



St. Andrew's Ipplepen - Annual Report 2015-16

Rector's Report

2015-2016 was a year more of consolidation than of change. The Beacon Parishes Mission Community has developed, grown and matured as many people have committed themselves to an organisation which helps us to share our strengths rather than threatens the individual identity of the parishes. The Mission Community newsletter, The Beacon, goes from strength to strength and helps keep everyone informed of what we are doing as does the website missioncommunity.org.uk which is frequently updated. Thanks to all involved in these ventures. Over the year I have seen a marked change in how our parishes relate to each other. There seems a greater willingness to share and travel and I have been very touched by people's generosity.

In our Mission Action Plan we took onboard Bishop Robert's priorities of Prayer, Discipleship and Serving the People of Devon with Joy. It will soon be time to review what progress we have made. I am heartened and impressed at the level of lay involvement in our services as we share the task of spreading the Good News. Especially popular services are the Lenten Compline Service in Ipplepen and Stations of the Cross in Denbury. Midweek Communion services are also well-attended. In addition to our annual Lent course we added two quiet days for people to explore their spirituality away from the busyness of parish life and we will do the same again this year. This year we will support the Archbishops' initiative to come together in prayer during the nine days leading up to Pentecost. Do join us – it might change your life.

We continue to encourage new disciples. Baptism ministry was extended to include members of the laity in some of our churches assisting me in preparing couples for this special service. We have successfully incorporated baptisms more within the main Sunday services. I hope to extend our work to post-funeral support and would welcome volunteers to help me.

Once again last year we held a Mission Community Confirmation service at which 6 people, young and less so, made their commitment to Christ in the presence of another packed church. It was a beautiful and, yet again, inspiring occasion. Sadly we follow the pattern of many churches that the youngsters are rarely to be seen after the service; but we should not despair as they will almost certainly come back when they need the ministry that the church offers. There will be another service this September in Ipplepen.

The Pastoral Care Team was finally commissioned at Ipplepen's Patronal Festival in December. So much good work goes on in the parishes and communication is so important to ensure we maximise the effect.

Over the year the various churches have contributed to charities as part of our own missional work. Especially important has been the local food bank, Homeless in Teignbridge Support.

As usual a lot of work is undertaken by teams of people in church, the churchyard and the bell tower – thanks to all of them for their dedication and service. It is getting harder to find volunteers so please help where you can or suggest ways

in which we might be more efficient in our efforts.

I commend this Annual Report to you. Thank you to contributors and to all those involved in our churches. May God bless you in all that you do and are.

In Christ, Peter
Easter 2, 2016

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Churchwardens' Report

St Andrew's has not stood still! Change and progress has been occurring in many ways; the structure of the church facilities, church members have been baptised and confirmed, new ministries of Pastoral care and Baptism have been prayed about, people trained and commissioned whilst the daily and weekly ministry of clergy and people has continued.

Since the last APCM the Lady Chapel has been given new life as a beautiful prayerful place with a candle stand that has been well used both by parishioners and visitors. It has proved useful for small group meetings – those preparing for weddings or baptisms to name but two. The purchase ultimately of new chairs will complete the transformation when the necessary permission is finally obtained. An eye opener for the Wardens...

Refurbishing the wood floor in the nave was a 'magnum opus' during the late summer. Many thanks to the strong men of St. Andrew's for lifting out, moving and finally replacing the pews in time for Remembrance Sunday. In the meantime we have moved pews on a temporary basis to allow for space to be used more effectively for social meeting at the back of church and for children to be involved in greater comfort at Christmas and Good Friday at the front.

At the same time the lighting and sound system has been updated. All this completed for "the big clean up" in October when so many lent a hand to rid the church of dust and cobwebs. Our thanks to all of you who helped.

We have a major problem with the old boilers which are now beyond economic repair and must be replaced. We have sought advice from the Diocese and are actively seeking quotations for this major replacement the cost of which is likely to be substantial.

Our newer services introduced in 2013 continue. The lay led service on the fourth Sunday has been supported by some forty members in the congregation. We have been fortunate to have had much unstinting help from visiting Readers who give an Address and lead the Intercessions. The lay led services on the fourth Sunday of the month have been well supported and the Lent Compline is again lay led. The monthly evening Communion Service continues on the first Tuesday of the month supported by a small but loyal group who have enjoyed time together afterwards in the Wellington.

