

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW,
BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL**

EASTER VESTRY

AND

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAY 26TH APRIL 2015

Return, Israel, to the LORD your God. Your sins have been your downfall! Take words with you and return to the LORD. Say to him: "Forgive all our sins and receive us graciously, that may offer the fruit of our lips. Assyria cannot save us; we will not mount warhorses. We will never again say 'Our gods' to what our own hands have made, for in you the fatherless find compassion. "I will heal their waywardness and love them freely, for my anger has turned away from them. I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily. Like a cedar of Lebanon he will send down his roots; his young shoots will grow. His splendour will be like an olive tree, his fragrance like a cedar of Lebanon. People will dwell again in his shade; they will flourish like the grain, they will blossom like the vine - Israel's fame will be like the wine of Lebanon. Ephraim, what more have I to do with idols? I will answer him and care for him. I am like a flourishing juniper; your fruitfulness comes from me." Who is wise? Let them realize these things. Who is discerning? Let them understand. The ways of the LORD are right; the righteous walk in them, but the rebellious stumble in them.

Hosea 14

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**PARISH CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW,
BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL**

EASTER VESTRY AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETINGS

SUNDAY 26th APRIL 2015, at 11.00am in CHURCH

AGENDA

EASTER VESTRY

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Easter Vestry 2014 See page 6
3. Elections of Church Wardens

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2014 See pages 7-11
3. Matters arising from the Minutes
4. Receiving of Electoral Roll as revised
5. Review of the year and report of Priest in Charge See pages 12-14
6. Churchwarden's report See page 15
7. Presentation of the accounts of the PCC for the year See pages 16-18
8. Report from the Worship committee See page 19
9. Children's and youth work report See page 19
10. Report from the Choir Master See pages 20-21
11. St Matthew's Soup café and Friday Drop-In See page 22
12. Home group See page 23
13. Pastoral Care Team See page 24
14. Fabric report See page 25
15. Report from the Tower Captain See page 26
16. Report from the Steeple Keeper See page 27
17. Report on fund-raising See page 28
18. Report from the Deanery Synod See page 28
19. Report on Safeguarding See page 29
20. Blackmoor War Memorial See page 30
21. Confirmation of 2 representatives for Deanery Synod
22. Election of 5 members to the Parochial Church Council
23. Election of the Independent Examiner for the PCC Accounts for 2015
24. Subcommittees of the PCC
25. Any Other Business by Chairman's consent.

**PARISH CHURCH OF ST MATTHEW,
BLACKMOOR AND WHITEHILL
EASTER VESTRY AND ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING
SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2014, at 11.00am in CHURCH**

EASTER VESTRY

PRESENT:

Des Boddington	Sylvia Boddington	Julia Britten
Ann Budd	Don Carter	Rev'd Dominic Clarke (Chair)
David G Cooper	David J Cooper	Robin Helliwell
Davina Hudson (Churchwarden)	Steve Johnson	Gill Jolliffe
Stephen Jolliffe	Peter Kirkby	Tracey Kirkby (minutes)
Christine Moss	Rev'd Lyn Page	Helen Payne
Jilly Prideaux	Brian Seager	Pat Searle
John Selborne	Ruth Sheppard	David Ward
David Wood (Churchwarden)		

Dominic opened the meeting at 11:10am with a prayer.

1 Apologies:

Cynthia Cooper	Paul Goddard	Fiona Hall
Naomi Jolliffe	Joan Martin	Jocelyn Morgan
Gill Rooney		

2 Minutes of the Easter Vestry 2013

Sylvia Boddington proposed the minutes, David Ward seconded, and the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3 Election of Churchwardens

It was proposed by Helen Payne that Davina and David continue as churchwardens, this was seconded by Christine Moss, and agreed unanimously.

Davina is now entering the last year of her term of office. Those present were asked to consider whether they may be willing to step forward next year.

No other nominations were received, so a vote was not necessary.

The meeting closed at 11.14am.

Minutes confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Signed:.....Date:.....

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

PRESENT: As for Easter Vestry

Dominic opened the meeting at 11.15am.

1 Apologies

As for Easter Vestry

2 Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2013

David J Cooper proposed the minutes, David Ward seconded, and the minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3 Matters arising from the Minutes

5. Priest-in-charge's report. David Heatley has now retired and the ministry team at St Matthews are now leading worship in both churches.

6. Churchwarden's report. The church terrier (a list of fixtures, fittings and possessions owned by the church) is still in need of updating. Some new photographs have been added to it.

The leaflet for the bereaved has been completed and is in use.

A new notice board has been bought and is located in the car park, adjacent to the Lych Gate.

4 Receiving of Electoral Roll as revised

David Wood reported that the Electoral Roll has not changed since it was renewed in full in 2013, and that the same 83 names are on it.

5 Review of the year and report of the priest-in-charge

Dominic read out his report in full, with the following addition:

Dominic has been inspired by the start of the building works. St Matthew's is spending a lot of money to keep the church building in good condition and looking as it does now. In 5 years' time, the church will reach its 150th Anniversary, which is a major event to be celebrated. Dominic would like to initiate a new campaign to re-order and modernise this church, and would like to start thinking about building an extension. A lot needs to be done to get the church up to a better standard; e.g. heating, lighting, flooring, electrics and the sound system. We are a strong church who care passionately for this building. It will be left in the hands of the PCC to oversee, with a smaller sub-committee go get ideas of what we would like to do. Our architect is very keen to help, and everyone will have a chance to have their say, and prepare ourselves.

A question was raised about whether the pews may be removed. Any process would be agreed by the PCC by consensus.

Dominic was asked to confirm whether *all* services are recorded in the service book, including those which may take place in another location e.g. the school.

It was pointed out that Dominic's report was very much written about *our* church. What about Bisease, the 3rd world, and the wider church? How could we be raising the profile of the wider church?

It is hard to establish links with Ghana, and we get little response from them. Recently, Helen received details of their new priest, but we haven't heard back from Kofi about school links for some time.

Christian Aid takes place from 11-17 May 2014, so there is not much time to get organised. The congregation will be asked to help, and to pray for those who deliver and collect envelopes. There will also be a cake sale.

6 Churchwarden's report

Davina read the Churchwarden's report, and thanked David Wood for his work on managing the oil levels.

Alison and Alan were thanked for all their work getting grants for the building work. A formal vote of thanks was proposed by David Wood, seconded by Robin, and agreed by all those present.

