

Annual Report

Aim and purposes

The Beacon Parishes Mission Community (the Benefice of Ipplepen with Torbryan, Denbury and Broadhempston with Woodland) comprises five churches in three parishes. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of each parish has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Peter Ashman, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church and churchyard.

Objectives and Activities

The PCCs are committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of its parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish to ensure our services involve as many of the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish; and
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the churches and their churchyards.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCCs and the Mission Community are keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. At the heart of what we do lie the canonical sacraments – baptism and the Eucharist, but we also actively promote confirmation, anointing, reconciliation and holy matrimony as well as looking for those who have a vocation in the Church. The pattern of services within the Mission Community was carefully planned by a group comprising members of the parishes to ensure that there was a fair spread of different services across the Mission Community according to the wishes of the very different worshipping congregations.

In Ipplepen there are three Sunday communion services a month and a lay-led Morning Worship service on the other Sunday. An 8.00am BCP communion service is held twice a month. There is a weekly Thursday morning communion service and a monthly Tuesday evening communion (which latterly has taken place in the local pub). Seasonal services take place throughout the year. In Holy Week there is a weekly lay-led Compline service and in Holy Week Ipplepen hosts the Mission Community Eucharist of the Last Supper. Morning Prayer is said on weekdays in the St. Peter Chapel. Baptisms usually take place in the Sunday communion service and funerals take place as required, as do weddings. The churchyard is still open.

Torbryan is a “closed” church owned and maintained by the Churches Conservation Trust. We hold one or two services there a year, restricted by the lack of light, heat and difficulties with access. During 2016 the mediaeval panels, which were stolen in 2013, were restored and replaced, and quality interpretation displays were added. We are looking forward in 2017 to Bishop Robert, Bishop of Exeter, coming to re-dedicate the panels and screen.

Denbury has a weekly Sunday communion service apart from the second Sunday when some of the congregation travel to the other churches. There is also a weekly Wednesday communion service and Evening Prayer is said communally in the Church Cottage on Thursdays, with Stations of the Cross or an alternative form of prayer being used during Lent. Denbury hosts the Mission Community Easter Eve Vigil.

Broadhempston and Woodland each have two communion services a month with a lay-led Morning Worship (Broadhempston) or Evensong (Woodland) being held on another week. Woodland usually hosts the Mission Community Palm Sunday service.

On fifth Sundays we hold Mission Community services – Torbryan for their Patronal Festival on Trinity Sunday, a confirmation service, or some other joint service. We often share these with the congregation of the Ipplepen Methodist Church. All the churches come together for these joint services and for Patronal Festivals, all other services being cancelled that day.

We pride ourselves that there has been an annual confirmation service since the arrival of Rev. Peter Ashman and in 2016 four people were confirmed across the Mission Community.

During 2016 we took part in the Archbishops' "Thy Kingdom Come" initiative of Novena Prayers – it was a wonderful activity which will be repeated in 2017.

The parishes also joined together for our Lent Course based on The King's Speech film and our Advent discussion group on Christian Ethics.

We held two joint PCC meetings to supplement the minimum legal requirement of four meetings and these helped to gel the various parishes into a solid working group as well as allowing for discussions that were common to all the parishes.

Many of our activities are supported by Hospitality and Social Groups who provided sustenance to a very high standard. Patronal Festivals and Mission Community services are usually followed by food! Various other activities take place during the year to raise funds for the church or for charity.

In 2016 we were visited at Ipplepen by Bishop Nick, Bishop of Plymouth, twice – for our confirmation service and for the joint Bishops in Mission Holy Communion Service. He and his wife Jan enjoy the hospitality and welcome we offer.

Everyone is welcome to attend our services and visit our churches which are open during the day for prayer and visits. Ipplepen and Denbury have votive candle stands which people find useful as a focus of their prayers.

Electoral Roll

Each parish revises its electoral roll before the annual meetings. A report from each parish follows.

Deanery Synod

Each parish is entitled to have members of the PCC who sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. With a new Rural Dean, the Deanery Synod is looking at the best ways to use its time and resources to support the parishes.

The Church Fabric

Each of the churches has a regular quinquennial report on its fabric. By and large the works are not serious and can be attended to without too much strain on the finances. During 2016 Ipplepen struggled with faculty applications for new boilers and other works but both faculties have been granted and work will commence in 2017. Denbury continues to raise funds for its exciting bells project with the help of people outside the congregation offering substantial help and support. Broadhempston faces the biggest challenge as it moves to 2017 to cope with damp, heating and structural challenges. However, a strategy has been formulated and work is being undertaken to make the church an exciting community space which will complement the new village hall and support grant funding applications.

A separate report is available for each church.

Mission Action Plan

Once again this year the Mission Action Plan was reviewed and revised. It is a dynamic document which truly seeks to join in with God's mission for us in the parishes and the Mission Community. In 2017 we further revised the MAP to align with the diocesan priorities of "Pray, Grow, Serve".

