or three social evenings this year which always involved food!

This year we had a cheese and wine evening not just for ourselves but for our close family members/friends during the which we had a quiz . Donations were given at the end of the night and £100 was raised for the Barnabus Trust in Manchester, that helps the homeless.

We also organised a Christmas Quiz (raised another £100) and collected

toiletries within the group for the Barnabus Trust.

I think everyone in the group would say that it's great to meet on a regular basis and travel along our journey of faith together and also encourage each other in our commission 'GROWING JESUS' KINGDOM TOGETHER' (St. Mary's Mission Statement)

Diane Deacon

## **The House Group in the Vestry**

We continue to meet in the vestry on a Monday afternoon at 2.00 pm. We begin with prayer, primarily for members of our Church, but also for the wider community and beyond. We study a particular aspect of scripture in some detail after having first of all read through the passage. We finish about 3.00 pm and have a good chat accompanied by refreshments!

There are usually about six or seven of us, so there is ample opportunity to learn from each other and to share in fellowship.

All members of the group value this additional time during the week to grow in knowledge of the bible and in the Christian faith.

Peter

## **Monday Night Group**

The 2016 Alpha group members were keen to keep on meeting, so we established the Monday night house group. Although small in number, we have had a busy year of bible study and prayer, including studying Genesis, St Mark's gospel (?) and following on the Sunday St Luke's sermons with further discussion.

As well as our official sessions, we have also had a number of social events, including not one but two baby showers and trips to the Life Centre Book Shop in Romiley,

A lot has happened to the group over the last year and so much has happened since Alpha. We are a very welcoming group and, if anyone would like to join us, please contact either Rebecca or Toni. We would love to see you.

Toni Horn & Rebecca Buckley

# CHARITIES

## **TEARFUND**

Teal-fund is a world wide charity serving the poorest of the poor across some 50 countries. Thank you St Mary's for supporting Tearfund. Your donation is part of our giving to charity and is a tithe of our regular giving. Also, a special donation was made to Yemen this year because people were starving. Unfortunately drought and starvation are even more acute in Africa at the present time.

The countries affected are South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, Yemen, Ethiopia and others especially and often where there is fighting. This brings the charity workers into great danger. So please remember to pray for their work and protection. This situation has appeared regularly on the BBC news.

Tearfund also remains for the long term in order to rebuild countries after disasters so that the people can be independent and self sufficient. This has happened in Vanautu following the cyclone two years ago. People have been brought together to repair damaged land and replant coffee and grow peanuts. Peanuts grow quickly producing food to eat and income to pay bills like school fees. Normal life begins to be restored among the subsistence farmers and even the schools.

Unfortunately there are constant disasters in the world which require immediate management with food aid, medical aid and rescue. There are Disasters Management Teams which are set up to deal with the immediate emergency and this is followed up by longer term restoration.

Tearfund works with local church partners so that we know that the funding goes straight to where it is needed and not through governments.

Our nearest local partner is Christian Family Care at Buxton which specialises in restoring mothers who are addicted to drugs and caring for the children.

Frances Eagle

## Christian Aid

St Mary's and Hollingworth Methodist Churches have worked together in support of Christian Aid Week for many years delivering and collecting the red envelopes throughout the village. We share a wish to make a difference to the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves living in harsh environments, needing basics for survival, in war zones. Christian Aid Week is the time when the churches in Hollingworth go out together into the community. So come May, we will again seek to raise awareness and funds. It would be a great encouragement if others in St Mary's joined the small band of people helping with Christian Aid - perhaps two friends could offer to visit a street together. Please pray and think about this.

Maureen Hobson Co-ordinator Christian Aid Week.

## **TAMESIDE SOUTH and LONGDENDALE FOODBANK**

The Food Bank at St. Mary's Church is in partnership with the outlet, based in Hattersley Baptist Church. Our intention is to provide "crisis relief for the people living in the Longdendale Valley,- though we would never turn away someone in need because of their address, or lack of one.

The Food Bank outlets are staffed entirely by volunteers and are dependent on donations. It is therefore a great credit to the people of this area that we are able to help so many of our neighbours.

The intention of the Food Bank is not to subsidise Benefit or other income but to help in unforeseen, and often unforeseeable, circumstances, like illness, bereavement and job loss. We also offer "holiday cover" to families who, in term-time, are entitled to free school meals.

All our dealings are confidential so we hope that soon we shall be able to offer advice, from suitably qualified people, on better management of the causes of poverty.

Thank you for all your contributions.

Jan Malpas

# Samaritans Purse International (Operation Christmas Child)



Thank you to everyone at St. Mary's who supported the appeal for gift filled shoeboxes for children in countries where rife poverty exists. Thirty six shoeboxes were filled and despatched to the Manchester

Warehouse for onward transportation.