The Rector organised two Quiet days which will be repeated again this coming year. There was a stimulating Advent course on Christian ethics and lively discussion of contemporary issues from a Christian perspective. The Lent course based on the film "The King's Speech" is in progress as we write.

There are so many opportunities offered in our parish. We are grateful to our deputy wardens for their invaluable help in organising and support for us particularly with the Posada, Compline and church reading organisation.

As churchwardens we have had enormous support from the congregation in many ways. We are very grateful to the PCC members and so many of you without whom life would be much more arduous!

To all, thank you.

But there are concerns:

Numbers slowly decrease over the years. Whilst God loves a small church it is likely to be an increasing challenge to find willing members to take over lay roles. It is in some ways a relief that this issue is shared with churches nationally but we may need to think and pray how in the longer term we change to address these issues. We suspect that the formation of our Beacon Mission Community may hold the way with more pooling of our resources. In addition there is need to give more thought and prayer to our stewardship.

We thank Peter our priest for his care, concern, prayer and vision. Both as a parish and part of the mission community we are greatly blessed.

Michael Price & Geraldine Dennis

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PCC Financial Report

Main Fund

Regular giving is our only source of income received reasonably consistently throughout the year, and this declined slightly in 2015. Amounts of other income are outside our control (e.g. fees payable for funerals and weddings). Expenditure has shown an increase when compared with the previous year.

We have a deficit on the main PCC Account of £6,645 for 2015 from ordinary activities.

As reported last year, in early 2015 the PCC invested £40,000 of the legacy left by the late Roger Griffiths for income and long-term capital growth potential, accepting that the value of this capital will fluctuate depending on the investment climate, being largely invested in Stocks and Shares through the CBF Investment Fund.

We shall see a welcome decrease in our parochial share of the Diocesan Common Fund to £40102 in 2016. (2015 £42,605).

Fabric Fund

The annual Gift Day appeal raised £4,988 by year end (2014 £3730). Expenditure included repairs to the church flooring totalling £14,399, repairs to render and to the fabric of the church totalling over £8,000, and £2,277 on upgrading the

audio system. The net deficit at year end was £13,636 (2015 deficit £90). The fabric fund's accounts and investments have until now been sufficient to enable the PCC to continue to maintain the church building to a high standard. Fuller details of activities are in Stephen Bryant's report. In early 2016 the PCC started obtaining quotes to replace the church boilers.

Reserves

As at 31 December 2015, the main unrestricted PCC fund has reserves at cost of £105,477 and the fabric fund has reserves at cost of £32,891. In addition, there are various restricted funds which are detailed in the Accounts, including a 'Million for Mission' fund of 1,088 held by the PCC on behalf of the Mission Community. It should be noted that at the present pattern of expenditure this fund will be exhausted at some time during 2016.

Total reserves held are £140,958 (2014 £165,388). 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, again achieved in 2015. 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. Despite the depletion of funds seen in 2015 the PCC Accounts are still in fairly good shape, especially when compared to many other parishes. However, as I have detailed above, the deficits on both our main funds have been significantly higher than in previous years.

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. A separate sub committee meets when needed. Day to day administration is delegated to Mrs Shirley Northwood, bookings secretary. A highlight of 2015 was redecorating at a cost of £1,300.00. Looking ahead, with increasing needs, the present cooker may be replaced by a more commercial one in 2016.

Roger Chamberlain

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Secretary's Report

We have had 3 PCC Standing Committee Meetings; 4 PCC meetings and 2 joint PCC meetings with those from the other parishes in the Beacon since our APCM in 2015. The first joint meeting was to discuss the Baptism Ministry Team and the wider issues of a rural ministry and the second was to discuss the Parish Giving Scheme and Stewardship. It is always good to get together with the other parishes and share ideas and help each other out.

The format of standing committee meetings before PCC seems to be working well and although there are more meetings for Wardens, Treasurer, Secretary and Rector, the meetings are generally shorter.