Safeguarding

Carol Robinson (Mission Community Safeguarding Officer) and Ann Holroyd (Local Advocate for Children and Adults at Risk) lead up the safeguarding work of the Mission Community and assist the Rector in ensuring statutory obligations are complied especially with under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016. As well as a Safeguarding Policy, full records are kept of DBS checks to ensure authorisations are up to date and a proactive analysis of what we do with safeguarding issues in mind provide a strong network within which we operate. Safeguarding is always on the PCC meeting agenda to ensure it remains a high-profile topic.

Health & Safety

Steve Bassett acts as Mission Community Health and Safety Officer and advises and assists where appropriate. Deanery Synod provides regular health and safety information and health and safety is always on the PCC meeting agenda.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team, trained by Rev. Anne Burden and Rev. Gordon Kendall and co-ordinated by Vanessa Bevan continues to keep a loving and caring eye on those who are unwell or absent from church. All the church communities actively care for each other and support those in need and I am very grateful for their support in this area.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Each of the churches makes donations to outside charities on a basis that fits with their finances. Treasurers will report on the details of their giving. Our Mission Community magazine The Beacon is produced to a very high standard and printed at no cost to the parishes. It is available free of charge in our churches and community buildings. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our churches and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus. I am especially grateful to Charles Quartley and Michael Price for their work with The Beacon. We also actively promote and regularly update our website www.missioncommunity.org.uk.

Children and Young People

Messy Church has continued through 2016 but numbers have fallen and the age range has become younger. We have started to run (in 2017) the very successful Experience courses for the three schools and these will probably take the major role in our youth outreach.

Ecumenical Relationships

Ipplepen church is a member of Churches Together in Ipplepen – we regular meet, pray and worship with the Methodist congregation and include some Roman Catholic brothers and sisters from nearby churches. The Methodist minister assists in running the Lent Course and the Methodist Church hosts the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Shoebox services. We alternate in leading the Good Friday Procession of Witness and share the preaching at the Remembrance Day service.

Financial Review

A separate report from the Treasurer is available with and forms part of this Report.

Volunteers

I would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our churches the lively and vibrant communities they are. In particular I want to mention our churchwardens who have worked so tirelessly on your behalf, the deputy wardens who have supported them, our treasurers who have maintained the accounts and stewarded our resources to the best of their ability and who have helped us all to understand the church's accounts and its finances, our sides-people who have an important ministry of welcome, and all

the other members of the PCC for their valuable contribution to our ministry and for keeping the church running. We are very fortunate also to have three Hon. Asst. Priests and three PTO Readers who offer so much to the Mission Community and I am grateful for their ministry and assistance.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Rector), churchwardens, Readers (where appropriate) and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

Administrative information

Our churches are part of the Diocese of Exeter within the Church of England. The correspondence address for the Rector is The Rectory, Paternoster lane, Ipplepen TQ12 5RY. Details of the churches, their activities and much more information is available on our website www.missioncommunity.org.uk.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2017) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Details of PCC members who have served from 1 January 2016 until the date this report was approved are available from PCC secretaries.

**Approved by the PCC and signed on their behalf by
The Reverend Peter Ashman (PCC chairman)**

Date

PCC Financial Report

Roger Chamberlain

Main Fund

Regular giving is our only source of income received reasonably consistently throughout the year, and this increased in 2016 to £42,201 including income tax recovered (2015 £37,282). We benefitted from over fifty of our members joining the Parish Giving Scheme which contributed positively to our recovery of income tax, as the scheme obtains the gift aid tax reclaim within one month of receipt of donations from taxpayers. On behalf of the PCC I would like to thank all those who support St Andrew's church financially in so many ways.

Amounts of other income are outside our control (e.g. fees payable for funerals and weddings), but we did hold a very successful Christmas Fayre which raised over £1,400.00. Expenditure from ordinary activities totalled £61,639 (2015 £67,557), a very useful improvement when compared with the previous year. A notable item of expenditure not included in this figure is the purchase in 2016 of new pew cushions costing £5,636.

We have a surplus on the main PCC Account of £5,638 for 2016 from ordinary activities (not including the purchase of the pew cushions). We shall see a small increase of 1.1% in our parochial share of the Diocesan Common Fund to £40,525 in 2017. (2016 £40,102). Looking ahead, we need to see increases in regular income from our parishioners as we are an ageing congregation (as with the Church of England in general), which raises concerns for the long term economic health of our parish.