A churchyard clean-up day needs to be organised for the end of May or beginning of June, and more are needed over the summer. Tony Hall is paid to work in the churchyard, but the weather has been against him so he has been unable to do a great deal this year as yet. The church has no responsibility to maintain graves on behalf of families. Parts of the new churchyard are being maintained by friends of Josh Bryant, and Ann Budd said her son had done some voluntary strimming in the bottom churchyard.

7 Presentation of the accounts of the PCC for the year

Dominic read Alan's report in his absence.

This year, the PCC made the decision not to pay the Parish Share in advance, but hold the funds in our bank account to aid cash-flow during the building work. Bills for the work have to be paid every two weeks, and the grant money may not come in at the right time. The Share WILL be paid in full, but not straight away.

Dominic detailed some of the items on the accounts. On the Income sheet (page 25) HMRC tax rebate means Gift Aid.

It was noted that the words 'designated' and 'restricted' are used to mean the same thing - and that it would be more helpful to use the same word throughout.

Heating costs have gone down, and the church seems generally warmer due to the more regular use of the heating. The figures do look good, but it must be remembered the grants have boosted them.

Expenses from the Soup Café and Drop-In are variable, but regular costs include the room hire. Money from the Bishop's Mission Opportunities Fund was spent on cutlery and crockery.

The cost of the music copyright licence was seen on page 29, but not on the main accounts.

The money for the £10 Talents campaign was donated anonymously as a loan, and will be returned to those who made donations at the end of the campaign.

A question was asked as to whether the money for the Parish Share was safe, and it was confirmed that this money will not be spent elsewhere. It cannot be put in a separate account or it will not be available when needed.

The Parish Share increases every year. The Deanery are working on a proposed budget for 2015, based on the income they expect to receive. A large 8% increase is expected next

year, but not agreed or approved to date. Parish Share is calculated according to the size of the congregation, the geographical area, and other factors. The real annual cost of one stipendiary priest is £45,000. We pay £26,000 for Dominic, Lyn, Paul and Wendy, so we get a good deal!

Finer details of the tower, fabric, and music funds are included in this year's report. The tower spent £600 on a shed to store the bling. More music will need to be purchased for new members of the choir, plus some music needs replacing. Money will be spent carefully!

Page 30 contains a summary of the accounts. It was pointed out that Lloyds and TSB are no longer partners, with a request to update the bank name.

Money in the Bisease account is in reserve for that use only. The money needs to be taken there and physically put in their hands, rather than being sent by other means.

Money in the Selborne Fund has increased in value in accordance with the market.

The Accounts as presented were proposed by David Ward, seconded by Helen Payne. There were 24 votes in favour, and one against, so the accounts were agreed as a true record.

Alan was thanked for his hard work.

8 Report from Worship Committee

There were no questions or comments on the report.

9 Children and youth work report

There were no questions or comments on the report.

10 Report from the Choir Master

There were no questions.

It was noted that music at Passiontide and Easter were excellent this year, with thanks to Robin, the choir and musicians.

11 St. Matthew's Friday drop-in and Soup Café

There were no questions or comments on the report.

12 House Group

There were no questions or comments on the report.

13 Pastoral Care Team (PCT)

There were no questions or comments on the report.

Gavin was thanked for his work with both the house group and PCT. He also helps at other churches, so we don't see him as much as we used to.

14 Fabric Report

Nothing to add. No questions.

15 Report from the Tower Captain

Nothing to add. No questions.

16 Report from the Steeple Keeper

Nothing to add. No questions.

17 Report on fundraising

Nothing to add. No questions.

18 Report from the Deanery Synod

Nothing to add. No questions.

19 Report on Safeguarding

Nothing to add. No questions.

20 Blackmoor War Memorial

Nothing to add. No questions.

21 Confirmation of 2 representatives for Deanery Synod

Our Deanery Synod representatives are Gill Rooney and Helen Payne. There were no other volunteers, and both Gill and Helen are happy to continue in this role. This was proposed by David Wood, seconded by Christine Moss, and agreed.

22 Election of 2 members to the Parochial Church Council

There are currently 2 vacancies on the PCC, and two nominations have been received, so an election was not necessary. The appointment of David J Cooper was proposed by Helen Payne, and seconded by Alan Waterhouse; and Julia Britten by Helen Payne and Jenny Clarke. Both were elected.

23 Election of the Independent Examiner for the PCC Accounts for 2014

Dave Hughes has done this for the last two years, it was proposed by Carol Cooper, seconded by Davina, and agreed that he continue.

24 Sub-committees of the PCC

The sub-committees are:

- Hymn choosing
- Worship
- Finance
- Fabric, and
- Social.

A sign-up sheet will be in church from next week, and will be agreed at the next PCC meeting.

25 Any Other Business by Chairman’s consent

The sound system is unreliable, and a long time has been spent in trying to find a solution. Sometimes the microphone is forgotten. Lyn donated some equipment a few years ago. There are only two speakers, which both point forwards, and more are needed. The acoustics can be difficult to balance to avoid echo. Dominic will seek some advice on this.

Robin offered to lead a workshop on voice projection. Some people have difficulty in making themselves heard and do not use the microphone correctly when it is provided.

Last year, Gavin and Jocelyn were given the roles of Deputy Churchwardens. The church was not sure what this role entailed, and it did not develop into anything. We will consider getting an unofficial trainee churchwarden sooner than later, to prepare for next year when Davina will step down.

Next year, St George’s Garrison Church will be closing and the contents will be moved. The British Legion have 2 standards, which they have requested are moved to St Matthew’s, and the PCC have approved the installation in principle. This would mean the flags would move across Dioceses, which may not be possible. We will have to wait and see what they decide.

Thanks were recorded to everyone who is involved in the life and ministry of the church.

The meeting closed at 12:40pm with the Grace.

Minutes confirmed as being a true and accurate record.

Signed:

.....

Date:

.....

REPORT FROM THE PRIEST IN CHARGE

This last year has seen huge achievements, much growth and development but also new challenges. For me it has seemed that over the last year the Holy Spirit has been moving and shaping us in the most dramatic and encouraging way – we have so much to be thankful to God for at this time and there are so many signs that God is blessing us.

