The Parish of

St Mary the Virgin, Welwyn,   
with St Michael and All Angels,

Woolmer Green





Annual Parochial

Church Meeting

(APCM)

Wednesday 3rd April 2019

In Church House

Holy Communion – 7.15pm

Meeting Commences – 8.00pm

**Contents**

[Notice of a Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens 4](#_Toc4663869)

[Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 4](#_Toc4663870)

[Closing Prayers 4](#_Toc4663871)

[Refreshments, followed by a talk. 4](#_Toc4663872)

[Primary Reports 5](#_Toc4663873)

[Team Rector’s Report 5](#_Toc4663874)

[PCC Secretary Report 5](#_Toc4663875)

[Deanery Synod Report 5](#_Toc4663876)

[Team Council Report 6](#_Toc4663877)

[St Mary’s Fabric Report 6](#_Toc4663878)

[St Mary’s Safeguarding Report 7](#_Toc4663879)

[St Michael’s Church Report 7](#_Toc4663880)

[Secondary Reports 8](#_Toc4663881)

[Bible Discovery 8](#_Toc4663882)

[Bible Breakfast Study 8](#_Toc4663883)

[Bookstall 8](#_Toc4663884)

[Community Café 9](#_Toc4663885)

[Community Lunch 9](#_Toc4663886)

[Christian Aid Week 2018 9](#_Toc4663887)

[Church House 9](#_Toc4663888)

[Church Women’s Fellowship 10](#_Toc4663889)

[Fairtrade 10](#_Toc4663890)

[Giving Action Group 11](#_Toc4663891)

[Lent Courses 12](#_Toc4663892)

[Parish Easter and Christmas Cards 12](#_Toc4663893)

[St Mary’s Bellringers 12](#_Toc4663894)

[St Mary’s Cleaning Team 12](#_Toc4663895)

[St Mary’s Evening Book Group 12](#_Toc4663896)

[St Mary’s Flower Team 13](#_Toc4663897)

[St Mary’s Handbell Ringers (‘The Arpeggios’) 13](#_Toc4663898)

[St Mary’s Music 13](#_Toc4663899)

[St Mary’s Parish Prayers 15](#_Toc4663900)

[St Mary’s Ringing Band 15](#_Toc4663901)

[St Mary’s Sunday Morning Refreshments 15](#_Toc4663902)

[St Mary’s Theatre Group 15](#_Toc4663903)

[St Mary’s Walking Group 16](#_Toc4663904)

[St Mary’s Welcome Team 16](#_Toc4663905)

[St Michael’s After School Club 16](#_Toc4663906)

[St Michael’s Junior Church 17](#_Toc4663907)

[St Michael’s Mother’s Union 17](#_Toc4663908)

[Website and Social Media 17](#_Toc4663909)

[Welwyn Magazine 17](#_Toc4663910)

[Youth Action Group 18](#_Toc4663911)

[APPENDIX 1 – Draft Minutes of the 2018 APCM 19](#_Toc4663912)

# **Notice of a Meeting for the Election of Churchwardens**

**A meeting of parishioners for the election of Churchwardens will be held on Wednesday 3 April 2018 at 8.00pm in Church House.**

**AGENDA**

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| **1.** | **Opening prayer** |
| **2.** | **Minutes of the meeting held on the 18 April 2018** |
| **3.** | **Election of churchwardens** |

# **Notice of Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on Wednesday 3 April 2018 at 8.00pm following the meeting for the Election of Churchwardens in Church House at 8.00pm.**

**Agenda**

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| **1.** | **Chairman’s welcome and opening remarks** |
| **2.** | **Attendance List and Apologies for Absence** |
| **3.** | **Minutes of APCM held on 18 April 2018** |
| **4.** | **Matters arising** |

**Elections**

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| **5.** | **Assistant Churchwardens for St Mary’s and St Michael’s** |
| **6.** | **Lay members to the Parochial Church Council** |
| **7.** | **Side persons** |
| **8** | **Independent Examiner** |

**Presentation of Annual Reports**

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| **9** | **The Financial affairs of the Parish (see accounts)** |
| **10.** | **PCC Report** |
| **11.** | **Deanery Synod Report** |
| **12.** | **Team Council Report** |
| **13.** | **St Mary’s Fabric Report** |
| **14.** | **St Mary’s Safeguarding Report** |
| **15.** | **St Michael’s Church Report** |
| **16** | **Team Rector’s report (to be read)** |
| **17.** | **Other reports** |

**17. Any other business**

**Closing Prayers**

**Refreshments, followed by a talk on the work of the Whitechapel Mission**

**Notes relating to the 2019 Parochial Church Council**

Candidates nominated for election to the Parochial Church Council must:

1. be on the Electoral Roll
2. be 16 years of age or upwards
3. have communicated at least three times in the past year

It is the practice in this Parish:

1. to obtain the express consent of the candidate
2. to complete a nomination form, signed by the proposer and seconder