Fabric Fund

The annual Gift Day appeal raised £3,735 by year end (2015 £4,988). Our application to recover the tax on the gift aided part of these monies was not submitted until early 2017 so does not show on the Account for 2016. Very little expenditure seen in 2016 compared with the previous year apart from the annual insurance premium of £3,050. The net surplus at year end was £2,434 (2015 deficit £13,636). The fabric fund's accounts and investments have until now been sufficient to enable the PCC to continue to carry out its objective to maintain the church building to a high standard, and I see no reason why this should not continue, at least in the short term. Fuller details of activities are in Stephen Bryant's report. In early 2016 the PCC started obtaining quotes to replace the church boilers which will cost in excess of £15,000, and this work will hopefully have been carried out by the time this report is published.

Reserves

As at 31 December 2016, the main unrestricted PCC fund has reserves at cost of £105,497 and the fabric fund has reserves at cost of £35,325. In addition, there are various restricted funds which are detailed in the Accounts, including a 'Million for Mission' fund of £856 (2015 £1,088) held by the PCC on behalf of the Mission Community. I expect this fund to be exhausted over the next few years.

Total reserves held are £142,971 (2015 £141,021). These reserves are held partly in investments, partly in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund and partly in our working capital held in bank accounts. It is the policy of the PCC to maintain a positive balance of reserves for the main PCC fund after paying all its ongoing expenses and meeting its objective of donating to charities 10% of its regular donated income (based on the previous year's income), again achieved in 2016. It is also PCC policy to maintain reserves for the fabric fund to enable it to meet the cost of maintaining the fabric of the church and the churchyard, and to provide it with some funds in case of any unforeseen circumstances. The PCC Accounts are still in fairly good shape, especially when compared to many other parishes in the UK.

Church Hall

In addition to its own charitable activities, the PCC acts as managing trustee for the Church Hall which is constituted as a separate charity, and considers matters arising from the running of the hall at its regular meetings. The management of the hall continues to be effective, and a separate sub committee meets when needed. Day to day administration is delegated to Mrs Shirley Northwood, bookings secretary. A highlight

of 2016 was the purchase of a new cooker at a cost of £1149.00 towards which we applied for and received a grant from the Ipplepen Community Fund for £1,000.00.

Fabric Report

Stephen Bryant

The building is in good order for its age but there are always ongoing works needed to maintain this standard.

There have been no major works this year. Last year the pews in the centre part of the church were removed and re-fixed, and one row of pews in the front of the nave were removed. This year a similar pew was removed in the south aisle to match, and a rear-facing pew at the rear of the nave was removed to make more room for coffee or small meetings.

Tracery in the windows needs expert repair and this will be started in 2017.

The central heating boiler is in 3 working sections, all of which failed during the year and they are not repairable. The Rector and PCC have made every effort to obtain permission to arrange for the boilers to be replaced, but the necessary permissions from the Diocese were not forthcoming in time to start the work during the year. Consequently the church has been extremely cold.

Mr Clark, the Captain of the bell ringers, has started work on an internal window cill to the north belfry louvre, which was apparently unfinished when the tower was built; this to minimise rain running in below the louvre and damaging the bell frame.

We as always grateful to a small working party, organised each month by Mr John Tuckett, which has carried out maintenance jobs throughout the year on the church, hall and churchyard.

Stewardship

Linda Simmonds

In 2016 the Standing Committee continued to be responsible for the allocation of the funds available for St Andrew's Church's annual giving. We have continued to give 10% of our regularly gifted income to charity to a smaller group of charities so that each charity receives a meaningful amount. Donations continue to be spread over a variety of charities including local, national UK & overseas charities and secular and Christian charities. A list of the charities supported is included in the accounts and the committee welcomes suggestions for charities to be supported in the future.

2016 saw the introduction of the Parish Giving Scheme. Under this scheme members who join set up direct debits on a regular basis which will be paid into our church bank account and the scheme administrators will make any gift aid claims monthly rather than the finance team carrying out this exercise up to 4 months in arrears. Participation in the Scheme has been good and this has improved our cash flow particularly from the quicker receipt of gift aid monies. This has contributed to the small surplus for the year as well as reducing the amount of administration required from the members of the finance team.

As so many members of our congregation have joined the Parish Giving Scheme, it has been decided that the regular giving envelopes will no longer be issued. This means that from April 2017, anyone who is not part of the Parish Giving Scheme and who wants to make a gift aided donation will need to put their donation in a yellow gift-aid envelope and complete this envelope with their name, address including postcode, signature and the date of the gift. Alternatively, donations in the collection plate attract lower rate tax relief automatically without the need to use an envelope.

If you have not yet joined the Parish Giving Scheme and are interested in using it for your donations in future, please contact Roger Chamberlain who is the Project Leader.

Churchwardens' Report

Michael Price & Geraldine Dennis

The seemingly intractable events this year have been obtaining necessary faculties for new chairs in the Lady Chapel, together with permanent permission for the removal of pews and the addition of the votive candle stand in the Lady Chapel. These issues seemed of less importance to the worshipping community when the final two boilers broke down after Christmas.