Perhaps our most obvious achievement has been the building works that were completed in 2014. We replaced the church roof, fitted insulation and carried out a few other essential improvements. This achievement is first and foremost a fitting testament to the hard work, the blood, sweat and tears, of many people over many years. A huge amount of fundraising has been done, there has also been a lot of sacrificial giving as well as an incredibly complex amount of work behind the scenes to attract and secure funding. Thank you to everyone involved. The building looks beautiful, it is warmer inside and the roof is now secure for hopefully at least another century! Thanks be to God!

However, let's get this issue out of the way straight away: the focus on the building works and its overall cost has financially crippled us as a church which also left us unable to pay our Parish Share to the diocese in full last year. As I am sure you are aware we have already met with the diocese about the debt that remains. A plan has been formulated, a small number of fundraising events have been booked, and a 'Friends of St Matthew's' group has been launched to help raise our income. I sense very much that the feeling of the church congregation is that we are not beaten by this challenge at all, and that our spirits are high with a real determination to get the church finances back on track as soon as possible. I know also that several members of the congregation have already been extremely generous with their giving in response to the problem, for which I thank you on behalf of the whole church.

At the end of the day the path to financial security for St Matthew's is a clear one. Firstly we need to all look carefully and prayerfully at our own giving. How much do we value the church, our life of worship and prayer and the friendships and relationships we have through St Matthew's? Does our giving reflect that value accurately and honestly? Secondly, we need to continue to work as hard as possible at welcoming new people into our church, building our congregations, encouraging one another in our faith journeys so that we continue to grow, thereby sharing the financial burden of running a successful church. This is a task that every single one of us are responsible for. None are exempt! We need to work hard at our welcome, at the friendship and generosity we show to everyone who comes through our doors and to everyone in the community that we reach out to.

So, it has been a very busy year for us all but a number of key things really point at the growth, light and life that shines out from St Matthew's Church that I wanted to especially mention:

The Monday Soup Café has grown encouragingly in the last year. Volunteering at the café is exhausting work as we have so many people come to enjoy beautiful homemade soup and lively conversation. The really wonderful thing about the Soup Café, I believe, is that the majority of customers do NOT come to church. This means that through the cafe we are able to demonstrate the love of Jesus and the Spirit of our church in simple service and friendliness to the folks of our community. These are the sorts of ways in which we promote our church and our faith most vividly. The Friday drop-in also continues to be an important meeting place for local people. Thank you to everyone who volunteers at either of these important outreach events.

Another significant achievement in the last year has been the formation, training and development of a dedicated Pastoral Care Team. Thanks are due to Gavin Thomas for being the driving force behind the team. The PCT have a specific role to offer pastoral care through home visiting (including bringing communion to those who are housebound or in hospital), being a listening ear to anyone in need, seeking out and welcoming newcomers to the church and assisting at our Healing Services. Gavin has spent hours in planning and training the group who are now superbly well equipped for their important ministry. Most members of the PCT have also completed training provided by the deanery.

The Healing Service which now takes place bi-monthly is a huge development in our spirituality and service as a church. Prayer for healing with the laying on of hands in blessing on a personal and loving one-to-one basis is now offered during our regular Sunday morning service at these special events. All are welcomed to come and take part. These are always beautiful and moving moments in worship where God reaches down and literally touches the lives of those who put their faith in him. This charismatic growth in our spirituality is hugely encouraging and very popular. I believe it is another sign that as a congregation we come to church always expecting to be changed by the experience and are ever faithful to God's power to heal and make whole.

God has also spoken to us in other ways in this past year. At our Day of Prayer in February *Hosea 14* was given to us three times in a most spectacular way. The words of scripture are printed at the front of this report. The Lord certainly spoke to us directly that day and I believe that this scripture must therefore be one for us to hold onto and consider further. In many ways it is a direct call to return to the fundamentals of our relationship with God and a reminder to lean on him for all our needs. There is the direct promise also of healing and of new roots and the growth of young blossoming shoots. It is very exciting and I can't wait to see how this message plays out for us in the years ahead. I would love it if you would all also return to this passage regularly, perhaps mark it in your bibles, or copy it out and stick it on your fridge!

Our life of worship at St Matthew's continues to grow and diversify. The choir remains a strong element of our Sunday worship. It has also grown in numbers with new membership and an increasingly diverse and interesting repertoire. My thanks to all who take part in the work of the choir and organists, and our bell ringers as well who continue to announce our presence to the world each Sunday and at special occasions. Sunday Connect has also grown from strength to strength with new membership, increased giving and a great band! Much fruit has come directly from Connect including: children's workshops, holiday clubs and an annual Alpha Course PLUS the formation of a monthly "Life Group" who meet for dinner, study and prayer. A breakfast group is also promised for 2015, and our existing house group led by Gavin continues to offer opportunities for fellowship and a deepening of faith outside of the Sunday morning slot. All these 'young blossoming shoots' are the ways in which our church will continue to grow and revive in the future. A small group from Connect will be going together later this year to the New Wine National Gathering and I feel certain that this experience will lead us on even further in new directions.

Our church school continues to be our pride and joy and in a year of great change for them the Christian distinctiveness of the school is assured and our relationship has grown closer. It is such a wonderful sight to see several members of the school staff commit to coming regularly to church at the Family Service. The Governing body contains a majority of church members who work tirelessly.

St Matthew's Church is far from static, in fact I sometimes find it hard to keep up with everything that is happening! We must be encouraged by the life and vitality of all the many ways in which membership of this church is expressed by many different people of all ages.

There is still much for us to do. In 2015-16 I think we need to look closer still at our ministry of welcome and make growth at the heart of the church a key objective. Discipleship for every member is also vital to give us confidence to reach out into the community AND to invite the community into the church, to become part of what we treasure and enjoy. We also need to work increasingly harder at our relationship with St John the Baptist Church, Greatham to find new ways to share our Christian lives.

With the grace of God and the gift of the Holy Spirit I know that we can achieve anything that we set our hearts to, if it is always focussed on the building up of one another and the Kingdom of God. I want to thank each and every one of you for your love and commitment to St Matthew's Church and for all that you do to make my leadership here such a joy. I pray for you all regularly and I ask that you continue to pray for me too. I can't wait to see where God leads us all to next because we,

"can do all things through him who gives us strength." Philippians 4: 13

Yours in Christ,
Dom.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

In the Church life and in the churchwarden's life this has been the year of the NEW ROOF! Well it is a once in a 145 years event so it really has to have dominated. What with attending site meetings and consulting and then urgently having to consult with the PCC about major decisions, one of the most important being whether to upgrade the layer of insulation that was being placed between the timber and new roof tiles, as a new product had come on the market between the original quotes coming in and the work being commenced, but this was such a major decision and I do think that every member of the church family must have come to appreciate the difference in the temperature in the church which is the result of the insulation! Whilst talking about the work, the part of this which is less obvious but perhaps more important is the work to the drainage, which will safeguard the future of the church as it will (hopefully) no longer in heavy rain lose the soil from the foundations (I realise that this is a very simplistic explanation but does, I think, explain the purpose of that work!)