From my perspective we (the PCC) work well as a team and my thanks must go to everyone for their patience when I

make mistakes and to the Rector for his patience with my computer skills. Unfortunately our computer is somewhat elderly but watch this space – we may be updating it!! I would also like to thank Richard Innes-Lumsden for doing the road closure paperwork for Remembrance Sunday and for all the photocopying he does.

Vanessa Bevan

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Safeguarding

The use of the computer system is well established and proceeding smoothly, in spite of personnel changes within the Exeter Diocese during the year. Jacques Ward, the Archdeacon of Barnstaple's Secretary, is now coordinating the computerised Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

The policy contained within the Legislation with regard to the categories of person requiring DBS checking has been complied with and only persons involved with Children and Vulnerable Adults need DBS checking. Applications for the Benefice Pastoral Care Team were processed. Eight people in St. Andrews, Ipplepen and three people in each of the Parishes of St. Mary the Virgin, Denbury, Ss. Peter and Paul, Broadhempston and St. John the Baptist, Woodland.

A Mission Community Safeguarding Policy document has been finalised by the Rector and adopted by all the parishes.

Carol Robinson

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Baptism Ministry Team

The Baptism Ministry team is a Mission Community ministry. We welcome any member of the congregations of our four churches to join us. Indeed at present we are only four members in total.

We have met over several occasions over the past eighteen months and presented an interim report of our progress to a joint meeting of all PCCs in July 2015.

These days Baptism tends to focus on the social aspects rather than the religious significance. The group is recommending and operating a system whereby families are prepared for Baptism.

People are prepared for Confirmation, why not for Baptism? The process involves lay people meeting with the families to discuss the religious significance and practicalities of the service.. This is an attempt to reach out and make people feel welcome. The group is considering the best way to "follow up" the Baptism in the hope of keeping the family in contact with the Church.

Here is a summary of our present approach in explanation and preparation for potential parents:-

One of Jesus' last commands to his followers was 'Go and baptise' and ever since then infant baptism has been the way

of entering into the Christian '**family**'. It is a service full of signs and symbols; amongst them the giving of a lighted candle and the threefold pouring of water as the priest says: '**I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**' So it is that the child's name is spoken in the same breath as the name of God.

There are many reasons why people bring children for baptism, ranging from a wish to give thanks for a safe birth and a new life, to 'granny thinks we ought to', to a hard-to-explain feeling that it is simply the right thing to do. The church takes these and other reasons seriously and respects them, whilst wishing also to affirm its views of baptism as a '**new birth**' into a new relationship with God.

Baptism (literally '**washing**') requires faith (trust in God as shown in Jesus) and a commitment to try and lead a Christian life. When an infant is baptised, promises of this faith and commitment are made on behalf of the baby by the parents and godparents.

In this way they are a living sign of the Christian belief that God loves us before we love God.

We are all used to water as something vital to life; both to quench thirst and to wash in. These meanings are experienced in fresh ways in the baptism service when set alongside the Biblical understanding of water. This is true also of '**light**', another essential for life and growth, but also having the meaning of living well by following the '**light of the world**' Jesus Christ.

Baptism will usually take place within the main Sunday communion service of the church, when the local community can be there to welcome the child. Children over the age of ten are normally expected to be baptised at the same time as they are confirmed if they have not been baptised in infancy.

Present members from St. Andrew's:
Donna Northwood, Jo Innes Lumsden and Michael Price

Michael Price

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Electoral Roll

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 still 97 (2014 - 97).

Sheila Stacey

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Pastoral Care Team Report

In January 2015 a small group of people from each of the Beacon Parishes met for training by Rev Ann Burden and Rev Gordon Kendall in order to form a Pastoral Care Team. There are five people in Ipplepen, who were commissioned by the Rector at the end of the year.

Members of the team are available to offer visits and confidential support, and a listening ear, to members of the congregation when needed. This is extended, where appropriate, to the wider community, working alongside the clergy. All have had an enhanced DBS check as part of the "Safer Recruiting" policy.

This is a new project which it is hoped will act as a 'safety net' for anyone who may find themselves going through difficult times and in need of support, and not knowing quite who to turn to.

Anyone who needs support themselves, or knows someone who does, is invited to contact Vanessa Bevan on 01803-812812.