All services since Epiphany had been held in the Church Hall. At least this has been warm and not as traumatic as first anticipated. The wardens have been grateful for everyone's support and help moving the clavino, hymn books together with all the other necessary articles for celebrating the Eucharist which were brought from the vestry.

We are grateful to the Wellington pub for allowing us to hold the Tuesday evening monthly communion in their back room in March and April. Both services were well attended and it was good for the church to come into the village.

Compline services and funerals in mid-March took place back in church. By the time of the APCM the boiler situation should be rectified.

Our thanks for support throughout the year from sidesmen, readers, chalice administrators, choir, organists, the bell ringers and servers and flower arrangers whose quiet service enables the church to flourish.

The PCC has met on four occasions during the last year. During this time new pew cushions have been put in place much enhancing both the appearance and comfort of the pews. We have attempted with new notices and promise of new markings in the road to make entrance to the church easier for those with mobility problems to reach church.

A joint PCC meeting of representatives from all four parishes in the mission community was held in August and was attended by a good number of our PCC members. The document "Mission Action Plan" re written by the wardens' subcommittee was discussed before being submitted by the Rector for approval which was unanimously received. The MAP document is on line at www.missioncommunity.org.uk. It has been reviewed again in January this year.

We thank Rev. Peter for his friendship and support to us as Wardens. We have been privileged to travel along the road with him. Much has been accomplished together particularly in developing St. Andrew's as part of a larger nucleus of parishes making up our Mission Community. This is certainly the way forward sharing resources and expertise as parish attendance decrease in size both here and nationwide.

Churchyard

Stephen Bryant

The committee meet informally at monthly Working Parties. The Rector has continued to check the accuracy of many of the records and plans and most are now digitally recorded. During the year all headstones have been checked for safety and mounds levelled where possible.

The churchyard is nearly full and, apart from reserved grave spaces, room for future burials is probably limited to one more year.

We are actively considering how much of the extension we will need, how we will obtain access (in addition to the access we have from Orley Road), and how best to lay out this new area. It is likely that all graves will be for single burials only because of the rocky nature of the ground. All this will need great deal of work and some inevitable expense.

We were greatly saddened by the sudden death of David Fey who did so much to ensure that the churchyard was always one of the best-kept in the area. He will be difficult to replace.

We are as ever grateful to the band of volunteers who have again helped cut the grass and trimmed the laurel hedge. The working party also removed fallen debris from the trees each month and kept the gravelled area at the rear of the hall free from weeds.

During the year an enthusiastic group of children from Ipplepen School worked hard in the churchyard removing weeds from the paths and stripping ivy from graves and trees. It was a most enjoyable and happy event despite the rain, and much useful work was done. We are grateful to them and their teachers.

Safeguarding

Carol Robinson

(Safeguarding of Children and Adults at risk of abuse and neglect)

The computerised Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) introduced in 2014 continues to operate satisfactorily. Applications from 4 new people have been DBS checked, with 1 person pending. Chris Braithwaite, the Assistant to the Archdeacon of Totnes, is now coordinating the DBS.

In May 2016, the Benefice Safeguarding Representative, Carol Robinson, and the Benefice Local Advocate, Ann Holroyd, attended a Diocesan Safeguarding general information afternoon in Exeter to ensure standardisation across the Parishes and to disseminate information regarding specific areas within the safeguarding framework.

The Safeguarding Representative also attended the Diocese of Exeter Safeguarding Foundation Module (C1) and the Leadership Module (C2) day in Torquay with Representatives from Brixham and the South Hams.

Pastoral Care Team

Vanessa Bevan

The Pastoral Care Team (PCT) was set up last year in order to care for those in our congregation who needed support at home or in hospital. This mainly consists of visiting to see if there is anything we can do to help. We have 6 volunteers but could always do with more and I was asked to do the co-ordinating job which means that people send me information and I relay this to the volunteers asking them if they could visit or phone to find out what the situation is. Hopefully they then get back to me. This normally works well and seems to be appreciated by those being visited.

If you know of anyone in our congregation who could do with support then please let me know on 812812 or pgbteach2@btinternet.com.

Deanery Synod

Sue Hird & Madeleine Fedrick

There have been 3 meetings as planned for the year 2016-7:

- 31st May 2016
- 10th November 2016
- 22nd February 2017

The meeting in May planned for the Bishop in Mission with Bishop Nick 21st-23rd October 2016 was very successful.

All meetings begin with prayers and welcome, apologies, minutes and matters arising. Our Reverend Peter Ashman is on the Deanery Standing Committee.

We discussed

- traditional services
- celebrate Beacon Parishes
- Lammas Services
- Pastoral care

- Interdenominational events
- Parish giving
- Messy church
- School involvement
- Choir get-togethers
- The main event of the year was the Bishop in Mission 2016.
- Treasurers Report
- Health and Safety Report
- Correspondence
- AOB (at the last meeting Abbotskerswell Church was discussed re. the incumbent and vicarage)

All meetings close with Compline and prayers.