Obviously this has been a worrying year because of the problems of the church finances and we have worked with the Treasurer to look at coping with this serious problem, one that is being experienced by churches across the diocese and the country. This year has been about juggling finances, as I am sure many families do, to cope with everyday bills.

The churchyard was left a little unkempt because of the scaffolding but is now recovering quite well.

As always, we have to thank everyone involved with the work undertaken to ensure that people are welcomed into the church. Most importantly this year the cleaning team who, during the work to strip the roof, washed every pew in the church every week for about six weeks as they were all covered in thick black dirt raining down from the roof despite being covered with polythene dust sheets. The cleaning team come into the church every week without fail to ensure that the church looks welcoming at all times. The flower arranging team are admirably lead by Helen, which again keeps the church looking welcoming, and often providing wonderful flower perfumes wafting around and welcoming visitors. Our thanks also to Angela who ensures that we have refreshments, tea, coffee and biscuits, after the service every week and also for visitors to the church who are often offered refreshments. The bellringers are out of sight but provide the wonderful music which calls and welcomes the people to church and of course ringing to mark special occasions. As always, the choir deserve a special mention because of the wonderful anthems and the way they make all of us feel we can sing because we all sound better because with their support! Of course they could not do what they do without the musicians who support them, Fiona ably supported by Gavin and Des and of course Mary on piano.

The church would be a much poorer place without your input, not just work you all do, but, that most important and valuable commodity, your time.

MANY, MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL.

Davina Hudson
Church Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT
FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2014

The church faced another difficult year and we were unable to pay our full Parish Share.

During the year we received some generous donations which help. Apple tasting took place again and helped raise valuable money for both the church and bell tower funds.

The Talent campaign events will come to an end in 2015 and were very successful.

The accounts have been examined and audited by Mr Dave Hughes, who has undertaken this task for the past three years.

Looking at 2015, it will be another difficult year as we try to pay our Parish Share for 2015 and clear our unpaid share for 2014. To achieve this it will require careful monitoring and prudent expenditure not only in this year but for many years to come.

To help with the burden of paying day to day Building and Ground maintenance costs, a 'Friends of St Matthews scheme' was launched on Palm Sunday.

Alan Waterhouse
PCC Treasurer

Actual Cash Income Jan to December 2014 with 2013 Comparison

INCOME	Actual											
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Church collections direct credit	894.00	894.00	894.00	944.00	944.00	944.00	944.00	944.00	919.00	919.00	919.00	1114.00
Church collections cash	840.97	300.82	71.52	411.38	939.61		508.31	508.61	457.77	501.12	732.85	123.80
Baptism collections	105.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	79.27	0.00	52.56	107.49	55.08	0.00	37.17	59.00
Wedding collections	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.01	0.00	702.00	100.62	10.02	115.92	0.00	0.00
Funeral Collections	0.00	21.57	0.00	0.00	138.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	123.22	0.00	24.57
Legacy	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Wedding deposits	760.00	0.00	602.00	1770.00	906.00	0.00	1095.00	191.00	200.00	0.00	513.00	0.00
Funerals	0.00	533.00	497.00	121.00	832.00	0.00	0.00	165.00	540.00	0.00	1112.00	0.00
Refund Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Fabric Whitehill Town Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bellringers	0.00	299.70	36.16	24.20	10.00	0.00	1128.46	150.00	70.00	661.47	64.00	41.58
Donations	26.25	760.00	98.13	0.00	190.00	820.02	430.00	204.11	181.90	345.80	220.00	34.01
Breakfast Club	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
HMRC tax rebate	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soup kitchen	149.93	120.69	0.00	170.93	65.06	0.00	346.30	0.00	117.81	150.63	119.71	263.20
Drop in	101.01	126.95	46.95	168.13	0.00	0.00	289.83	188.96	244.67	95.46	105.61	164.96
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	69800.00	66250.00	0.00	0.00	8743.79	99571.00	17305.56	0.00
Fund Raisers	0.00	41.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	689.80
Apple day	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	619.47	0.00	0.00
Talents	50.00	316.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	326.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	102.00	0.00
Mid Summer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soap Box Derby	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Des music students evening	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	43.55	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music												
Bisease	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
	2927.42	3414.43	2245.76	3609.64	74004.61	68014.02	5823.26	2689.79	11583.59	103103.09	21230.90	2514.92

2014
Total
£11,273.00
£5,396.76
£495.83
£1,028.57
£308.02
£0.00
£6,037.00
£3,800.00
£0.00
£0.00
£2,485.57
£3,310.22
£0.00
£0.00
£1,504.26
£1,532.53
£261,670.35
£861.50
£619.47
£794.80
£0.00
£0.00
£0.00
£0.00
£0.00
£43.55
£0.00
£301,161.43

2013
Total
£7,756.00
£8,609.75
£293.10
£265.28
£0.00
£12,915.14
£8,147.00
£5,498.36
£400.52
£1,500.00
£132.50
£8,081.10
£650.00
£2,415.56
£674.51
£822.44
£11,802.00
£739.45
£0.00
£132.89
£2,060.10
£624.30
£271.00
£421.35
£74,212.35