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Server's Report

Peter Gage has continued to serve faithfully at all our Eucharistic services. He is aided by Steve Bassett and Mike Bray from Denbury when we have Mission Community services.

The server ministry is important and greatly appreciated.

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Sidespeople

Elected sides people for 2015-2016 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.

New sides people who joined during the year are: Ann Bowman, Doreen Dale and Shirley Northwood.

A meeting was held on August 12th 2015. Health and safety issues and emergency drill in the event of fire were explained and discussed. Since last year torches had been placed in the vestry, tower, back of church and in the hymn cupboard. Some have gone missing and replaced.

First Aid boxes are in the vestry and in the cupboard by the South door. There is a CPR mask in vestry.

There is a new H&E manual and a new Guide to the Church which were brought to members' attention.

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

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

Geraldine Dennis & Michael Price, Wardens

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Sacristy Report

We have nine people helping with the Vestry - one person resigned last year, but we are very pleased to welcome Ann Holroyd and Helen Parr to our team.

As we all do two weeks at a time, working in pairs, the task of looking after the Vestry does not come around too often. However, more volunteers are always welcome.

I think we all feel it is a great privilege to be able to do this work, often 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.

Winnie Bryant

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Church choir report

St Andrew's choir continues to thrive and support all the church services in spite of the fact that some members have not enjoyed good health this year. It is thanks to everyone's continued dedication that we are able to exist. As always it is paramount that new members are encouraged if the choir is to move forward.

We have been able to sing anthems at all the key services this year including the Lent Prose and the sung version of The Lord's Prayer.

The Advent Carol Service at Woodland is now definitely on our calendar and, again, the choir led the singing and performed an anthem. The addition of ginger wine and mince pies followed by Woodland hospitality marks the beginning of the festive season for us.

At Christmas the Carol Service music was enhanced by the addition of several friends to the choir who are beginning to make this an annual event. We are also fortunate to have Tom Morris join us on occasions to sing and accompany us on his guitar, and we do thank him. It would be good to have other instrumentalists to join him.

Over the year we have learnt quite a few new hymns from the new hymn book. These are introduced gradually over each month and it is hoped that the congregation will grow to know and love them as we move forward in service and praise.

St Andrew's is fortunate to have two talented organists who play for services. They work to a rota which also includes weddings and funerals. Their contribution is extremely valuable and we thank them both for all their hard work.

Jo Innes-Lumsden

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The Office

Since January 2014 Richard Innes-Lumsden has taken on the roll of ... well, I'm not sure what we should call it. Richard has taken on the mammoth task of printing all the fliers, leaflets, posters and orders of service that the Rector needs for the Mission Community. Richard says, "I do the printing on a

voluntary basis. Peter emails me asking me to do some printing for the churches. I do it. Sometimes very busy, sometimes little to do" but that does not show the extent of the commitment and sheer volume of work. And it is not just the printing but the stapling and folding that can take hours to complete. I am very grateful for this important ministry.

The Rector

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The Beacon

The Beacon magazine continues to flourish and has been much appreciated judged from feedback from members throughout the Mission Community. Contributions from parishioners mean that we ran to 24 pages in the February-March edition.

Thanks to our regular and special contributors for their articles and to all who send photos.

Copies are now also left at the Post Office, the village "Hub" and the local pub. It is also available in larger print for those with sight problems and is also available to read on line at www.missioncommunity.org.uk.

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.

Michael Price, Editor.

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Churchyard Report

The committee met informally at monthly Working Parties. The Rector has checked 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. Staff of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission have cleaned their headstones and memorial plaque. They have also relocated one headstone at the request of family members.

The churchyard is nearly full and, apart from reserved grave spaces, room for future burials is probably limited to 2016. Teignbridge Council have confirmed that we have planning approvals for burials in the field (and separate strip of land below it) behind the church hall.

During the next year we must decide 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 consideration and some inevitable expense.

We are grateful to the band of volunteers who have again helped David Fey cut the grass and laurel hedge and remove fallen debris from the trees. This helps ensure that our churchyard is one of the best kept in the area. Gerald Maunder has regularly cleared weeds from the areas for

cremated remains, but since being taken ill is unable to do so. We acknowledge all his efforts in past years.