Electoral Roll

Sheila Stacey

The only thing I have to report is that there has been little change to the Electoral Roll since 24th March 2013. The number is now 95 (2015 - 97).

Secretary

Vanessa Bevan

We have had 4PCC Standing Committee Meetings; 4 PCC meetings and 1 joint PCC meeting with those from the other parishes in the Beacon Mission Community since our APCM in 2016.

The joint PCC meeting was to discuss "Jesus the True Vine" and although there are no right or wrong answers the points raised were to do with the pruning of the vine and loving one another. We sometimes do too much as churches and individuals and must stand back and prune - for to make something grow you prune it.

We then went through the revised Mission Action Plan which was proposed and accepted and after refreshments we had a quiz thanks to Steve Bassett which provided much fun and fellowship. During the year we also organised a very successful Dementia Awareness course – a report of which was in the Beacon.

I must thank the Rector and PCC yet again for their patience when I get things wrong and would also like to thank Richard Innes-Lumsden for doing the road closure paperwork for Remembrance Sunday and for all the photocopying he does.

I am another year older and will not be doing this job for ever so please think hard about what you could do to help.

Sidespeople

Geraldine Dennis & Michael Price, Wardens

Elected sides people for 2016-2017 are : Rob Willcocks, Fiona Muddeman, Roger Savery, Jennie Quartley, Charles Quartley, Marian Tuckett, Marian Matthews, Edward Matthews, Winnie Bryant, Carol Robinson, Barry Morgan, Brenda Morgan, Huguette Standish, Maureen Burley, Rose Chamberlain, Stephen Bryant, Charlie Outhwaite, Jane Outhwaite, Ann Bowman, Doreen Dale, Tony Standish, Huguette Standish and Shirley Northwood.

We were very grateful for the extra help given to the Wardens at the Christmas services and for the faithful service given by our sidespeople throughout the year.

Do let the Churchwardens know if you would like to join this important ministry. All are welcome!

Sacristans

Winnie Bryant

At the moment we have nine people looking after the vestry. We work in pairs and usually do a week each so it is not really an onerous task. However, we are always looking for more people to help, so if you are interested do please get in touch.

We deal with everything in the vestry to be used in worship in the church. This includes wine and bread and their containers (for use in communion), silverware (such as the chalice), oil for the candles, the clergy robes, linen used for communion, and so on.

It is the Sacristans' responsibility to set out what is required for each service and to clear away afterwards, and to look after the linen and vestments.

We also change the altar frontal to the appropriate colour for each Church season, Saint's days, and Festivals.

It is a privilege to be able to do this work, usually quietly on one's own in the vestry, and to know that we have left everything ready for the next service at St Andrew's.

Servers

Peter Gage

I know it's an old cliché but it does appear that the older you get the quicker the years seem to fly by. I have now been serving for almost six years at Ipplepen assisting mainly at the 11.00am Holy Communion service on Sundays and Feast days that occur during the year.

As a server one has to try and learn to adapt to the many changes that can occur whilst carrying out one's duty. Whilst most Sunday services run to a similar pattern, there are occasions where there may be a change in the order of the service, a special event for example, baptism or a confirmation, a different priest may be presiding at the service, (in my experience all priests do things differently) or occasionally a visitation by a bishop. This is when a server has to be alert as to what is required from him/her so that the server can carry out his/her duties satisfactorily.

Being the only server at Ipplepen can sometimes create a little problem for me in so much that I do not have any trained server to deputise for me when I am sometimes not available. For example, when I am away on holiday, family commitments, and when other engagements crop up from time to time. I usually cover both Midnight Mass and the Christmas morning service each year and I find I have try and fit my family commitments around this.

Most other lay ministries here at St. Andrews have deputies or there are rotas for sidespeople, chalice ministers and many other voluntary ministries where an individual can call upon someone else to cover for them should that person not be available on that particular Sunday.

Unfortunately, I do not have a fellow server to call upon should I be unavailable. Therefore, I would again like to make an appeal to anyone who would be willing to be trained as a server and to deputise for me in my absence. I am not seeking or asking anyone to give a permanent commitment, just someone who would be willing to cover for me when I am unable to attend church. In addition, this would take the pressure off the church wardens (who seem to be busy most of the time) who would normally arrange and set up the things that are required before the start of the communion service. Therefore, I would be delighted to hear from anyone who would be willing to help.

Office

Richard Innes-Lumsden

Printing has continued regularly through the year. The weekly service requirements have been met for the four churches as has the diocese monthly newsletter printed for distribution. Printing has also been undertaken for specialist services such as baptisms and conformations. Monthly programmes of events

have been distributed. Others events supported by printing - Messy Church, the monthly Lunch Club (menus) and Coffee Morning posters etc..