Actual Cash Expenditure Jan to December 2014 with 2013 Comparison

EXPENDITURE	Actual											
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Parish share	4112.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6600.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Soup Café / Drop In	0.00	0.00	0.00	383.00	0.00	178.00	178.00	0.00	383.00	0.00	346.50	269.50
Music	0.00	260.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	73.44	0.00	0.00	493.83	0.00	0.00	0.00
Communion Items	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	41.09	0.00	0.00	208.80	0.00	0.00
Candles	115.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	93.47	0.00
Weddings/funerals	0.00	100.00	0.00	710.00	0.00	140.00	70.00	818.00	110.00	0.00	230.00	70.00
Oil & electricity	730.03	710.61	70.00	656.95	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	70.00	606.69	70.00
Insurance	235.02	234.89	234.89	234.89	234.89	234.89	234.89	234.89	234.89	234.89	363.72	363.71
Building Works	0.00	0.00	0.00	7095.58	0.00	1602.00	50062.71	0.00	102453.36	62650.33	46267.80	0.00
Maintenance & Equipment	1026.00	323.29	0.00	740.07	0.00	282.64	50.00	84.00	1299.40	158.27	876.18	0.00
Toilet seat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Equipment hire	7.78	7.78	7.78	7.78	8.09	8.09	8.09	8.09	8.09	16.18	0.00	8.09
Coffee machine	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sound system J Grove/J Lucas	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ricoh	0.00	165.57	0.00	0.00	165.18	0.00	0.00	165.38	0.00	0.00	147.38	0.00
Diocese Weddings/funerals	2331.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vicar expenses	134.14	0.00	0.00	173.78	84.00	82.60	137.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	239.50	0.00
Telephone	50.53	56.02	49.17	50.78	61.68	49.83	55.33	57.94	51.72	50.99	50.53	0.00
Church secretarial	0.00	85.00	245.00	185.00	0.00	145.00	120.00	0.00	245.00	0.00	205.00	0.00
Charitable Donations	150.00	250.50	0.00	0.00	551.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	175.00	0.00	21.00	0.00
Room Hire/Loan - Junior Church	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	108.00	0.00
Licences	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bellringer expenses	0.00	90.00	25.00	244.94	51.30	40.00	158.50	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stationery, stamps etc	0.00	0.00	20.27	80.12	72.07	160.80	188.14	68.04	105.06	90.55	0.00	193.51
Bank charges	29.69	34.14	28.50	28.50	29.54	15.36	30.67	32.40	28.28	35.24	38.69	24.68
Printing	224.71	136.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	98.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	123.38	0.00
	9145.90	2454.80	680.61	10591.39	1578.11	3181.59	58004.95	1538.74	105707.63	63515.25	49717.84	999.49
Opening cash per bank statement	31646.73	25428.25	26387.88	27953.03	20971.28	93397.78	158230.21	106048.52	107199.57	13075.53	52663.37	24176.43
Closing balance per bank statement	25428.25	26387.88	27953.03	20971.28	93397.78	158230.21	106048.52	107199.57	13075.53	52663.37	24176.43	25691.86

2014	2013
Total	Total
£10,712.00	£26,552.00
£1,738.00	£3,692.41
£827.51	£657.93
£249.89	£10.45
£208.47	£134.30
£2,248.00	£1,090.00
£3,264.28	£3,271.56
£3,076.46	£2,886.36
£270,131.78	£18,280.07
£4,839.85	£781.35
£0.00	£51.74
£95.84	£93.36
£0.00	£194.00
£0.00	£755.00
£643.51	£615.91
£2,331.00	£0.00
£851.55	£682.55
£584.52	£573.81
£1,230.00	£1,757.43
£1,147.86	£61.00
£358.00	£204.00
£0.00	£0.00
£659.74	£935.50
£978.56	£1,368.21
£355.69	£345.42
£583.79	£345.90
£307,116.30	£65,340.26

REPORT FROM THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The worship committee have only met sporadically in the last year and discussions are currently under way to decide whether to disband the group or re-constitute its aims and objectives for 2015.

JUNIOR CHURCH REPORT

Attendance. About 13 children have attended regularly, and about 7 less regularly. Numbers are rarely more than 12, occasionally as few as 5. Age range has been from 3 to 10 years, with parents of children under school age staying with them. This small number of children has the advantage of allowing a great deal of personal attention to be given to each child, as well as enabling the children to get to know all the others in the group. We normally have a high helper/child ratio.

Junior Church in the Village Hall, on 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays of the month. The start of Junior Church is always Circle Time, which includes sharing news, thoughts, feelings, ideas, and prayers, as well as teaching and storytelling. This is followed up by activities which reinforce the theme of the session. These activities have been very creative and enjoyable, with a great deal of variety. The time is often rounded off with a few games in the large hall, which are greatly enjoyed by the children. Over the year we have adhered closely to what is happening in the experience of the children as the year progresses, often reinforcing what they are learning at school.

At the end of each session in the Village Hall the children come into church, and have the chance to feel that they belong to the larger family of St Matthews, going up to the altar rail for a blessing, and sharing what they have learnt with the whole congregation.

Sunday Connect on 1st Sunday of each month. The number of children attending has been about 20 or less, with a wide age range. They enjoy the informal atmosphere and can participate more freely than in the normal Sunday services. While a talk is being given to the adults the children need separate activities for 20 minutes. This has not been easy to provide. It is much easier at the school than at the church, especially in winter when it is too cold to use the entrance area of the church.

Family Service on 3rd Sunday. A good aspect of this service is that teachers from St Matthews School have been making a point of attending. This gives a very valuable feeling of connection between church and school.

Highlight of the year. This was definitely the Nativity Play. Jenny Clarke came on board to play a very large part in this successful production, which involved all the children who wanted to be involved, and gave them truly memorable experiences: round-the-table planning at the vicarage, practising hard, and then performing on the day.

Plans for the future:

- To continue to form good relationships with the children and families, and to welcome newcomers.
- To teach the children about some of the different roles in 'big church'.
- To continue to teach different stories in the Bible.
- But most of all to keep having fun.

Mary Walker and Sara Hiscock

REPORT FROM THE CHOIR MASTER

During the summer term (2014) the choir continued its ministry, singing for the Sunday Eucharist and the termly choral evensong, its sound enriched by the voices of the new members whom we welcomed last year. Additional voices do make a significant difference to the overall sound of the choir, especially in some of the larger pieces we sing. Choral evensong was sung on Trinity Sunday and, additionally, marked the retirement of one of the leading choral conductors of modern times, Edward Higginbottom, Director of Music at New College, Oxford for some thirty-six years. Edward turned the choir into one of the most distinctive in the history of church music, the sound of which is, thankfully, preserved on the many CD recordings he made over the years with his choir.

We had one of our busiest Autumn terms ever, with a concert in September, Choral Evensong in November and two special services on Advent 1 and Advent 4. These involved some twenty-six choral items, over and above the twenty or so normally sung over that period.