Stephen Bryant

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Fabric

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

The major item of work this year has been removing the pews in the centre part of the church and relaying the parquet floor on a level damp-proof base. All the pews, minus one row, have been replaced and been fixed to the floor with small brass brackets. Mr Rosenberg made expert alterations and repairs to panelling in front of the front pews.

The contractor, Mr Bell, made a very satisfactory job of refitting the parquet floor. However, the work of removing, replacing and re-fixing the pews, and repairing the floor tiling, was all carried out by the working party plus a number of very willing volunteers. Church cleaners also worked hard afterwards to remove all traces of dust and dirt. The PCC is grateful to them all for their untiring assistance which has saved the church a great deal of expense.

Tracery in the windows needs expert repair and this can be done gradually over the next few years as funds are available.

Stones in the hood moulding over the south porch have been replaced and drainage has been added beneath the doors to prevent storm water blowing in.

Work on the belfry louvres has been finished with a complete set of new louvres on the east side.

All the metal work on the outside of the church and lychgates (rainwater gutters, down pipes and light brackets) has been repainted.

The central heating boiler is in 3 working sections, each firing up as heat is needed. The top section is no longer working, and parts for the others are becoming difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. The PCC will need to consider replacing the boiler before next winter.

We as always grateful to a small working party, organised each month by Mr John Tuckett, which has carried out small maintenance jobs throughout the year, on the church, hall and churchyard. In particular they spent many hours replacing the tiles which had been removed or damaged when the parquet flooring was re-laid.

Stephen Bryant

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Bellringers

We have had yet another busy year, ringing for every Sunday morning service, the lantern procession, the maypole dancers' parade on Flower Show Day, the anniversary of V.E. Day and only one wedding.

We are planning to ring for the Queen's 90th birthday and for the Picnic in the Park on the same day.

We have had only two visiting ringing teams so far this year.

Our two trainee ringers, Drew Duncan and Jim Bruce, have progressed very well, and are a very welcome asset to our team. Two more learners have joined our team – Sophie Denning and Tim Ashman (Peter's son) and they are making steady progress. We appear to have lost Alison, but Victoria Wheal and Jazz Austin are now working locally after finishing their studies at University, and join us when work permits. We have a total of twenty ringers, but rarely if ever, have they all turned up at once – it might happen!

There are plans afoot to give the ringing chamber a make-over and generally spruce it up a bit.

There is a problem giving me some concert up among the bells, namely the cill at the base of the louvered window by the sixth and seventh bells was never, it appears, to have been completed when the tower was built many years ago. When it rains against the window, water runs down onto the bell frame causing corrosion. This needs to be addressed before part of the frame has to be replaced. All the other windows have cills which slope outwards allowing the rain to run outside.

Colin Clark

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Stewardship Committee

In 2015 the Standing Committee continued to be responsible for the allocation of the funds available for St Andrew's Church's annual giving and the Stewardship Committee did not meet as a separate committee. 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.

2015 has been a difficult year for St Andrew's financially as our income has fallen and our costs have risen, leading to a deficit for the year as detailed in the Treasurer's Report. It has been several years since a stewardship campaign has been run and in order to improve the financial position it is becoming more urgent that our stewardship is reviewed. As part of this work, the joint PCC for the Mission Community met in November 2015 to listen to a presentation on the Parish Giving Scheme. Under this scheme members who join will 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. This will improve cash flow significantly. If you wish you can authorise your donations to be index-linked to save you the trouble of remembering when to review your giving. If your circumstances change, the level of donations can be increased or reduced easily by contacting the scheme

administrators. Acknowledgement letters will be sent out each year so that givers can see the record of their donations. All transactions are treated as confidential and givers can choose to be anonymous if they wish. All costs of running the scheme are being met by the diocese which is supporting all parishes who wish to implement it.

St Andrew's Church, Ipplepen has decided to adopt the scheme and it is clear that its implementation will not only hopefully help us improve the financial position, especially with cash flow, but will also provide the finance team with additional support to ease their administrative burden which is considerable. If you are interested in using the Parish Giving Scheme for your donations please contact Roger Chamberlain who is the Project Leader. Roger will also be talking about the scheme at the APCM so if you have any questions please come to the meeting to discuss these with him.