Baptism Ministry –The Challenge

Michael Price

The sacraments are about nothing less than salvation. That is their point and purpose. We see this most clearly with baptism, which is the first and foundational sacrament. The Christian faith goes further: not only is baptism about salvation, but salvation is about baptism: 'no one can enter the kingdom of God,' Christ said, 'without being born of water and Spirit' (John 3.5)

Baptism appears to be the cosiest of sacraments, involving pink-cheeked babies and a welcome into the family of the Church. Alongside this, we are aware that baptism is also magnificent and terrible. We should put it no less forcefully than this: if baptism is about life then it is also about death. Baptism is the most extreme of remedies, since it kills us. In baptism we share in the death of Christ and in his resurrection. If this seems hyperbolic, consider how central it is for Paul that we die with Christ, and when he says so, baptism is often close at hand. Salvation is rescue from a shipwreck, but the paradox is that baptism saves us by drowning. Baptism by full immersion points most closely to this, and our more common rite of pouring water points to this. Submersion is like plunging into the death of Christ, and early baptismal pools have something of the shape of a tomb.

Whilst the canons of the Church of England forbid any minister from obstructing the baptism of an infant, a priest can insist on a reasonable programme of preparation for the family before baptising a child, which might be all the more important if the family are not regular churchgoers. However, this cannot be used as an obstacle to baptism.

Programmes of preparation have been important since the earliest days of the Church. A child that is baptised a Christian should be raised a Christian, and that means bringing them to church. We have to trust parents over this, and honour their sense that, with baptism, they are doing the right thing by their child. One hopes to succeed in building a bridge between a family and the Church.

Those of us involved must pitch a message and instruction that is appropriate to the parents we see. There is no rush. Except in exceptional cases, baptism is within the communion service with the baptism party limited to forty. This enables the members of the congregation to have our own space both to welcome the newly baptised and their family whilst at the same time to reflect on our own baptismal promises. Since the APCM in 2016, there have been seven baptisms at St. Andrew's.

The mission community team consists of Jo Innes-Lumsden, Ann Holroyd and Michael Price from Ipplepen and Fran Howells from Denbury under the guidance of Rev. Peter. We depend on your continuing prayer in our efforts. We would welcome anyone wishing to join us.

Hospitality

Jane Outhwaite

We have again had a busy year catering for various events in the church. There have been fewer coffee mornings this year but there has been a cream tea, tea for 'Those were the Days' held by the Fund-raising team and for the highly successful Christmas Fair, also by the Fund-raising team.

We have provided wine and nibbles following the APCM, St. George's Day, St. Andrew's Dedication service, the Pentecost service, the 700th. Anniversary meeting and as usual the Lantern Procession and Carol and Crib services. We served sherry and simnel cake on Mothering Sunday this year.

Lunches were very successful on St. George's Day, the Lammas service (including our Mission Community and our friends at the Methodist church) the Confirmation Lunch and St. Andrew's Patronal service (both with Bishop Nick and our Mission Community). We hope to hold a lunch on St. George's Day this year.

We have also provided buffet lunches/teas following five funerals.

The Hospitality team has worked extremely hard, for which I am very grateful to everyone concerned. We could, however, do with more help at times, especially when several of our number are on holiday. If you have a little time to spare, and can help with tables and chairs, cake-making, preparing food, serving (or clearing up afterwards!) we would be delighted to see you. Please see me or give me a ring on 812879.

Refreshments after church

Charlie & Jane Outhwaite

We would like to thank all those willing people who provide coffee/tea and biscuits following the 11 o'clock service, especially those who have had to adapt to using the Hall kitchen. We are also grateful that most people arrange their own rota changes when not available to take their turn. Please keep up the good work, and if there is anyone else who would be willing to help, please let us know (phone no. 812879).

Choir/organists

Jo Innes-Lumsden

St Andrew's choir continues to lead the services, and the congregation often give positive feedback saying how much they enhance the services. It is thanks to all choir members continuing dedication that we are able to exist, but, as always, we do need more voices.

As well as singing in Ipplepen church, the choir is also invited to sing at the Mission Community annual Advent Carol Service in Woodland, and this year they will sing at the Palm Sunday service there as well. At the Christmas Carol service, the choir was, once again, augmented by friends from Torbay singers. They all say how much they enjoy this and are eager to be invited, so this year may see even more members coming.

Singing anthems is not always easy with so few members, but the choir does sing them at key services in the year, and new hymns are often sung during communion when most of the congregation is taking communion, and are able to hear something different.

The choir could not function without our two organists. Madeleine and Marilyn work on a rota system, and are able to cover nearly all of the services. We are very fortunate to have them since many churches do not have an organist at all.

Thank you to both the choir and the organists who bring inspiring music to our churches.

Bellringers

Colin Clark

We have had another busy year, ringing for every Sunday morning service, the maypole dancer's parade on Flower Show day, the lantern procession in November and five weddings. We rang for the 65th anniversary of the Queen's accession on 6th February, for her 90th birthday in April, and for her official birthday in June. We have had two visiting ringing teams this year.