We had not sung a concert since we ceased to perform on Apple Day and I must confess to some misgivings, as we had only three rehearsals for it, prior to September 21st - two of those were somewhat parlous, to say the least. I need not have worried - on the night the choir sang really well and the music was well received. All the items are part of our core repertoire but the concert gave us the chance to put them into context, presenting the pieces in chronological order, with a linking narrative, telling the story of this glorious choral tradition of which we are a part.

Another such link came about at choral evensong for Remembrance Sunday. Those of you who read my "Music Matters" leaflets or have read "Vision Splendid" (still available online, on the church's website) will know the respect in which St. Michael's College, Tenbury, is held by church musicians - it was a highly influential source of the inspiration that led to the resurgence of English music in the mid nineteenth century. It was therefore a great joy for me to welcome Mr. Kevin Jacot to play the organ at evensong, given that he was one of the last choristers to be trained there before the college's closure as a choir school in 1985. This, along with a full choir, made for a memorable service. Music from across the whole history of the Church of England was sung, including the sixteenth century Christopher Tye; William Smith and Robert Stone from the next century; a nineteenth century psalm chant; EJ Moeran's Magnificat from the twentieth and two contemporary pieces; my Nunc Dimittis and Jonathan Willcocks' anthem for peace, written to mark the millennium.

The termly choral evensongs form an important part of the choir's work, for they reflect the true nature of its ministry. For centuries Mattins and Evensong were the standard forms of worship in parish churches. As such, there is much wonderful music for such services, the morning canticles, Te Deum and Jubilate, and, in the evening, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis. The offices also provide for the singing of all 150 psalms on a monthly rota. Whilst it is easy to accommodate the morning canticles into a Eucharist, Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis are only appropriate on a few occasions at a morning service. Thus our choral evensongs allow the choir to sing this special music regularly - we currently have seven settings of Mag and Nunc in the repertoire, the most regular being three twentieth century settings, by Moeran, Dyson and Hylton-Stewart, backed up by those by Tallis, SS Wesley and myself, each of which have been sung at these services. The seventh setting is that by Vaughan Williams, specially written "for Village Choir" as it says in the score. Whilst relatively easy by cathedral standards, village choirs of his day must have been pretty good! Many composers, when writing for amateurs, tend to write in a simpler style, often devoid of their personal stamp - not so Vaughan Williams - this setting may be (nominally) in C major, but from the very first phrase it is recognisably by him. Moreover it was written just after three of his earliest masterpieces, *The Lark Ascending*, the *Pastoral Symphony* and the magnificent *Mass in G Minor*. Elements of that style show through here.

The singing of the psalm also allows the choir to keep up its knowledge of Anglican chant, a delight in itself when well sung. This year we have been using William Smith's Preces and Responses, which date from the seventeenth century - they are very beautiful and I feel the choir now has them confidently in their bones. Choral evensong is perhaps the least demanding form of worship there is - the choir sings it on your behalf, leaving you to contemplate and worship God in the silence of your own heart, through music and inspirational words "in the beauty of holiness".

A significant change to our worship pattern has come about as a result of Dominic's need to lead services at Greatham as well. Looking to shorten the service, as well as starting earlier, we have moved the anthem to the Gradual slot on most Sundays. Gradual Anthems have been used throughout the Church of England's existence. Indeed, one or two of our repertoire anthems were written especially for it, notably Bruckner's *Locus Iste* and Jonathan Willcocks' *Draw Near*.

Thanks, as always, should be recorded to all those whose input supports the choral ministry at St. Matthew's: our organists Fiona, Des and Gavin, without whom most of what we sing could not be offered. My grateful thanks to Des, who joined us to sing but found himself pressed into service at the organ, particularly at choir practices, which for various reasons Fiona is unable to get to presently. With two hymn books, three service settings and many anthems, some located in folders, others in various collections, organising the music before the service or for choir practice is an onerous task and once again I am grateful to Ruth Sheppard, whose organisational skills make up for my lack of them!

Finally of course, thanks to all the singers, who, in spite of busy lives, manage to turn up week by week on Sunday and Friday evening - it is thanks to their dedication that we achieve what I think is a good standard of music in worship. That of course is the whole point - the music must be an aid to worship, never an end in itself. It is easy with music with which the choir is very familiar to settle for just singing the notes - this is why choir practice is so important - it is a chance to remind ourselves that every performance should feel like the new creation it really is and that there is more to performing a piece than just reading the notes. I like to think that we have in mind Elgar's instruction to the BBC Symphony orchestra in his familiar *Pomp and Circumstance* march:

"Gentlemen, you must play this as if you had never done so before!"

This was exemplified I think by the choir's response at the special service of thanksgiving for the new roof, on Palm Sunday. Both the introit, Bach's "Passion Chorale" and John Goss's anthem "O Saviour of the World" are familiar choir items but, on the day, each came over powerfully, partly through the interpretational details I had asked for but also through the choir and organist's intense involvement in their singing and playing. After the service, several people, including Archdeacon Gavin, commented on the choir's contribution.

Robin Helliwell, Choirmaster
March 2014

ST MATTHEW'S FRIDAY DROP-IN
AND
THE MONDAY SOUP CAFÉ

The Drop-In and the Soup Café remain an important part of the Church's mission to take St Matthew's into the wider community of Whitehill.

The Soup Café continues to provide a lunch venue with a buzzing atmosphere and attracts new people every month. Financially it continues to make a profit. We don't seem to attract many of the original clientele that we had hoped for, but we are still really pleased with the work that we do. With the last of the grant we received from the Diocese we were able to purchase a new trolley and 40 comfortable fabric chairs for the use of both the Drop-In and the Soup Café.

The Drop-In remains an important part of the week for quite a few members of the community but we are still disappointed that it has not grown in the way we had hoped, but I do believe that it has an important part in the community.

At the end of the financial year any money that we had in hand was transferred into general church funds, which we were really pleased to be able to do considering the original fears that the church might have to subsidise these ventures.

I have to highlight the amazing work of the volunteers who man both of these ventures. Those who make endless wonderful cakes and gallons of soup every week, all of which is consumed voraciously, they work tirelessly and welcome the many customers, and in effect provide pastoral care as well as undertaking all the more mundane chores which have to be completed!