Linda Simmonds

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Messy Church Report

2015 saw a further slight decline in the numbers attending Messy Church on a regular basis. Several of those who have moved on had older children so once again our focus has been on the younger families. A number of new families have joined us but not sufficient to replace those who have left or started to come less frequently.

As in previous years, most families attending Messy Church do not regularly come to the main services at any of our Mission Community churches but have chosen Messy Church as their way of worshipping and helping their children to learn about our faith. Several families do now attend our children's services on Good Friday and Christmas Eve. In 2015 we held our first Messy Church in Broadhempston on the Beacon. Those that attended really enjoyed a different style of Messy Church and the plan is to repeat this in 2016. We also hosted Messy Church stalls at the Summer & Christmas Fayres at Ipplepen Primary School and used these as ways to meet new families. Tessa again ran a stall at the Ipplepen Cottage Garden Show.

Looking ahead to 2016, Messy Church continues to face several challenges:

- **How to expand our team of volunteers?** Our wonderful team started with us back in 2011 and we could not run Messy Church without them. However, if we had more people to help out with crafts then it would help with holidays and illness. Our new team of catering volunteers have done a great job in 2015 with a rota so that each person also gets a chance to join in the crafts regularly.
- **How to attract new families?** We still face a challenge of improving the number of families who come to Messy Church from the other Mission Community parishes and making sure that we keep attracting new families from Ipplepen as well. Anyone with contacts with families in the parishes or a flair for PR please contact Linda or Tessa!
- **How to provide inspiration for the older children?** We need to develop different activities designed to keep the

older children interested and motivated to keep coming to Messy Church. Alternatively we need to develop a new provision for these children beyond Messy Church. Anyone with ideas for this such as drama or music activities please get in touch.

- **How to keep Messy Church going financially?**

There is no charge for Messy Church and, although we ask for donations towards the cost of the craft materials, the food and the heating & electricity used at the hall, these do not usually cover our costs. As numbers have fallen this problem has been exacerbated. Fundraising ideas such as the toy stall at the school Christmas Fayre, the wonderful paintings by Huguette Standish and the second-hand stall at the Cottage Garden Show have all generated some income but not enough to plug the gap. As a result we continue to be subsidised by the Million for Mission grant provided by the Diocese to the Mission Community. These grant monies are now coming to an end, so we urgently need volunteers to organise further fund-raising activities to help keep Messy Church going without being a drain on church finances.

Please help us to keep Messy Church a part of St Andrew's regular activities supporting our community. Messy Church as we have it now is the result of much hard work by many volunteers, particularly Tessa Amies who devises all the craft activities. We would love it to carry on for many more years and go from strength to strength but we need more people to join us to achieve this. **Please talk to Tessa Amies or Linda Simmonds about what you might be able to do for Messy Church or come along to a Messy Church session on the last Saturday of the month to see what we do and if you can help.**

Linda Simmonds

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Sunday Club Report

Unfortunately in 2015 Sunday Club has not managed to continue at the level achieved in 2014. This was due to a number of factors but key among them is the need for a volunteer coordinator to arrange the rotas and themes and volunteers who are happy both to plan and to run sessions. Numbers of children attending also reduced so further publicity is needed. The timing of Sunday Club also needs reconsidering as there have been a number of occasions when it has clashed with other Mission Community events. It is hoped that in 2016, Sunday Club can be revived and brought back in its original planned format:

- the aim is to offer families, in particular those who attend Messy Church, another family friendly point of access to the church community and to help the children (and their parents) grow in their faith and, hopefully, move towards confirmation;
- it is important that the children and parents understand that the Eucharist is at the heart of our worship so Sunday Club is held on a Sunday when there is a communion service;
- the Sunday Club activity is only for about half an hour during the first half of the service and the children return to church after intercessions and before the Peace so

that they will be present during the consecration and communion parts of the service;

- although parents are welcome to come to Sunday Club with their children, the aim is that parents feel comfortable staying in church for the whole service while the children attend Sunday Club;
- during Sunday Club the children listen to a story from the Bible, often linked to the readings for that Sunday's church service in the lectionary, then join in an activity or craft based on the story or on a related theme;
- we try to encourage the children to think about the meaning of the stories and how they relate to our lives now;
- once the craft activity is completed we rejoin the church service and often the children have a chance to show the congregation what they have created;
- after returning to church the children can join their parents but we encourage them to sit together at the front of the church so that they can see as much of the service as possible and the Sunday Club helpers take them up for a blessing during communion.