# Primary Reports

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| Team Rector’s Report – *The Rev’d Dr David Munchin*  *This will be read aloud; copies to be made available at the meeting.* |
| PCC Secretary Report – *Daniel Holroyd-Thomas*  The PCC met six times within the last year, at bi-monthly intervals after the date of the last APCM. The PCC has met to discuss issues which have arisen during the year, and approved nominations for school governor positions, amongst other things. Please contact me if you have any issues related to the PCC at pccsecretary@welwyn.org.uk. |
| Deanery Synod Report – *Vernonne Allan*  The Deanery of Welwyn Hatfield in the Diocese of St Albans meet three times a year.  Since the last APCM the meetings took place at St Mary’s North Mymms on 26th June 2018, at St Giles Parish Centre, Codicote on 4th October 2018 and at St Mary Magdalene, Welwyn Garden City on 11th February 2019.  The clergy, readers of appointed laity representatives from all churches within the Deanery are able to vote on matters raised at Synod. Anyone else is welcome to attend to hear discussions and listen to the speakers, who are, as a rule, most interesting. In addition it is always interesting to meet people from our neighbouring parishes, both clergy and lay, and learn about the life, activities and needs of their congregations.  At the June meeting the guest speaker was Bishop of Hertford, Rt Rev’d Dr Michael Beaseley. The Bishop started with a brief outline of the various major changes in our Welwyn Hatfield area namely; the new housing developments due in Panshanger and in Lemsford/Hatfield areas, current clergy posts in vacancy and changing ecumenical partner/relationships. He invited us to start a conversation, to think, listen and discuss with each other across the parishes about all that is happening and about the implications for mission and ministry on our deanery. Using three maps which showed the proposed development plans affecting our deanery we split into 5 groups, with 15 minutes to brainstorm on: What is working well and what are people passionate about? What changes are on the horizon? Where is there most potential for life and growth? (in church and in the locality), What are the opportunities for working together better? (between parishes, ecumenical partners and others), Where are our challenges and how can our strengths be used to address these?  The exercise produced some excellent conversations with potential to develop further.  Also in June we received reports back from higher levels: our representative John Butler, reported on the Diocesan Synod and Tim Fleming, our General Synod Rep from the House of Laity for St Albans Diocese reported on General Synod.  In October Synod meeting heard a talk by Darren Richards on Mercy Ships. Now based at the Stevenage Head Office, Darren's passion for working with Mercy Ships began when he made a mission trip to Africa at the tender age of 19 years old and those experiences changed his outlook and life forever. MS has transformed lives for 40 years; visited 55 nations, stopped at over 592 ports, performed 89,000 life changing surgeries, completed 1,100 community projects, trained over 40,000 local health professionals, whose services are valued over > £1 billion and served over 2,5000,000 patients and direct beneficiaries. MS becomes a healthcare partner with African nations for 5 year periods bringing and leaving a legacy of much improved health services and provision. The hospital ship concept was most suitable, as 50% of the world’s population live near the coast. The ports readily provide infrastructure in terms of transport links, water, power, fuel and provisions including close links to local governments and existing healthcare facilities. The poorest people in the world are concentrated on the sub-Sahara continent with 95% of its population living without access to medical care or surgery compared to Western Europe, 3%.  MS philosophy is to empower the local health care industry and to leave a lasting impact, MS trains and mentors local health care professionals, provides medical tools and resources and provides improved medical facilities.  There were many more points made by Darren, the result was a barrage of questions, not least, how could we help? The most recent meeting, in February, was addressed by Christine Novelli of Isabel Hospice. As well as describing her work with the hospice as a catalyst to encourage talking about death and dying, Christine gave us an inspiring talk on her new role, as organiser for Compassionate Neighbours (CN). This is a free, community-led social movement offering friendship and support for anyone who is lonely, at risk of isolation or nearing the end of their life.  CN volunteers are matched by hobbies and interests to someone in need in the community, and they then meet as often as both parties agree.  CN originated in Kerala, India and was introduced to the UK by St Joseph's Hospice four years ago. Keith, recently widowed and one of Christine's volunteer Compassionate Neighbours also spoke. He described his involvement and friendship with another chap over the past six months... of visiting a cafe together, then the other chap's local pub, never before visited. Both men have engineering backgrounds so conversation came easily, Keith said it has also helped him become more outgoing.  Christine said there is a pandemic of loneliness in the UK, especially among people in their 80's who are frail and perhaps widowed. However younger people can be affected, perhaps due to being housebound by illness. Christine is always on the lookout for suitable places for matched neighbours to meet and chat: church community cafes, lunches or get-togethers in pubs are ideal.  Deanery Synod is currently chaired by Jenny Fennell Rural Dean and Kathryn Alford lay chair, they take it in turn to head the meetings. We also have an excellent Secretary, Pui San, without whose minutes I would have been far less able to bring you this report. |
| Team Council Report – *The Rev’d Dr David Munchin*  The Team Council has met on three occasions in 2018: 21st February, 4th July, 26th September.  The Team Council consists of the Team Rector, five representatives of the Ministry Team, two lay representatives from each church.  The purposes and tasks of the Team Council are laid out in its constitution.  Matters discussed in these meeting included:   * Safeguarding (Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection) * GDPR * Team events and activities (e.g. Summer Evensongs) |
| St Mary’s Fabric Report – *Stuart Carr*  **Organisation**  The fabric group now comprises two members – Stuart Carr (Chair) and Peter Brattle. This gives us a good spread of expertise and if additional skills & manpower is required, individuals will be asked on a specific project basis.  **Quinquennial Works**  A further quinquennial inspection was carried out early in 2018 which identifies some internal repairs and potential external improvements. The internal repairs will be addressed during this year.  **St Mary’s Church & Church House**  During the last year general maintenance and improvement continues to be undertaken including:  Maintenance and repair of the churchyard floodlights continue on a regular basis to keep the Church fully lit.  The electrical supply to the east window floodlight has been altered to overcome the failed cabling and the switching arrangement altered.  Additional handrails to the upper vestry and the ramp to the choir vestry are proposed to ensure safe access for all.  The fixed wiring testing is due again this year  Annual testing of the gas appliances, lightning conductor and roof safety system have all been completed.  The exterior of Church was redecorated last summer as part of the 5 yearly cycle.  Upgrading of the path lighting to the south door has been put on hold at present. It is planned to remove the old fittings to avoid trip hazards.  **GSHP & Heating Installation**  The existing gas boiler continues to unreliable and replacement parts are no longer made but we have managed to keep it going through the winter. It is been decided to replace it with a modern boiler and this is currently at the planning stage.  **Churchyard and Grounds**  The Parish Council is still considering the solution to the repair and making safe the brick walls to the north and east sides of the Churchyard and funding of the work is a major issue for them. The Church appointed an independent engineer to review the structural condition of the wall and movement monitors have been applied. It was inspected at the end of January and the updated report is expected very shortly.  The condition of the wall along the Codicote Road boundary continues to deteriorate badly.  David and Shirley Johnson retired from their work in the Churchyard and I would like to thank them for their contribution over many years. Ann Harper volunteered to take over this work and continues to keep the Memorial Garden in fine condition. Thank you.  **St Michael’s House**  Maintenance and repairs have been minimal this year. The trees surrounding the house were reduced late last year and hopefully this will reduce the moss build up on the roofs.  It is proposed to construct a proper external step and small paved area to the reception room doors to allow for safe access after a recent fall. |
| St Mary’s Safeguarding Report – *Susan Harris*  Susan Harris has taken on the responsibility of being our safeguarding officer. If you wish to report a safeguarding concern you should contact her or the Rector. There were no safeguarding incidents reported in 2018. |
| St Michael’s Church Report– *Sue Keach*  The Quinquennial inspection was conducted in August and found the current condition of the building to be generally excellent, following a number of repair projects carried out within the last 5.10 years . However there are a number of generally very minor work items which need attention. None of these are urgent but need to be looked at in the next five years.  The Church always looks well maintained in and out and I should like to thank the cleaning rota and all the people who help at “churchyard tidy ups,” who achieve this result.  The long and problematic roof and rainwater project has at last been completed and although it was a headache from start to finish the roof etc. do look good now.  In the autumn we had extensive work done to reduce the size of the trees on the boundary of the church yard and in the front of the church. This has made a tremendous difference to the appearance of the churchyard. It is much lighter and the Church can now be seen from the road. This work will, we hope, reduce the build-up of moss on the church roof.  The inventory was checked prior to the Archdeacon’s visitation and all was found to be in good order.  I feel that we, as a small congregation, can feel justifiably proud of the way we maintain our building and church yard. |