Davina Hudson

ST MATTHEW'S HOME GROUP

The home group is now into its third year. Attendance over the last year ranged from 4 to 13. A variety of topics and events were introduced over the last year and these included: afternoon tea, two wildlife presentations 'The Lion Sleeps tonight' presented by a fellow parishioner of St John's, a personal journey (evacuation during World War two – presentation by Mr David Ward, 'My space' – an open agenda, exploring different faiths, an organised trip to Guildford Cathedral, Brunch, and Food, faith and religion. Each topic/event was linked to a spiritual theme. Throughout the year, we discussed and prayed for one of our 'Hope' messages from our 'hope' tree introduced the year before. We also considered a 'thought for the month'.

This year, each monthly session will be in the form of an 'open forum' with some planned events. Regular attendees have expressed an interest in an organised trip to Chichester Cathedral and to further explore faiths and styles of worship.

Here is what some of our attendees have to say about the home group:

The home group is: uplifting, supportive, thought provoking and non-judgemental.

The home group encourages: friendships, discussions, conviviality, safety and confidentiality.

The home group explores other faiths, enables wider aspects of discussion, broadens horizons, influences spirituality and helps build relationships among each other.

Thanks are extended to everyone who support the home group and for contributing towards its continued success. Our home group motto is 'Celebrating God's love for all'. We continue to fulfil this motto in all we think, pray, and discuss.

The home group is an open forum for anyone to attend at any time. The group meets monthly at the address below and dates are advertised in the pew sheet. Drinks and refreshments are always served and on occasions this includes a meal courtesy of the host.

All are welcome.

Host: Gavin Thomas
Venue: 5 Tilbury's Close, Bordon

REPORT FROM THE PASTORAL CARE TEAM (PCT)

*'Giving is the secret of a healthy life – not necessarily giving money,
but encouragement, sympathy and understanding'*

Deuteronomy 1:39

Deuteronomy 3:28'

We have a well-established pastoral care team (PCT). Our current members are: Helen Payne, Davina Hudson, Julia Britten, Mary Evans & Stephen Johnson & Sue Sergeant.

The PCT continues to fulfil its mission with fellow parishioners, members of the wider community and those who do not see themselves as belonging to any faith. Support services include: home visits, informal chats, home communion, private prayer, assistance at healing services, and bereavement support. We do not provide a counselling or advice service. However, listening is our starting point while supporting a wide variety of spiritual and personal journeys.

Over the course of the year, members of the PCT have continued to meet regularly for group support, development, review of outreach work and team building opportunities. This is one of the team's key strengths and a process which has evolved over time. The outcomes of these meetings are documented and circulated amongst the PCT and clergy team.

Two main goals were identified for the period 2014/15; to develop a bereavement support group and review team accessibility.

- Bereavement Support group – We have not yet created a bereavement support group but this will be kept under review for the future. In the meantime, the majority of the PCT have attended bereavement training with the Reverend Wendy Mallas. In addition, four members of the PCT attended a 'Spirituality' day at Portsmouth Cathedral in October 2014. Some of the workshops included support and coping mechanisms for those experiencing loss and separation. The team continues to offer bereavement support when required.
- Team accessibility – Posters are now displayed at St Matthews and St Johns. These posters include the details of the PCT and terms of reference.
- All members of the PCT have been issued with 'contact cards'. We take this opportunity of thanking Mr Digby Payne for designing and printing these cards.

Over the last year, the PCT were in the midst of discussing and planning a bespoke training and development package. However, in September 2014, the Deanery announced plans to provide formal 'Lay Pastoral Assistant' Training'. In light of this, the work undertaken in devising our own training and development package was suspended. Instead an in-house induction profile was created. All members of the PCT attended two induction evenings when the profile was introduced. This profile was also created to benefit future members of the team who are not interested in undertaking the LPA training. The vast majority of the team are nearing completion of the LPA training and will be licensed on successful completion of this training.

The end of March 2015 marks the end of my time as the PCT coordinator and I will also be leaving the team. I would like to express my deep appreciation to all members of the team for their ongoing support, dedication, commitment and passion in providing a very special and rewarding service.

Gavin Thomas

FABRIC REPORT

The main focus this year was the Major building works to the roof and soakaways.

Regular site meetings with both the Main contractor and Architect have taken place during May and December.

Works have now been completed and we await the final invoices and related grants money.

Work is still required in the churchyard, and a grant application has been made to Selborne Parish Council to fund some of these works. Maintenance days are being planned; these will be published in the pewsheet, dates to be agreed by PCC.

The next major job is to look at the electrical supply to the building, to ensure that all electrics comply with the current regulations.

Alison Waterhouse, Chair of Fabric Committee
and
Alan Waterhouse, Grants Officer

REPORT FROM THE TOWER CAPTAIN

My first Tower Captain's report! I have tried not to witter on too much.

Starting in the time honoured way:

We have fielded (or should that be towered) a team for every wedding, Sunday morning service, and occasional evening service throughout the year. Sometimes it's been quite a small team, but nevertheless, we have not let anybody down. Thank you.

James, Linda, Gill, Hannah and Kathy are all making excellent progress with Bob Doubles, and are not panicking too much if they find that they are occasionally ringing an unexpected touch. It is my intention that we will expand on this to take in Bob Minor as well before too much longer. It really isn't that much of a leap, honest. We will organise a special practice focusing on Bob Doubles early in the year, so that you can all go and hone your new skills.

We have talked about quarter peals a few times over the year, but unfortunately didn't actually attempt any. According to Matt Watts from Alton I am going about this in the wrong way. Rather than suggesting that someone is ready to do one, I should be saying "right we're doing a quarter peal next month", and just get on with organising it.

In July we rang half muffled to commemorate the start of World War I, Brent even dressed up for the event. Put the rest of us to shame. I hope we'll be ringing on open bells in 2018 to celebrate the end of the war too.

We had an excellent tower outing, taking in some local towers and beautiful countryside. Unfortunately we lost Linda mid-morning when she had to dash off to become a Granny again. Still, we all enjoyed eating her lunch. Thank you for organising that Kathy. I really hope that someone is poised to volunteer to organise the next one.

In October we hosted the District Quarterly Meeting and Striking Competition. Once again we laid on such an interesting tea that the ravening hoards soon picked the table clean. Oh and we came third in the competition too, mustn't forget that, we were all rightly proud of our efforts.

We have welcomed Isobel into the tower whilst she earns her Duke of Edinburgh Award, and she is getting on so well that we hope she decides to stay. I think she would be a marvellous asset to the team. Last week we also welcomed two new learners, Elizabeth Perry and Tim Weaver and first impressions are looking very positive. Elizabeth had 'Learn to Bell Ring' on her bucket list of things to do now she has turned 40, but didn't know who to approach until she saw the article and photo in the Herald recently, and said 'I know her, she works next door!' Who knows, maybe we'll be able to persuade her to take it up permanently.