The boxes from St. Mary's were destined for the Ukraine.

The Grand total of boxes despatched from the Manchester warehouses was 42,725 boxes. This was an increase of 9313 on 2015.

Destinations and number of boxes despatched:-

10,556	Albania	+ 6500 to an unknown destination
1,251	Serbia	
1,862	Romania	
12,556	Ukraine	

Joan Mather (SPI Rep.) Operation Christmas Child April 2017

## Jars of Grace 2017 UNICEF

Children are hardest hit by emergencies, losing lives, families, homes and schools.

The 'Jars of Grace Appeal' focus on work to protect children in emergencies around the world.

This year we raised £107.

Margaret Mellor

# Honeycomb

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Honeycomb in 2016 and thank you to everyone who has been involved in the distribution and contributing articles etc. A great big thank you for the donations received during 2016. These pay for the photocopying of our monthly news sheet and ensures that we don't have to dip into the general church funds!

In 2016 St. Mary's received £269.70 plus £116 from Christmas Fair in 2015 in donations .This totalled £385.70. Overall expenditure for photocopying in 2016 has been £468 plus £40 annual subscription for Parish Pump. At the end of the 2016 St. Mary's had a shortfall of £122.30.

In 2016 Christ Church received £72.53 in donation plus £42.16 was carried forward from 2015 making a total of £114.69. £142.20 has been used for photocopying expenses-leaving a short fall of £27.51. The shortfall has been taken from Christ Church's general fund.

At the end of 2016 St. Mary's was distributing 200 copies and Christ Church continued distributing 60 copies .Our newsletter is one of many ways that our churches can keep in touch with our communities and spread the 'GOOD NEWS'.

If you know someone who you think would enjoy our monthly edition of the Honeycomb, just contact me.

Thanks again *Diane Deacon*

## LADIES GROUP REPORT 2016

Our Ladies Group has had another interesting and entertaining year and we have had an average attendance of 10 members.

Over the year we have enjoyed some very special evenings as follows:

Following our Christmas break our first meeting at the beginning of March was led as usual by Mady Winterbottom who took us through a session of gentle exercise to music. This is a great session to beat those winter blues and everyone enjoyed singing along and we had lots of fun and laughter which made for a great evening. In April we had a film show and a talk on voyages on the Tall Ships'. Our guest speaker, David Booth, signed up as a crew member on several voyages over the years and it was fascinating to hear of the places visited and how they manage a very large ship which uses sails to complete their journeys. Every crew member has to work within a team to complete the tasks necessary to keep the ship going. Duties like scrubbing the decks to working in the galley kitchen and operating the sails from the top of the rigging are all part of the voyage. The rewards are in the places visited which are all over the world and the friends made on the voyages. Thank you to David for the interesting stories. In May we had a Ladies Group party night with games and quizzes. These help us to keep the little grey cells working and are good fun into the bargain. Our June mystery trip remained a mystery as we had to postpone the trip due to other commitments of our members. In July our summer party held at Dorothy Crutchley's house was a wonderful evening. We had our usual quizzes and one of them had a royal theme to celebrate this year of the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. The photo quiz of members with a story was excellent and the places visited and stories were fascinating. We enjoyed the usual buffet supper with delicious sweets to follow. In September we held a meeting to decide on the future of the Ladies Group and sadly it was decided that this would be our last year. Members now have lots of other commitments and find it very difficult to attend on a regular basis and it was felt that after 25 years we have come to a natural end of the group. We were all

sad at this decision but we were determined to finish this year as usual and in October we welcomed Maria Roberts and a team from the Friends of Etherow Lodge Park who gave a talk on the work of the group in restoring and developing the Park. Demonstrations were given on the kinds of things that can be found in the park and of the activities that the group have organised. It was very interesting and informative to see the large variety of work that is being done. Some of our ladies made floral displays using the greenery from the park and were able to take them home to show family and friends. Many thanks to Maria and the team for the excellent evening. Our magical mystery show took place at the end of October and it was a visit to see 'Crazy for you' at the Stockport Plaza. It was a wonderful evening and we enjoyed the energetic dancing and singing by all the cast of the show. It was an evening to remember for Jean Collins who was celebrating her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday and she said that she enjoyed every minute. Our Christmas party at Dorothy Crutchley's house went with a swing. We enjoyed our usual quizzes and games and as this was the very last meeting of our group we had one extra special quiz on the Ladies Group past and present and the things we have been doing over the last 25 years. We have enjoyed listening to many speakers, joining in exercises to music, magical mystery trips and shows - too many to mention. A big thank you to everyone who has helped over the years and the many friends we have made. Thank you to one and all.

Dorothy Turton, Dorothy Crutchley and Margaret Mellor