# Secondary Reports

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| Bible Discovery– *Gay and Mike Carpenter*  At Bible Discovery we aim to enjoy exploring the Bible in an open and welcoming fellowship. After stopping to join the Lent groups last year, we asked people what they would like to explore in the summer and the majority voted for St. Paul’s first letter to Timothy. One of the big issues that came up was the rôle of women in the early church. We read St. Paul’s reprimand to some women who were being disruptive during services and we widened our search to look at all he had said about women in his letters to determine whether this was a particular incident with some women with their new status as Christians, or an all-time teaching extending to us. We had the benefit of hearing views on the headship of men from a member, and opposing views from another. We feel that in all things it is important to listen respectively to one another particularly when you disagree.  This course ended with a summer party, our last one at Guessens, which gave us the opportunity to say goodbye to Jörg and Heike and thank them for their wonderful hospitality to us.  For the autumn, the vote was for St. Paul’s second letter to Timothy, written from prison shortly before his death. People wanted to know what had happened since his first letter. We were “in there” in Ephesus with Timothy, a young man with health problems, endeavouring to lead a church in this great pagan centre, the Temple to Artemis one of the wonders of the ancient world. We experienced the loving care and advice from St. Paul as his death drew near and were inspired by his confident faith in the face of it. We left him cold in his prison cell, asking for his cloak to be brought which he’d left behind, his books and “above all my parchments.” As we read the last verses we fell silent, as it all sank in.  Our course ended with a Christmas party at our home. David came and played carols for us and the three “tenors” again sang the part of Good King Wenceslas and to our amazement some of it was in tune!  We always break to take part in the Lent course, but, for the few weeks before, we like to do a brief study to get us in the mood for Lent. This year we encountered four of the disciples, “up-close-and-personal”: Peter, Matthew, James and Thomas. As we looked at the references to each one we saw how their faith transformed them after Jesus’s resurrection.  Here is what a new member says: “*It can be a bit nerve-racking joining an established group as a new member, but I needn’t have worried! I received such a friendly welcome….I had worried that the discussions might be high brow and that I’d feel embarrassed by my Sunday School knowledge of the Bible, but it was interesting to listen to other viewpoints and add my own….and have an opportunity to learn more about the Bible in a friendly and safe environment.”*  And from two established members: *“My knowledge of the Bible expands more and more as we go to the evenings.”*  *“I greatly enjoy hearing how members of the group all have a different “take” on the various accounts we study in the Bible, so often making me look at things in a different way never thought of before. I…also very much like the way our study stays on track and does not go off on tangents.”*  We are all set for studying Abraham in the summer term to see how God dealt with him and how that speaks to our lives today. We are very grateful to Jo and Wendy for running a third group for us as our membership grows. |
| Bible Breakfast Study– *The Rev’d Dr David Munchin*  Every Wednesday morning a group meets in Church House from 8am – 9am with breakfast provided from Katie’s. We study the bible by looking at the three readings for the Sunday 10 days hence. We use a version of *lectio divina* before meandering off to whatever takes our fancy. All are welcome, breakfast is free, you can say what you want and get the drop on the Sunday preacher. |
| Bookstall – *Pat Brooks*  The bookstall has a wide range of reasonably priced greetings cards and cards with biblical texts suitable for most occasions. Due to low turnover in sales of adult books it has been decided to sell mainly children’s books useful as gifts for baptisms and other occasions and some books of local interest. Orders for Christian books and daily bible study notes (samples are available) can be placed by contacting Pat Brooks. All profits from the Bookstall go to church funds. |
| Community Café– *Jean Perriman*  The Team now has a new organiser (although has been with us now for almost a year), namely Liz Hesketh. She works alongside Jean Perriman, organiser and our treasurer, Ian Skidmore.  We work alongside our team of volunteers who have worked at the Community Café for many years. We have also had at least three new volunteers join our rota.  The café is open from 9.15 am to noon every Tuesday in Church House, Welwyn.  You will be met by one of our smiling team of volunteers who will make you comfortable. Share refreshments with other customers in an easily accessible hall in the heart of Welwyn village, located at the side of St Mary’s Church. Enjoy each other’s company, and friendship. Perhaps enjoy a teacake from Katie’s a village baker.  Although it is in Church House it is not a church function and everyone understands and values this, it is for all the community. |
| Community Lunch– *Mavis Francis*  These lunches have been a great success as between 30 -50 people have attended each one. It is great to see handicapped and people suffering from dementia sitting with others enjoying a meal. The meals consist of a pre lunch drink, a very varied first course and a delicious pudding or cold sweet. Maria from Fizz Catering always does us proud. Both she and her helper Carol work really hard to see that everyone is catered for. Without them these lunches would not be possible. We have raised over £1000 for the Preservation Appeal. After a cup of coffee or a cup of tea our guests go home to enjoy a sleep whilst helpers kindly help to clear up! |
| Christian Aid Week 2018– *The Rev’d Edward Cardale*  In May 2018, fund-raising in the Week focused on collecting to help rebuild homes and lives in Haiti, following the 2017 hurricanes.  In Welwyn and Woolmer Green, the number of those who collect ‘house to house’ continues to drop a little. New collectors are hard to find or recruit, and there are various roads and homes in the parish which we do not cover.  However, our totals collected have stayed at about the same level for the past few years, thanks also to the Saturday street collection which was up against the royal wedding on that day last year. For Welwyn in 2018 the total was £2196 (plus gift aid recoverable), and for Woolmer Green just under £2,000. The Super Soup lunch in Lent, thanks to Sue Keach, also raises funds.  Christian Aid nationally is very conscious of the challenges posed by house to house collecting, and encourages both flexibility and other means of fund-raising, to make up for the decline in this method.  At present in this parish it is still well supported, so it would be a pity to slacken our efforts. Thank you once again to all our supporters and volunteers. We hope you will be with us again in May 2019. The committee consists of Vernonne Allan, Jane Bacon, Sue Keach, Susan Wray, and myself. |
| Church House– *Stuart Carr*  Stuart Carr continues as Church House Manager on a voluntary basis and the Church House Management Group (CHMG) comprises Stuart Westley, Peter Brattle, Linda Dobbs and Stuart Carr.  Church House continues to be a huge success for the Church and the wider community as we now enter the 12th year since it was opened. It is in regular use virtually every day of the week.  Over the last year, some 29 different Church and community groups have used the building.  Many of these regular groups meet on a weekly or monthly basis including the Community Café, Fair Trade stall, Sewing and Knitting groups, Bridge Club, 40 Minutes Service, Craftea, Community Lunch, Book Club and Church Fellowship.  We continue to host meetings for the Diocese & Deanery, receptions following funeral services, concerts and many other occasional activities such as Mens’ Breakfasts, Ladies’ Lunches and the Pantomime.  The Community Café continues as a joint venture with the Parish Action Plan and is a very popular venue for locals to meet on Tuesday morning with between 70 and 90 people attending each week.  Following the Barclays Bank announcement of its closure at the end of March 2019, the Church has agreed to let Barclays use Room 4 on a Tuesday morning when Community Café meets to provide help and assistance relating to on-line and telephone banking to those who need it.    Many of the user groups make donations from ticket sales whilst others make regular donations. A rental fee, in line with Parish Council hall charges, is charged to commercial bookings and for funeral receptions and other non-church or non-community activities. The Community Café contributes 50% of its profit. All these contribute to the running costs.  The CHMG undertook a general review of the operating procedures for Church House which included the kitchen hygiene, bookings and rental policies. These have been implemented and are working well.  A regular cleaning and maintenance regime continues to be in place and we thank John Webber, our cleaner for his continued hard work and co-operation.  The annual deep clean of the kitchen took place at the beginning of March place and the kitchen is certified accordingly.  The importance of all user groups playing their part in maintaining the current standard and taking pride in the building by leaving it clean, tidy, safe and secure at the end of their activities cannot be stressed highly enough. This encourages others to do the same and minimises ongoing costs.  Church House is heavily used, and as the age of the building and equipment increases, so does the cost of maintenance and replacements. A forecast of the likely costs has been submitted to the Treasurer. |
| Church Women’s Fellowship– *Marjorie Lyon*  At our last AGM the title of the Fellowship was changed from The Church Women's Fellowship to The Church Fellowship. We had a general vote and only 4 people objected. So the title was changed. We now have men attending the meetings each month and some occasional attendees.  We continue to rely upon the £1 from each person attending a meeting, which seems adequate funding.  We support two charities each year. The local guest Speakers receive a gift or a donation to their charity. The membership is growing due to the efforts of the committee, especially the programme Secretary. We always have a very varied and interesting selection of Speakers each year, many of them from local organisations. |