Our two learners, Sophie Denning and Tim Ashman (Peter's son) have left us, hopefully only for a short while, (work commitments) and we now have another learner, Lynda Caunter, who is progressing very quickly.

The ringing chamber has been redecorated by the ringers, and it now looks very palatial. The old décor was looking somewhat tired. All we need now to complete the makeover is a new carpet.

I was concerned about the bells, namely the cill at the base of the louvered window by the sixth and seventh bells which was never, it appears, completed when the tower was built many years ago. When it rains against the window, water runs down onto the bell frame causing corrosion. However, this is now

being addressed by Mike Squire and myself, with concrete blocks kindly donated by Jim Bruce. We hope to finish this job in the near future.

We need to purchase two new ropes for the tenor and seventh bells. In the past we have used flax/hemp ropes, which are affected by the weather causing them to shrink or stretch. We have now decided to go for a pre-stretched polyester type rope which does not stretch or move with the weather. It is more expensive than hemp – roughly £150 each – but they last at least three times as long.

Flower Arrangers

Sheila Stacey

We are lucky as we have 20 willing flower arrangers at St Andrew's now. Each lady arranges and looks after the flowers for two weeks. We all get together three times a year for Easter, Harvest and Christmas festivals.

In addition we also arrange pedestals for Ascension Day, Remembrance Sunday and St Andrew's as well as the Advent Ring.

Unfortunately we are rarely asked to decorate the church for weddings. If you know of a couple planning their wedding please suggest to them that they ask us to decorate the church for them.

We are, of course, looking forward to filling the church with flowers for the 700th Anniversary in May 2018.

Church Cleaning

Charles Quartley

Which vacuum cleaner to use? This is one of the decisions the cleaners have to make each time they set to work. Personally, I am a "Henry" man, although it was reported recently that the tube had become blocked with needles from the Christmas tree. That has now been fixed!

Despite the church not being used for services at present due to the heating/boiler problem, it is surprising that there can still be a level of dust around, so the cleaners battle on regardless. As part of the heating system overhaul, the gratings are going to be cleaned out by the contractors - I wonder what treasures they will find amongst the debris.

Once again, more volunteers are always welcome and can be fitted in to the rota at any time during the year.

Church Hall

Shirley Northwood

It has been another successful year for St. Andrew's Church Hall, which sees a good number of regular bookings each week. These include yoga, 3 different pilates classes, Brownies and the village community choir. In addition, this year I have a new fitness class booked for every Thursday morning.

Children's birthday parties seem to be back in favour once more, as I have taken a lot of bookings throughout the year for these events, as well as bookings for some of the local club's meetings.

Naturally it is also used for a lot of church purposes to include Luncheon Club, Messy Church, coffee mornings, Lent courses and church meetings. There are of course then, sadly, funeral receptions held here, but whatever the event, it is good that the hall is such a welcome place for everyone to use. During the last few weeks, with the chilly winter weather, and the fact that the church is awaiting major heating improvements, the hall has become the venue for most church services.

As always, I would like to thank all the hirers of the hall throughout the year. My thanks also go to Rev. Peter for his support, and to the Churchwardens to whom I report all the bookings each week, and who

set the heating in the winter months to keep my hirers warm, and who take care of the booking diary when I have a holiday. Throughout the years I have been Booking Secretary I have established an easy system of booking, hirers collecting the keys, receiving their accounts and then their payments being made. Thank you to Roger, our Church Treasurer, who is always ready to receive all the monies I have collected.

With such a beautiful old building, which is kept well maintained with charming ambience, I trust that the coming financial year will be as successful as this last one.

The Beacon Magazine

Michael Price

The magazine continues to flourish and has been much appreciated judged from feedback from members throughout the Mission Community. Contributions from parishioners mean that we now regularly run to 24 pages.

I am grateful to Marilyn Clark our 'Ipplepen reporter'; thanks to all our regular and special contributors for their articles and to all who send photos.

Copies are available at the Post Office, the village "Hub" as well as the back of church. It is also available in larger print for those with sight problems and is available to read on line at www.missioncommunity.org.uk - useful for overseas readers.

Charles Quartley continues with great skill the layout combining the written material and art work to give The Beacon its professional look making it so attractive to open and read.

Rev. Peter gives massive support and enthusiasm. His proof reading skills are a complete joy for the editor. I am grateful to him that past numbers are available on line at the website.

The Mission Community web site has been revamped and is now regularly updated with valuable information of all Church activities and contact details for regular church members and visitors.

Messy Church

Linda Simmonds

Numbers attending Messy Church in 2016 remained steady though at a lower level than in our initial years. The pattern of a move to younger families has been maintained. Some of the older children who continue to attend have now started to help run activities. The younger families generally do not attend other church services but they have become regulars at Messy Church and join us when we run activities at other events such as in school or at the Cottage Garden Show.