If you feel that you could help us with Sunday Club please get in touch with Linda Simmonds.

Linda Simmonds

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Hospitality Report

During The past year we have held several lunches: for Trinity, during August, for Harvest, St. Andrew's Day and Valentine's Day. We plan to hold another on April 24th to celebrate St. George's Day and the Queen's 90th birthday. All of the lunches have been well attended.

There have been several coffee mornings which as in previous years have not been well attended but which have been enjoyed by those who have supported them. We plan a further one on April 9th.

The Lantern Procession at the end of November was very popular, when we provided mulled wine and mince pies, as we did after the Carol service.

We have provided two funeral receptions which we are happy to do for our church family, and which were well received.

I am very grateful for the willing help which is always available from the Hospitality team. We would be very pleased to welcome anyone wishing to join us, whether it is to help with preparing, cooking or serving food, cake-making or setting up tables.

Jane Outhwaite

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Refreshments in Church

Grateful thanks to all those willing people on the rota who provide coffee/ tea and biscuits after our 11.0 a.m. service every week. This is a great opportunity for our church family to get to know each other better, and to welcome new

members and visitors. The more people who do this, the easier it is, so we would welcome anyone who wishes to contribute in this way.

Charlie Outhwaite

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Church Cleaning

There is something quite therapeutic about cleaning the church, and a feeling of a job well done and being in a building that feels loved. It also makes me think of all the people over the centuries who have been doing the cleaning, and what about when they didn't have vacuum cleaners, dusters and spray polish? Just think of the mud and whatever else the congregation brought in on their boots!

Much easier for us now of course, and the biggest issue is probably scraping candle wax off the floor after the Christmas services.

This year we did have a special clean-up after the new floors were laid – there was residual dust everywhere, even on the candelabra – but many hands make light work etc...

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

Charles Quartley

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Church Hall

I can hardly believe that a year has gone by since I was last sitting to write this report to you as Booking Secretary of St. Andrews Church Hall. A year in which the hall has been re-decorated and new wall lights installed. Both improvements serve to keep the hall in a good state of repair, and certainly adds to the ambience, making it, as so many people tell me, a very friendly and welcome place for parishioners to use.

As in past years we have our regular hirers for activities such as yoga, pilates, Brownies and choir practice, and of course it is always used for our own Church purposes to include Sunday Club, Luncheon Club, Messy Church, Coffee mornings, Lent courses and Church meetings and events.

We still get bookings for birthday parties, and sadly, funeral receptions too. This year has also seen a few businesses use the hall for meetings. I am always pleased to take new bookings, although on one occasion this year one company asked to pay their account by BACS. For those of you who may be as confused as I was, this is a means of being able to pay the fee direct into our Bank account. Thanks to the help of Roger Chamberlain, our Church Treasurer, I was able to learn and implement this procedure – which goes to prove no-one is ever too old to learn, and it has brought me into the 21st century way of banking!

Sadly, at the end of 2015 we lost one of our regular bookings as David Bourne, the leader of the band Classic Breeze lost his long battle with cancer. Classic Breeze had been practising in the hall every Friday night for over 30 years. I miss my regular "chats" with David when he came to

collect the keys or pay his accounts. So, I felt I must say, on behalf of us all, a big thank you to David for all those years of support to our hall, and our loss is certainly Heaven's gain with such a talented musician. (R.I.P.)

To conclude, as always, I would like to thank all the hirers of the hall throughout the year, and for the support of Rev. Peter and the Churchwardens to whom I report all the bookings each week. Thank you to Roger to whom I pay all the monies collected by me. Special thanks to Geraldine, who took care of the bookings when I had holidays and to Michael and others, especially in the winter months, for setting the appropriate heating to keep my hirers warm.

Shirley Northwood.

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Food for Thought Lunch Club or Food, Friendship Tender Loving Care

We are well into our eighth year and going strong!