| Fairtrade – *Maggie Varco*  We had a busy and enjoyable year selling fairtrade food and crafts sourced from Traidcraft in St. Mary’s Church. A huge thank you to our team of volunteers who provide refreshments each Saturday morning, which are enjoyed by our many customers who drop in for coffee and conversation. Our stall also visits the Community Cafe on the first Tuesday of each month, and popular items are our wide range of cards, cookies and bamboo socks. We did a large stall in June as part of the Welwyn Festival Street Market.  Traidcraft plc announced in the Autumn that it may have to cease trading due to poor financial results, caused by a combination of the retail slump, the fall of the £ after the Brexit vote and poor sales through Traidcraft’s new website, due to technical issues. After consultation with many customers and supporters of Traidcraft, a new business plan was proposed by a small team of staff members, and the company is now able to continue trading in 2019, having been considerably pared down through staff redundancies, outsourcing of the warehouse and customer services, and reducing the range of goods offered.  We had a lot of support from our customers during this period of uncertainty, and are delighted to be able to continue selling whatever goods Traidcraft can source, in 2019 and beyond. We had a successful year, with a turnover of £10,200 and a surplus of £1,550 which was sent as a donation to Traidcraft’s charity, Traidcraft Exchange. |
| Giving Action Group– *Geoff Cummings*  The role of GAG is twofold:-  A) **stewardship**: to look at strategies to motivate people to give to the church.  B) **charitable**: to facilitate charitable giving to achieve a target equivalent to at least 15% of planned and plate giving on a rolling 3 year average.  These two objectives are intertwined rather than conflicting  **Stewardship** (giving to the church)  Whereas it could be said that 2018 was a successful year in respect of raising and donating funds for charitable causes, St Mary's own finances represent something of a concern with income running at some £10,000 below expenditure. What is more, whereas 2018 was relatively free of large capital expenses, we have recently been made aware of necessary repairs to the organ and the need to replace the heating boiler, the combined cost of which is likely to be well in excess of £30,000. In recent times we have talked about the necessity to carry cash reserves in readiness for a financial "rainy day". Without specific efforts to raise funds to cover the costs referred to above, the church’s cash reserves will be largely exhausted.  Any stewardship strategy needs to take into account certain inevitabilities:-   * Costs of running the Church and meeting its commitments will increase each year * Congregations are growing older * Members of the congregation are dying * The income of many retired people increases by less than inflation. * Young families, today, have significant financial pressures to cope with. * For many, the church is just one of the charities they support. * It is therefore wrong to assume that all members of the congregation could or should increase their regular giving   GAG feels that it is important that the church remembers to thank all who contribute their money and their time to the smooth running of St Mary’s  **Charitable giving**  By means of special collections, sponsored events, sales, coffee mornings, meals, talks and various other activities, St Mary's supported 13 different charities during 2018. Further detail is attached. In total, the sum amounted to £23,243 which significantly exceeded the 15% target. It must be remembered that more than 25% of this figure is represented by sponsorship for the rector’s bike ride to Rome. We understand that this will not be a regular event!  As in previous years, special collections were taken at Mothering Sunday, Harvest and Christmas for the benefit of charities which were publicised in advance.  **Legacies**  In recent months GAG has been considering a St Mary's policy on legacies.  This will be used during 2019 as part of a project to encourage members of the  congregation and others to mention St Mary's in their will. |
| Lent Courses– *The Rev’d Dr David Munchin*  Our Lent groups in 2018 met in several locations across the team for five sessions during the Lent season. We studied the Passion story in the Gospel in Mark, our gospel for the year. |
| Parish Easter and Christmas Cards– *Jane Carr*  Christmas and Easter cards were produced once again in 2018 and distributed by willing volunteers to homes in the parish. We are dependent on people taking bundles of cards and delivering them which means a significant number of homes will be reached, but not all. In 2019 responsibility for production and arrangements for distribution will pass back to the church office. |
| St Mary’s Bellringers– *John Williams*  St Mary's Ringing Band rings regularly before Sunday Services from 9.00 - 9.30am (every Sunday) and 6.00 - 6.30pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays) when enough Ringers are available. The Band practises on Tuesdays from 7.45 to 9.00pm.  We are usually able to ring all 8 bells for services. In addition, the band rings 6 bells for weddings when booked and 8 for special services when requested - if possible, depending on availability. The band also maintains the clock, winding it once a week, and hoist and lower flags on the Tower when required.  John Williams is now the Tower Secretary (again!), following the retirement of Mary Gregory for health reasons. We currently have 14 regular ringers, however only 4 are Church members so St. Mary’s owes a debt of gratitude to all the band for turning out for Sunday and special service ringing so reliably – unlike so many towers where service ringing is occasional, not regular.  Chris Coxell from Codicote Tower often attends our practises on Tuesdays, helping out with teaching, and by arrangement the whole band practices at Codicote once every month or two. Two or three of the band often help out at practices at Datchworth on Thursday evenings. It takes quite a while to become a competent ringer so it needs determination, but we do have an enjoyable time on the way. Please consider whether you could do it and would enjoy the gentle aerobic exercise (and the not so healthy – but optional - social activity after practice). We should welcome another learner, especially as several of us are in our 70s!  For more information contact John Williams, on 01438 715679 or email [bells@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:bells@welwyn.org.uk).  It's one person on each rope, so to ring all our 8 bells we need 8 ringers. It goes without saying that if you have rung in the past and are not currently part of a band that rings on Sundays, you would be very welcome at St Mary’s Welwyn. |
| St Mary’s Cleaning Team– *Jean Perriman*  We like to pride ourselves when anyone walks through the beautifully carved wooden doors of St Mary’s that you are met with a clean, sweet smelling spiritual place. One which is not dusty and littered with left-behind documents/papers.  We have a rota’d list of volunteers who mostly achieve our objective, but unfortunately we sometimes fall down for a number or reasons. On the positive side, we do have volunteers but would like to add to their numbers - can you help? It’s not an onerous task and requires approximately one hour of your time Once A Year.  Please contact: Jean Perriman – [leytongirl1948@outlook.com](mailto:leytongirl1948@outlook.com) or 01438 840443. PLEASE. |
| St Mary’s Evening Book Group – *Wendy Lawrence*  The St Mary’s Reading Group meets at 8pm on the second Thursday of each month to discuss a book chosen by agreement.  We have read a wide variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction.  We meet in each other’s homes and we always have an interesting and thought-provoking evening.  The group is open to all members of St Mary’s. |
| St Mary’s Flower Team– *Jenny Wiseman*  We have a team of flower arrangers who enjoy the pleasure of enhancing worship with beautiful flower arrangements. An altar pedestal arrangement was provided throughout the year (except during Lent and Advent). This arrangement was often sponsored in memory of a loved one and was acknowledged in the relevant Sunday’s service booklet.  The team got together to decorate the church for Easter, Harvest and Christmas and it is encouraging that so many wished to be involved. We have had new offers of help too, for these festivals from people who are not (yet!) confident enough to do the main altar pedestal.  At Easter our display included 65 arum lilies which had been given in memory of loved ones. It is always a special privilege to be involved with this.  St Mary’s offers a church wedding flower service and during 2018, we were asked to do flowers for 9 weddings. I am very grateful to those on the flower team who have helped me with this during the year. It is a huge amount of work and often physical effort to get everything into church. Still, it is very satisfying, and the profit we made goes into church funds as we do not charge for our time. It is always a pleasure talking to brides and their families about what they require, and we’ve received many messages of thanks and appreciation following the big day.  A special mention should be made of Alice Burnapp. I am very appreciative of her creative talents demonstrated in so many ways. Particularly, for this year at the 100th commemoration of the end of WWI, she created a poignant display: Red poppy petals floated down over the font around the perspex figure of a Tommy. Such a well-executed idea and so perfect for that event. When the rest of the church was in semi-darkness, the light over the font on this display made it memorable.    There is an open invitation for anyone to join the flower team. No previous experience is necessary – just the joy of arranging flowers in our church. |
| St Mary’s Handbell Ringers (‘The Arpeggios’)– *Jacky Johnston*  The handbell team is based at St. Mary’s and has ringers from several churches and none, i.e. anybody who is interested can join us. Practices take place on Thursday evenings in the Upper Vestry at St.Mary’s, and visitors are always welcome.  We are well known for our festive ringing at Christmas events, including Carol Services, but we have a very wide range of music, so we are happy to take the bells out and entertain throughout the year and throughout the district. |