As in previous years, we have actively encouraged all Messy Church families to join us for the children's services on Good Friday and Christmas Eve.

A Messy Church was again run on the Beacon in Broadhempston in 2016 and we hope that this will now be a regular event. We also hosted a Messy Church activity stall at the Summer Fayre at Ipplepen Primary School. Fundraising stalls at the Ipplepen Cottage Garden Show & at the Christmas Fayre at Ipplepen Primary School helped to raise funds as well as publicising Messy Church at those events. The challenges which faced Messy Church in 2016 continue to confront us as we look ahead into 2017. These challenges are:

Volunteers: The new team of catering volunteers is working well. We have simplified the meals on offer both to minimise cost and to make it easier for the volunteers. As mentioned above, some of the older children have started to run activities with guidance from Tessa. Although this has worked well so far, it does mean that these children are unable to take part in activities and it would therefore be preferable if we had more adult volunteers so that any younger volunteers can take part if they so wish.

Publicity: A number of new families joined in autumn 2016 as the new school year started, mainly due to a combination of efforts to publicise Messy Church more through Ipplepen School and word of mouth recommendations from existing Messy Church families. Numbers from the other Mission Community parishes remain low. The decision was made in 2016 to change the timing of Messy Church from the last Saturday to the second Saturday in the month. This was to minimise the number of Messy Churches that fall in the school holidays and half-terms. The change in dates was implemented from January 2017 and seems to have been popular with our families.

Activities for older children: The numbers of older children have reduced significantly over the course of 2016. A new approach is to be taken by the Mission Community outside the Messy Church format and this will focus on Year 6 children (ages 10-11) in their final year in primary school. Messy Church will refocus to ensure that we meet the needs of the younger children who are attending.

Finances: There continues to be no set charge for Messy Church. Donations towards the cost of the craft materials, the food and the heating & electricity used at the hall, are requested and generally fund between 50% & 75% of our costs. Messy Church families have also been very generous with donations towards our fundraising stalls as well as to the children's book & toy stall run at the Church Christmas Fayre which raised funds for the general church funds. Our thanks to the families for their donations and to the volunteers who helped run the stalls.

2017 will be another challenging year for Messy Church and we ask for your support, both practical and in your prayers, to enable us to keep Messy Church as a part of St Andrew's regular activities supporting our community.

Please talk to Tessa Amies or Linda Simmonds or come along to a Messy Church session on the second Saturday of the month to see what we do and if you can help.

Ipplepen Primary School

Amanda Lacey, Head of School

Since starting here at Ipplepen Primary in September 2016 we have been very busy. All the children, staff and a large proportion of the parents have visited the church to celebrate many events this year. In the Autumn term we held a celebration for harvest and the children and their families collected a large amount of foods to be donated to HITS.

We also held a very joyous service to celebrate Christmas, the finale of the service to everyone's delight was when the staff sang to the children and their parents. We rewrote the words to a very well-known song. In the spring term we held an Easter service. All of these services and celebrations have been very well attended and we hope this pattern can be continued into next year.

As well as the services Reverend Peter Ashman has visited the children at school and in each term he has lead a very interactive assembly for each key stage.

Our Eco councillors have attended the Remembrance Service and were part of the uniformed parade and laid a wreath to remember the fallen. We collected shoe boxes for charity and also educational equipment to support education in Honduras; representatives from school attended both of these church services.

Finally the church provided a fantastic Easter experience for the children in Year 6 and each child had positive comments about this. I know that the children have sent thank you letters but can I say how powerful this experience was. I know it was a lot of hard work and many people gave up their time but it was a very good experience – so thank you very much.

Ipplepen Primary has a busy 2 terms and next term looks to be as busy. We will continue to work with the local community and we have already planned to be involved in future community events.

Please look out for our art work at the Hub and in November we will be entering lanterns for the lantern procession. Next term Year 6 are going to be busy working on the tapestry and also towards the end of term they will again be involved with the community award and will be cleaning the church and clearing the grounds.

As Ipplepen is a village community school I believe it is very important that the school is central in the community, therefore we have been busy developing these links. If there are links which I have not begun to access please let me know. I strive to continue to develop strong community links and look forward to meeting you at village events.

At school we always welcome visitors and would love to have members of the church come in to hear readers or read their favourite story.

Footnote

The Rector

In this Annual Report you hopefully get a good idea of the breadth and number of activities at St. Andrew's and also of the very hard work that so many people put in to make it such a vibrant worshipping community.

I want to thank everyone who does so much, especially those who work tirelessly but often unseen, and to commend this report to you.

Special thanks to Michael Price and Roger Chamberlain who step down from their roles this year after such exceptional service, leaving the church in a very good heart and position to go forward.

Thank you for our partnership in the Gospel.

In Christ,

Peter.