Many of our original guests still attend, and we have a lady who is nearly 100, one who is 100 and one heading for 104 years of age! We have an average of 36 guests each month.

We now have three kitchen teams so, in theory, they should only work once in 3 months. We are still aiming to recruit additional spudbashers and waitresses. As any organisation knows, people are not forming a queue or dropping out of trees to volunteer. I think there is some merit in press-ganging, then I am reminded that this is the Lord's work and thus not a good idea.

As ever, I am indebted to everyone who serves in any capacity, whether as a telephoner, in the kitchen or driving. With increasing frailty amongst our guests and the use of wheeled "walkers", the transport needs can be quite challenging! The narrowness of the lane precludes the use of large vehicles and so we often have one car, one driver, one passenger. It must be said that our drivers are blessed with remarkable patience!

Thank you to Richard who prints our menus, and to all who provide a few moments "Pause for Thought".

Seona A. Wilson

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Ipplepen Primary School

The church continues to be a valued resource for the school. It is a place where the school can come together to celebrate events in the Christian Calendar, and festivals linked to the rural community in which we are both located.

This academic year we were unable to use the church for our Harvest as the floor was being refurbished, so the church, in the form of the Rev Ashman came to us. We would like to thank him for his contribution to our service. The Rev Ashman has also attended school to work with children in Year 5 on factual aspects of the Christian Religion

to help improve their understanding. This work is linked to the Devon Agreed Syllabus.

Our Year 3 have also visited the church to discover how Christians pray and to look at the layout of the Church and study religious symbols.

The Rev Ashman has continued to come into school for events such as our end of term assembly where he has handed out small farewell gifts to the children, which have been funded by the church.

As we have four new members of teaching staff here I am hopeful that new and innovative ways to use the resources of the church will be planned. I would like the children to see the Church as relevant, meaningful and linked to their personal experiences of growing up in the village.

Helen Tate, Head.

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Flower Arrangers' Report

We have arranged flowers for the three festivals as usual – Easter, Harvest and Christmas. We have also arranged pedestals for Ascension Day, Remembrance Sunday, and St Andrew's Day.

We have a rota to ensure there are flowers in the church throughout the year except during Lent. All of the flower ladies have this responsibility for two weeks of the year. They arrange the flowers, which they have donated, and look after them until the next lady takes over.

We love to decorate the church for weddings but unfortunately we have not been asked to arrange wedding flowers this year. If a member of your family is getting married or you know someone who is planning a wedding, please suggest to them that they ask us to decorate the church.

If anyone would like to sponsor a flower arrangement for an anniversary or in memory of a loved one, please let us know.

Sheila Stacey

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Newton Abbot and Ipplepen Deanery Synod

Three meetings were arranged for the year 2015. The first was held on March 5th and it mentioned the launch of a New Parish Giving Scheme. There was no report about the General Synod as The Ven. Dettmer could not attend the deanery meeting. The Joint Chairs' Report listed six points that came from the November 2014 meeting which discussed ways to make a more dynamic Deanery Synod. These included:-

1. The Spring Meeting (no.1) and the Autumn meeting (no.3) are scheduled after Diocesan and General Synod meetings so that representatives can report back and issues raised can be discussed.
2. The Summer meeting (no. 2) unless there is no pressing business, the Deanery Synod would meet as

a worship group. It was suggested and agreed that the new Archdeacon of Totnes the Ven. D. Dettmer is invited to speak.

3. Synods 1 and 3 would include reports from Mission Communities and Parishes regarding problems they face and discuss these issues to seek solutions.
4. To invite outside speakers who can bring expertise on topics arising from developments in the Diocese which are related to the concerns of this Deanery.
5. Small group work would be a more common feature where views are to be shared with the group and then with the deanery synod.
6. Select venues that are more suitable meeting places which have better facilities.

The Summer meeting was held at St. Mary's Abbotsbury and a talk was given by the Ven. Dettmer. The Autumn meeting in November was cancelled as very few people were able to attend due to there being a gas leak at the Penn Inn roundabout and traffic was at a standstill. Sue was one of the few who made the meeting.

Madeleine Fedrick and Sue Hird

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