| St Mary’s Music – *Linden Innes-Hopkins*  As I reflect on the last twelve months and the music at St Mary’s, I am struck by the wide range of our liturgical music-making. In Lent (which has just begun) and in Advent, the whole congregation sings the centuries old Merbecke setting of the service but, as a congregation, we also sing contemporary hymns and worship songs.  In the wider musical world, there are choirs that specialise in singing Renaissance music, violinists who specialise in playing Baroque music on ‘Baroque’ violins, and instrumental ensembles that focus on the music of contemporary composers. Liturgical musicians, by contrast, have to turn their hand (or, to put it another way, lend their voices) to a huge range of styles from plainsong through to very recent compositions. During Advent last December and on 10 March this year, the music at Choral Evensong was based on plainsong, using a setting of the Canticles by Morley, one of the Elizabethan composers. However, in addition to maintaining through practice a connection with the past glories of church music, I believe that it is important to champion living composers. The repertoire of the choir continues to be varied, using a number of different sources, and now includes pieces by (among others) Malcolm Archer, Carson Cooman, Cecilia MacDowell, Paul Mealor, Thomas Hewitt-Jones and, of course, John Rutter, all of whom are alive and well!  Those who decide to join church choirs probably do so for a number of different reasons but each and every one of them brings the gift of their voice to the group. Each choir member offers their own particular skills and individual personality to the group. It is a gift given, a gift shared, and a gift received by the rest of the group. Beyond the choir practice and the vestry, it is also a gift to the whole congregation; liturgical musicians, in sharing their artistry, in giving themselves wholeheartedly in a musical performance, are – in a sense – offering the gift given to them by God back to God in leading the people in worship.  In June 2018 there was a performance of Handel’s *Messiah* with Derek Harrison at the helm, Linden Innes-Hopkins at the organ, Jane Cutler playing the cello and a terrific team of soloists, including Michelle Boylan. This event was part of the Welwyn Festival. July was a particularly busy time for the choir and organists, with several special services and events. On 1 July Dominic Holroyd-Thomas celebrated his First Mass at St Mary’s, for which not one but two demanding anthems were required. On the choir’s final Sunday before the summer break, there was a Coffee Concert after the morning service, which was enthusiastically received and greatly enjoyed by those who were able to stay. A similar concert is planned for July 2019. The third big sing in July was the wedding of a former chorister, Lizzie McNeill-Walters; it was a wonderful celebration due in no small part to anthems she had chosen (Parry’s *I was glad* and Lauridsen’s *O magnum mysterium*).  As must be the case for most churches, the highlights of the musical year all cluster together in the dark months of the year. Delivering three candlelit Carol Services within, roughly speaking, a six-week period is definitely a challenge. The choir tackled new music for all three services, much to their credit. For the Advent Procession and for the Christmas Carol Service, Rita McNeill produced booklets containing all the music required, meaning that the choir did not have to juggle several books and loose sheets of paper. I am most grateful to her for undertaking this task and hope she might consider doing it again in 2019…2020…  For the Advent service and the Candlemas service we were joined by singers from other churches in the team; it was a delight to have them augment the choir and I hope they will want to join us again in the future.  In April 2018, I took over the training and administration of Welwyn Tune, our junior choir. They have begun to sing in services more regularly (approximately once a month), singing the anthem with the adult choir or singing an anthem by themselves. Welwyn Tuners are also invited to sing at weddings, which they enjoy. We have valedicted (said Goodbye to) Emma Blanch and Ella Eaketts, and have welcomed two new members, Anaiah Frank and Brook Davies. The children receive a musical training which encompasses both vocal skills and music theory. We follow the RSCM *Voice for Life* scheme, which encourages them to make meaningful connections between their singing and the church in which they sing – for example, understanding the different roles of the choir (leading the singing/singing alone) in the service.  Jo Fozzard continues to assist most ably at the Friday practices and I thank her for that valuable contribution to Welwyn Tune’s ongoing development.  In an address to the Royal College of Organists in 2017, Philip Moore wrote, ‘Before weddings…we [organists] might be playing sublime music for half an hour to which no one listens’. This is, to some extent, true of church choirs too, whose chief solo musical contribution to the Eucharist is during the distribution of communion, when people are moving around the church. Choral Evensong, by contrast, is quite a different matter, and offers those who attend a chance to let the choir to take the strain (as it were). Most of the music in the service is sung and played by our expert team of musicians, allowing the congregation participation of a different sort, through listening.  I would like to thank Rowena MacDonald for looking after the Choir Library; Geoff Leddra for keeping the address book up-to-date; John Wray for organising ad hoc choirs for weddings; Jenny Wiseman for providing teas for choral evening services; Rita McNeill for looking after the robes. I would also like to thank all those members of the choir I have not named individually, for each of them makes a much valued contribution to the group.  Thank you to Tina Hassan in the office for all her help.  I would like most especially to thank Michelle Boylan for her accompanying, her singing and her unwavering support.  So, in conclusion, music continues to pay a vital role in the worship at St Mary’s, for the enhancement of worship through gifts given, nurtured and shared. |
| St Mary’s Parish Prayers – *Wendy Lawrence*  Prayer underpins the life of the parish.  There is an informal prayer meeting in the St Nicholas chapel every Saturday morning, from 9 – 9:30, led by the clergy.  Everyone is welcome to attend.  We pray for the parish and the churches in the team, and also for individual concerns and topical issues.  Prayer requests can be given to members of the clergy or attached to the prayer board by the entrance to the St Nicholas Chapel. |
| St Mary’s Ringing Band– *John Williams*  St Mary's Ringing Band rings regularly before Sunday Services from 9.00 - 9.30am (every Sunday) and 6.00 - 6.30pm (2nd, 4th & 5th Sundays) when enough Ringers are available. The Band practises on Tuesdays from 7.45 to 9.00pm.  We are usually able to ring all 8 bells for services. In addition, the band rings 6 bells for weddings when booked and 8 for special services when requested - if possible, depending on availability. The band also maintains the clock, winding it once a week, and hoist and lower flags on the Tower when required.  John Williams is now the Tower Secretary (again!), following the retirement of Mary Gregory for health reasons. We currently have 14 regular ringers, however only 4 are Church members so St. Mary’s owes a debt of gratitude to all the band for turning out for Sunday and special service ringing so reliably – unlike so many towers where service ringing is occasional, not regular.  Chris Coxell from Codicote Tower often attends our practises on Tuesdays, helping out with teaching, and by arrangement the whole band practices at Codicote once every month or two. Two or three of the band often help out at practices at Datchworth on Thursday evenings. It takes quite a while to become a competent ringer so it needs determination, but we do have an enjoyable time on the way. Please consider whether you could do it and would enjoy the gentle aerobic exercise (and the not so healthy – but optional - social activity after practice). We should welcome another learner, especially as several of us are in our 70s!  For more information contact John Williams, on 01438 715679 or email [bells@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:bells@welwyn.org.uk).  It's one person on each rope, so to ring all our 8 bells we need 8 ringers. It goes without saying that if you have rung in the past and are not currently part of a band that rings on Sundays, you would be very welcome at St Mary’s Welwyn. |
| St Mary’s Sunday Morning Refreshments– *Jean Perriman*  We welcome many through Church House doors following St Mary’s church service on a Sunday. Thank you all for your kind donations, which allows us to offer filter coffee and fresh tea and good biscuits each week.  We wish to continue offering refreshments each week, but our volunteer list of those who offer their help (on a rota basis), throughout the year, has reduced in numbers.  If you are able to offer assisting our band of workers, please contact: Jean Perriman – [leytongirl1948@outlook.com](mailto:leytongirl1948@outlook.com) or 07984 141101 |
| St Mary’s Theatre Group– *Sue Knowles*  The theatre group has enjoyed a varied programme of productions which have included comedy, ballet and musicals. These excellent shows have already had a successful run in London’s West End and we were privileged to see them at Milton Keynes theatre. We travel in a very comfortable coach and enjoy drinks and nibbles en route and I provide chocolates which are enjoyed by all. I secure group rates for the theatre club but as with most things, prices are going up and it is no longer a cheap night out, although much more affordable than seeing these shows in London. Consequently, I am organising fewer as many people can only afford one or two productions a year. I am looking at other venues for theatre experiences and trying to find productions that will suit most people. I am pleased to submit a cheque for £50 towards the church's restoration fund as I add 50pence on to each ticket sold.  My email and telephone number are on the notice board and I regularly write in the parish magazine about the productions and I welcome everyone to come and enjoy the theatre. |
| St Mary’s Walking Group – *Joy Whitten*  The group now has some 60 members of whom we usually have about 25 walking each month. We welcome newcomers and the walks offer a great opportunity to meet new people.  On the third Monday of each month, we meet at a local pub, walk some four to five miles, returning to the pub for lunch. The walks are led by volunteers who help us to enjoy the wide variety of lovely countryside around Welwyn. It is a very enjoyable way to have some exercise and a friendly chat. If you are interested and live in or around Welwyn or have a connection with our church, do contact us.  Contact Joy or Robin Whitten 01438 716036 |
| St Mary’s Welcome Team– *Jenny Wiseman*  Making people feel welcome all the time they are in church is at the heart of reaching out to new people and a new generation as well as nurturing the people we already know.  In a recent issue of the Diocesan magazine Alban Life, we read:  “Research has shown that meeting even one parishioner other than the vicar significantly increases the chances of a person or family staying involved with the church”  Although we do have a Welcome Team, the ministry of Welcome should be a priority for all of us. Are we open and welcoming to newcomers? Are we aware of the possible anxieties of people when entering somewhere new to them? Do we think “welcome” is only our concern at the “9:30”? Very importantly, the answer is NO to the last question.  We have come to realise that the pattern of worship has changed and continues to change for many people. We are seeing fewer families with children at the 9:30, but the numbers of Key Stage I&II children and their mums is consistently high for the Craftea, held fortnightly in term-time. The people, many of whom are families, who attend the 40 Minutes may not come every month. But they do return.  We are so very fortunate that our Church and Church House are at the heart of our community, used by so many people as a haven and a place to meet others. At all events and at every opportunity, we all have the responsibility of being sensitive to those on their own, those who may need a kind listening ear, those who would appreciate knowing about the various activities, those we should be introducing to others.  Don’t feel daunted by approaching a stranger. The words you use could be along the lines of “Hello, I don’t think we’ve met before. My name is ……”.   Also, don’t worry if you’ve forgotten a name the next time you meet them. We all do this! |
| St Michael’s After School Club– *The Rev’d Dominic Holroyd-Thomas*  The St Michael’s After School Club meets in St Michael’s Church on a Wednesday from 3.15pm-4.15pm.  We currently have about 5 children attending the club regularly, were we seek to create a safe and friendly space for children to engage with one another and to explore Christian themes through craft and fellowship. The group meets following collective worship at St Michael’s School which the Curate or another member of the Ministry Team take.  I would like to express a special thank you to all the volunteers who helped throughout the Rector’s sabbatical and ensured the club’s continuity.  Lesley Griffiths, a former lay reader of this parish, was pivotal in the weekly running of this group and we miss her terribly since she emigrated to New Zealand last year. |
| St Michael’s Junior Church– *Gina Beck*  The Junior Church at St Michael’s consists of 2 very dedicated choir members whose knowledge of the Bible continues to surprise me and other members of the congregation! We use the Scripture Union’s material which can be easily adapted to suit visitors of any age to our sessions. We meet in the vestry during the Parish Eucharist services for approximately 25 minutes but remain in church for the whole of the Family and All Age Communion services and enjoy our time together. |
| St Michael’s Mother’s Union– *Gina Beck*  The Mothers’ Union is an international Christian charity with some 4 million plus members active in over 80 countries. It has achieved great success with its literacy and numeracy projects and the organisation of training and encouragement of self-help projects, thus transforming family life. Our branch at St Michael’s enjoys a varied programme of events and activities which, during 2018 included talks from Mothers’ Union speakers and our clergy/readers, a tea party in aid of an MU project called “Summer of Hope” which raised over £100, an expert demonstration of flower arranging and a Christmas lunch with ladies from the congregation. We meet with our Deanery members at events during the year around the Diocese. We continue to support projects locally and overseas by knitting cardigans and hats, sending Christmas cards to prisoners and the ‘Make a Mother’s Day’ project (giving an ethical gift/donation for Mothering Sunday) continues to be promoted at St Michael’s.  Although we are a small group we all experience great comfort from our fellowship together. We usually meet on the first Tuesday of the month in the Vestry at St Michael’s. Membership is open to everyone, so do pop along for a visit. |
| Website and Social Media– *Jane Carr*  Our Communications Team has changed in the last year and we thank Stephen Jupp, Eric Pavyer and Nikki Lewis who have now stood down from the team. Dominic Holroyd-Thomas and Daniel Holroyd-Thomas have joined Su Blanch and Jane Carr to review content and regularly update St Mary’s website [www.welwyn.org.uk](http://www.welwyn.org.uk). We also thank Sophie Blanch for her input as part of her Duke of Edinburgh activities. The website includes access to the church’s Google Calendar so people can easily check what’s happening in both St Mary’s Church, Church House and elsewhere. This is very useful, for example, for knowing when it’s convenient to come and do your church cleaning duties! Audio files of sermons and intercessions are available for the previous five weeks if you have missed church but would like to catch up with these. In most places the website has now been optimised for use on smart phones and tablets, although this will always be work in progress. We are dependent on church groups to keep us up to date with information that should be included. Emailing [webmaster@welwyn.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@welwyn.org.uk) will reach the whole team.  From a social media perspective our **Facebook** page provides an immediate and different type of communication and we now have over 386 people following our newsfeed. You can find us on Facebook at St Mary’s Church, Welwyn. You can also find us on **Twitter** @wsm\_church. Different audiences are reached by different media. |
| Welwyn Magazine– *Jane Carr*  The Welwyn Magazine is produced ten times a year by a group of volunteers from St Mary’s and St Michael’s churches.  In the last year advertising and subscriptions has allowed us to make a donation of **£8,500** split equally between both churches for their general funds.  The Magazine reaches around 900 homes and provides a balance of community and church news and articles, together with local advertising and we are grateful to all those who play a part in generating or distributing the magazine. We currently have three editors (Rita McNeill, Tony Keach and Evelyne Welch) who are responsible on a rota basis for collating the material and putting it into Microsoft Publisher. In order to share the load we are in desperate need of a fourth member of that team, so do please contact us if you think you might be that person – training given! The setting of advertisements is taken care of separately by Nigel Howes and Helen Thompsett is our Advertising Manager. We are always on the look-out for lively articles that will be of interest to readers and would encourage anyone who is interested in writing to make contact with magazine@welwyn.org.uk or via any of the telephone numbers on the inside back cover. |
| Youth Action Group– *Su Blanch*  2018 has been a time of transition for our provision for children and young people at St Mary's. Due to a shift in emphasis and our children and youth workers' contracts coming to an end we commenced with a different approach to the work we do. Here's a run down of our year and some of the changes:   * Craftea continues to be a well-supported activity. It runs during term-time after school on every other Monday for KS1 and KS2 children, with their parent/ carer coming along. Each session includes some down time for colouring and cups of tea for the adults, a game, a Bible story (told in some very creative ways!), a couple of songs, a craft activity and a dinner for the children. We end with a blessing before everyone leaves. Some of the art has been amazing: it is regularly posted on the St Marys church Facebook page.Stewart Bishop had been leading Craftea until the autumn term, and Sarah-Jane Hingorani has now taken over this responsibility. There is a small dedicated team of helpers: thank you to all who are volunteering! It's a really nice environment to get involved with children and families - there's always lots of laughter and fun! More helpers are required to enable the group to keep running. Kitchen people, craft people and story people would all be helpful. * The Teen Bible Study has been a good initiative, providing an informal and friendly place for young people across the Team to explore their faith. The  format is pizza at home followed by a led Bible study based on the lectionary. We do need some more volunteers to host - the Bible study is led by the clergy. * Activity Based Church is our activity for children and adults during the Sunday 9.30 service. Its purpose is to explore the readings with whoever is there, using activity, conversation and reflection. There are often few children who come, but those who are there are given a real opportunity to develop their faith and learn about Christianity. The leaders plan by identifying a clear message for each session and work alongside the children by asking questions and help them  think through the reading. * Our 40 Minutes service runs on the first Sunday of the month at 11.15. It is an informal service of the Word which is interactive and reflective, and gives space for all, including children and people new in faith, to explore their spirituality in a safe and friendly environment. The team, led by Wendy Lawrence,  is dedicated and creative, and most have been trained as Lay Leaders of Worship through the Diocese. * There are good connections between the church and the school, with David being a regular visitor to the school. The children know him and also have frequent visits to St Mary's Church, so are growing in familiarity with the church and with their spirituality. * Pram service continues to meet for the first and third Wednesdays of the month. As always, there are varying numbers attending the pram service, but has a committed group of helpers. * Welwyn Tune, our Junior choir, continues to enhance our worship. We are thankful to Barbara Young who ran this for many years, and moved away during the year as Nick retired. We are delighted that Linden has taken this on, with help from others. It is a great thing. It is particularly good to hear young people developing their voices and musical education through the excellent RSCM ‘Voice for Life’ training.   In summary, the year has felt like there's been a lot of change. The volunteers we have leading and helping in groups are enthusiastic and committed: a really big thank-you to all who are involved! For us to carry on with the children and youth work we are currently providing we need more volunteers, some working directly with children, but also we need hosts for the Teen Bible study and kitchen helpers for Craftea. We also need a Head of YAG as David is currently in this role. We ask for prayers for children and youth work as we continue to change. |

# APPENDIX 1 – Draft Minutes of the 2018 APCM

**Parish of Welwyn and Woolmer Green**

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING HELD ON**

**WEDNESDAY 18 APRIL 2018 IN CHURCH HOUSE**

**1. Chairman’s Welcome and Opening Remarks**

David Munchin opened the meeting with warm welcome.

**2. Attendance List and Apologies for Absence:**

Sheet of paper circulated for attendees to sign in. On which there are 45 signatures + David Munchin and Jean Perriman, Secretary, totals: 47. Apologies received from Pat Brooks, Usha Hull, Heather Knappett and Vernonne Allan.\

**3. Minutes of the APCM held on 18th April 2018**

David Munchin asks if the Minutes from last year could be signed. …………All agreed and DM signed.

**4. Matters Arising -**

None.

**5. Annual Report of the Team Council**

**6. Annual Report on the Electoral Roll**

305 vs 304 prior to April 2017. 4 deletions in the year. UNANIMOUSLY ACCEPTED.

**7. Annual Report of the PCC**

**8. Annual Report of the Financial Affairs of the Parish**

Don Bell clarified accounts. He gave Thanks to Mile and Wendy Cooper who assist in the counting of cash. A job fantastically done well. They will be replaced by Beth Bates and Don Bell. The money is safely placed in safe. Don is seeking volunteers to help with this extremely important job. Don praised the accountants for another an excellent job.

**9. Annual Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Churches for 2012**

**Welwyn St Mary's & St Michael’s, Woolmer Green**

**10. Annual Report on the proceedings of the Deanery Synod**

**11 Team Rector’s Report. The Rev’s Dr David Munchin**

Last year, I started on the rather sombre note following the sad death of Brendan Mallon as head of Woolmer Green School, so it as we continue to remember him and his family a year after his death, is seems appropriate perhaps to start with our two wonderful schools which do so much to enhance the life of this parish and community.

St Michael’s now has a new head Jan Martin who is doing an excellent job particularly after a difficult introduction.

Also I am slightly biased as I am chair of governors but St Mary’s school continues to be outstanding under the leadership of Mary and her team – it is a privilege to part of the story of that school, and we particularly congratulate Mary as she has recently become a SIAMS inspector – sort of OFSTED for church schools. This is a tribute to her record, though it may make others schools just that little bit frightened of her.

There have also been changes at church with our young people, as we have thought about how we welcome and include children in what we do. We’ve made small changes to the start of the services, but I think more important than any logistical changes is the mood and culture of a church towards young people. How we encourage and nurture and show an interest in them and their families, put plainly how often do we talk to them, or ask them what they have been doing in Junior Church.

At the end of the funding for the Youth Worker contract, which was ably carried out first by Heather Weaver, and then Hazel Parker and Stewart Bishop, there have been changes in what we have offered. The Sunday evening youth club has gone, but there have also been areas of growth.

A monthly group that prays for our young people, a young person’s pizza and Bible Study evening has started, the youth band enhances some of our services, and CraftTea has seen an increase in numbers, as has our mid-week group at Woolmer Green.

We had another well attended and successfully holiday club over the summer. Also standing down this year as our safeguarding officer is Jane Adams. We thank Jane for that work, which thank goodness has not been onerous but is important that it is covered. I thank all those involved in that young people’s work.

So in the next few months we still sadly say farewell to Barbara Young as Nick retires and they move away. Barbara has done wonderful things for the music at Welwyn, in particular the junior choir, Welwyn Tune, and the volunteer Harmony choir. These will we hope both continue but it is so good that Barbara has started and nurtured these two groups for the past few years, and we thank her for that.

We were delighted in July last year to welcome Dominic Holroyd-Thomas as team curate living and based in Woolmer Green. We welcome him, Daniel, some small furry creatures, and most recently and notably, Hilda the old English sheep dog.

Dominic has settled in well I hope and done a good year as a deacon within the team.

I hope that you will continue to support him, particularly looking forward to his ordination as a priest in a couple of months’ time. This will be on Saturday June 30th at the Cathedral at 4pm and all are welcome.

Then on the following Sunday morning Dominic will celebrate the Eucharist for the first time at the morning services at both Welwyn and Woolmer Green, and we will follow this up with a lunch time party. I hope that is a date that many of you will put in your diary to support Dominic.

Other things I have noticed around the place are a lovely large group now coming on Saturday mornings – thank you to those who serve tea and coffee then, and also to Maggie and her helpers who run such a wonderful Fairtrade stall.

We also had a good run of summer evensongs in which our theme was women in the Bible, and a good Lent, Holy Week and Easter with our guest preacher Lauryn Awbrey.

When we come to fabric we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Stuart Carr here in Welwyn and Sue Keach in Woolmer Green. Both have masterminded significant projects and their attendant fundraising - I think we’ve raised about £70k for the two projects which is impressive and generous – very extensive and expensive repairs to stone work here at Welwyn, and similarly to the roof in Woolmer Green. These have been huge projects which have taken much time, and we thank these two as well as those who have supported them in this. In both cases it does also skew the way the finances look because they distort the annual picture.

Finances remain tight day to day in both churches, and looking forward to future calls on the church purse, we will have to think hard and creatively about stewardship in the next couple of years. My thanks also to the Giving Action Group for their support both on stewardship and charitable giving -we thank Nikki Lewis who has stepped down as chair, and Geoff Cummings who has taken that role up.

Naomi Patient has also departed as our Church House Manager this year, and I am very thankful again to Stuart and Jane Carr who have undertaken that role in a voluntary capacity. It is very much appreciated. We thank Naomi for her work in that role and also in the office.

As we think of challenges that we shall face in the coming months I am particularly struck that for better or worse there are several governance and administrative matters which are looming.

Firstly safeguarding is becoming more and more a priority in the Diocese and in the church, and given public sensitivity we need to be careful here. Another publicly sensitive topic is the use of data – it is sad that the misdemeanours of very large and wealthy corporations which have misused data has necessitated tighter regulation which puts increased burdens on everyone, including churches.

However there are new data protection regulations coming in which we will have to meet.

There are also new Diocesan initiatives about reaching new people, which are probably more exciting but need time and energy to engage with.

So there are a couple of things here – we need to take seriously the vacancies for safeguarding officer, PCC secretary and Data protection officer on the back of the booklet.

I’m afraid the nature of these things is that if you are not tech savvy you can excuse yourself – again for better or for worse these tasks can really only be filled by those who are at least moderately computer enabled. To be honest it is one of those things I don’t like thinking about, because people – for the best possible motives – are quite good at telling you what these volunteers must do. What they don’t tell you is what happens when you don’t have anyone in that role. As a last resort they threaten disciplinary action against the clergy and then prison – I’m at that stage in life where I am afraid neither of these things really scare me anymore, but the fact is that to function in today’s world we do need to cover these things.

But the second thing that you can all do is to do with data protection. The regulations mean that to hold personal data – at least more than name and address – and to use that information to contact you we need your permission. You know the sort of thing from a million other forms – please tick the box if you are willing to be contacted. Now we don’t give out or sell your information to anyone else, but when you get things like electoral roll forms in the future there will be a box to tick – please tick it. I don’t know when the first court case will come of a priest who phones up a parishioner to ask if they have been unwell, and are subsequently carted off to clink, but technically I will have to have your permission to do so – it shows how inappropriate the regulation is, but that is how increasingly it will be.

In 2017 we had four events across the team which picked up on the four qualities noted in the Diocesan Living God’s Love Prayer – that we should be joyful, imaginative, courageous and generous. And so we were joyful with a gospel choir, imaginative with workshops, courageous walking over fire and enduring two hours of hideous confidence building exercises, and generous as we considered the parable of the talents. Some of these raised money for various charities. Each was an interesting reflection on church life – interestingly some attracted more people from outside the church than in it.

But apart from anything else it got people thinking – were we these things that we pray for? Did we want to be those things? Should we actually try to be other things than these? So the process and the conversations were almost more revealing and interesting than the events themselves, though each one was good and successful in its own way.

There is of course so much else goes on…. One is humbled by the reports and I feel guilty that they have not been more widely circulated. I hope people do pause to think not so much about the reports themselves, but the enormous work and energy expended on the things on which they offer a commentary. It is very gratifying – as I say I can’t go through it all… but to pick one thing at random there is a new monthly lunch club that has started in the past year – thanks to Mavis Francis and her team for that.

I would like to thank my ministerial colleagues – I have already mentioned Dominic, but also Susannah and Philip, the Readers Colin, Usha, Catherine, Lesley, John, and Mick for their ministry over the past year.

I feel incredibly blessed to have them as colleagues, and I hope you feel similarly grateful to have them as your ministers.

We should say a special thank you to Lesley who has taken the big decision to emigrate to New Zealand along with Peter. Lesley has played a great role at Woolmer Green, not least in her involvement with the school and after school club – and we wish her well in the future. We recognise that this is a daunting as well as a joyful move and our prayers are with them both.

It is also to see people beginning to explore ministry for themselves, this year Kathryn Alford joined the ordination training scheme, with Kirsty moving up to her second year. We hope there will be more like them. The results of the training for Kathryn can be seen directly after pudding when she will tell us what the Anglican church is.

Our thanks to Don Bell and his team, who have worked so hard on the accounts and book-keeping the past year. To Jean Perriman our PCC secretary many thanks who steps down from that role.

Our thanks to Philippa and Tina in the team office. I am so thankful to Linda, Stewart and Richard and all the team of people in the vestry and servers. A huge thank you to Linden for all she does as Director of Music.

Finally my thanks to our wonderful churchwardens, Sue, Diane and Stephen. They are absolutely the backbone of all that we do, and they act with superb grace, humour and wisdom. I particularly want to thank Stephen who steps down this year. We has a font of knowledge, good sense, humour, calmness and wise counsel which I have very much appreciated in the past years. And very finally thanks to you all, who have been such a wonderful set of people to serve with.

We also remember those who had died in the past year, their families, and we continue to remember and pray for them Pam Tribe, Audrey Bowring, Jenny Davidson, Derek Rawlings, Roger Strofton, Rita Oxborrow, Betty Bishop, Dennis Hull, Brendan Mallon, John Raey, Glynis Harfield, Jeremy and Reg Taylor, Audrey Maidment, Mike Casey, Richard Symonds. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Oh and one last thing – I go on extended study leave September. October, November!

David Munchin, Team Rector, 2018

**12. Election of Assistant Churchwardens for St Mary’s and St Michael’s**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ex-officio: Church Wardens:**  Diane Jenkin  Sue Keach  John Farrow - Assistant Churchwarden  Stuart Westley | Nominated  Diane Jenkin  Diane Jenkin | Seconded  Mary Gregory  Jane Carr |

**13. Election of 4 representatives to the Welwyn Hatfield Deanery Synod**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Ex-officio: Deanery Synod**:(Should be 4)  Tom Davidson  Vernonne Allan  Colin Hull  Shoena Eggington  Kathryn Alford (Lay chair) | Vernonne Allan  Ann Harper  Kathryn Alford  Pat Brooks  Wendy Lawrence | Jane Carr |

**14. Readers on the Parochial Church Council**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Readers:**  (does not mean they are not members of deanery synod)  John Burnapp  Colin Hull  Usha Hull  Lesley Griffiths |  |  |

**15. Election of Lay members to the Parochial Church Council**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Lay Members:**  Georgina Beck  Goeff Cummings  Jane Carr  Su Blanch  Wendy Lawrence |  |  |

**16. Appointment of Sides persons for St Mary’s and St Michael’s church**

Vernonne Allan

Peter and Patricia Brattle

Martin & Liz Browne

Alice Burnapp

Rose Cantillon Webber

Michael & Gay Carpenter

John Constable

Geoff Cummings

Joyce Davis

Jim Evans

Heather Knappett

D Petty

Bill & Pat Morris

Jane Robson

Keith Thompson

Roger & Carole Trigg

Elected Unanimously!

**16. St Michael’s Church sides persons:**

Christine Allday

Gill & Simon Blewett

Doreen Croft

Lurline Champagnie

Shoena Eggington

Betty Hodge

Margaret Holdcroft

Susan Keach

Janet & Rob Slater

Margaret Tucker

**Voted ‘on block’ No attendees against and No Abstainers.**

**17. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**

Peter McKay BSc ACA,

Nicholsons, Chartered Accountants

1st Floor, Bridge House,

25 Fiddlebridge Lane,

Hatfields, Herts., AL10 0SP Registered Charity No. 1130415

David Munchin asked Don Bell whether he was happy with Peter McKay – DB Affirmed and nominated again for audit. **Voted by attendees, No Against, No Abstainers.**

**The 2018/2019 Parochial Church Council**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ROLE | NOMINATED | ELECTED |
| **Ex-officio: Ministers**  David Munchin  Dominic Holroyd-Thomas Curate |  |  |
| **Ex-officio:**  **Readers:**  John Burnapp  Colin Hull  Usha Hull  Lesley Griffith  **Wardens:**  Diane Jenkins  Sue Keach  **Assistant Wardens:**  Stuart Westley  John Farrow  **Deanery Synod Reps**  Tom Davidson  Vernonne Allan  Colin Hull  Shoena Eggington  Kathryn Alford (Lay chair) | Diane Jenkin  Jo Fozzard  Vernonne Allan  Ann Harpur  Cathryn  Pat Brooks | Ann Harper  Jane Carr  Vicki Harris  Su Blanch  Linda Hobbs |
| **Elected PCC members:** | **Notes / Position/Nominated** | **2nd/Term to serve** |
| Don Bell (Welwyn) Treasurer St Mary’s | Jackie Davis | Ann Harper (elected 2018) |
| Jackie Davis (WG) Treasurer St Michael’s | Gill Hewitt | Shoena Eggington (elected 2018) |
| Daniel Holroyd-Thomas Secretary | Jean Perriman | elected 2018 |
| Geoffrey (Geoff) Cummings |  | Elected 2018 |
| Georgina Beck |  | 1yr to go |
| Debbie Coupland | Vickie Harris | Joan Harper |
| Stuart Carr |  | Elected 2018 |
| Gill Blewett |  | Term ends 2019 |
| Su Blanch |  | 1 yr to go |
| Jane Carr |  | 1 yr to go |
| Wendy Lawrence  Joan Shelley |  | 1 yr to go |
| Jean Perriman | Kathryn Alford | Don Bell |

Unanimously Voted ‘on block’ by attendees, No against and No abstainers.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name/Nominated** | **Proposed** | **2nd** |
| Stuart Westley | Diane Jenkin | Ann Harper |
| John Farrow | Jo Fozzard | Jane Carr |

**18. Any Other Business**

Colin Hull gave Thanks on behalf of all to Lyndon for a good standard of music.

Also, mentioning our choir and that he being the only tenor! All who attended voiced “Hear! Hear”.

**Closing Prayers**