The Bordon Herald article may not have been completely accurate but, judging from the amount of comments I've had, some good, some not, I know it has been read by many people.

Anyway, I'll stop now. Thank you all for your support over the past year, and well done for all the progress that has been made.

Valerie Harris.
23rd January 2015

REPORT FROM THE STEEPLE KEEPER

It seems incredible that I have now been ringing the bells in this church for fifty years. In the intervening years I have rung with many wonderful people, visited Churches, Cathedrals and secular towers the length and breadth of the Country and been challenged and invigorated by their bells. I have taken much pleasure from my hobby and hope that I have been able to put a little back to benefit others. Of course there are many things that I haven't done; methods still to learn, places to visit and people to enjoy the company of.

The Clock!! I'm sure that this will be the bane of my life.

First the good news. The clock is keeping time to within a few seconds a week; the best that I have ever known it.

This time last year I thought that I had solved why the clock had a double tick on each swing of the pendulum, but it has started again. I don't think that it will cause a problem, but it does sound slightly weird.

The quarter chimes have now been stopped for a few months. The planetary gearbox on the electric winding has worn badly and I think that the three idling gears will need to be replaced. With Church finances as they are, I have not pursued this further.

The bells and fittings are in fair condition. I continue to check them regularly for anything amiss. Adjusting the rope lengths this year has been made easier by the help of my assistant, Hannah.

I have talked to Whitechapel Bell Foundry to get a rough figure for the cost of quarter turning the bells, so that the clapper would strike on an unworn area. I was told that this only needs to be done if the thickness of the bell wears by more than 10% (about ¼", 6mm). I have measured the wear on our bells and it is only about 6% so they shouldn't need major work on them for years.

The tower was cleaned top to bottom before Apple Tasting Day and the stairs have been cleared of flies several times during the 'drop' season (December – March).

Whilst the contractors were replacing the roof tiles and damaged stonework on the Church, they also cleaned out many years of accumulated Jackdaw nests from the belfry louvres. Well done to them.

A few more tiles have become detached from the steeple roof. We need the attendance of a steeplejack to rectify the problem.

I am pleased to report that the lights on the star (attached to the south side of the steeple) have been replaced and it twinkled, 20 metres above the stable, over the Christmas period.

I had a complaint last year that I did not mention the flies, so for those who like to know; the flies started to arrive and drop in mid-December, a few weeks earlier than last year.

At the end of Autumn we had some Ladybird Beetles come into the tower to hibernate, but by mid-December all but a few had gone. I hope that they have found a better billet.

David Cooper
Steeple Keeper
16th March 2015

REPORT ON FUNDRAISING

Fund raising has focused mainly around the “Talents”, Apple Tasting, our annual event arranged by Des Boddington and Carol Singing around Whitehill.

Events planned to take place in 2015 include a Celtic Barn Dance, Murder Mystery Evening, Des’s annual concert, Apple Day and Carol Singing.

If you have any suggestions, or would like to run an event, then please speak with Jilly, Davina, or Alison.

Alan Waterhouse
PCC Treasurer

REPORT FROM THE PETERSFIELD DEANERY SYNOD

The Synod meets at least four times a year in parishes around the Deanery. Its role is to promote the work of the church in our area, to deal with issues raised by the PCCs and to respond to consultations from Diocesan Synod. The Area Dean is Revd Will Hughes of St Peter’s Petersfield, and the Lay Chair is Louise Clay of St John the Evangelist, West Meon.

Deanery Synod members are elected for the three year term of a Synod. Election of members by PCCs took place at the April 2014 Annual Church Meetings, for the period 2014 – 2017.

Topics discussed during 2014, informed by guest speakers have included:

- Workings of General Synod, and Women Bishops (Debbie Sutton, Lay member of General Synod)
- Christian Aid (Charlotte Page, Regional Co-ordinator)
- Week of Accompanied prayer 2015 & Pilgrimage 2016 (Revd Dr Ruth Tuschling, Diocesan Spirituality Adviser)
- Stewardship (Victoria James, Diocesan Stewardship Adviser)

Sharing of experiences and opportunities to work together in 2014 have included:

- How does the Community perceive the church – experience from consultations in East Meon and Hawkley
- Weddings – experience from Buriton
- Deanery seminars, 9 per year, each in a different parish, following Sunday evening services
- Introduction of a deanery training scheme for lay pastoral assistants. About 25 people from across the deanery are currently training under the scheme.

The deanery website is at www.petersfielddeanery.org.uk. There are daily parish prayer requests, news, announcements, and a separate page for each parish.

SAFEGUARDING REPORT

In my role as Safeguarding Representative I continue to promote and monitor our safeguarding procedures within the parish. This includes reminding and encouraging volunteers within PCC endorsed activities (including PCC members) to complete basic safeguarding awareness training. In spite of numerous reminders, many people have still not accessed this very simple on-line training. (I am making other arrangements for those without internet access). I would like to thank those who have participated.

In June I attended *Safeguarding Policy Training* at the Diocesan Office in Portsmouth. As a result I used a self-assessment tool provided by the Diocese to review our safeguarding practice. We are failing to achieve the following requirement:

All staff and volunteers in my parish undertake appropriate Diocesan safeguarding training refreshed at least once every three years

Could do better!

Our Parish Safeguarding Policy and Statement are due to be reviewed at the first PCC meeting after the APCM. Once the policy has been adopted I will send a copy to the Diocesan Safeguarding Office, as we are required to do.

Gill Jolliffe
Safeguarding Representative (Children and Vulnerable Adults)
Identity Validator
March 2015

BLACKMOOR WAR MEMORIAL ACCOUNTS 2014/15

	2013/14	2014/15
Expenditure	_____	_____
	£ Nil	£ Nil
Income		
Donations	£ Nil	£ Nil
	_____	_____
Total Income for Year	£ Nil	£ Nil
	_____	_____
Surplus for Year	£ Nil	£ Nil
	_____	_____
Balance held by Blackmoor Estate Ltd at 31.3.2014		£246.73
Surplus for Year to 31.3.2014		Nil
Balance held by Blackmoor Estate Ltd at 31.3.2015		_____£246.73

REPORT ON BLACKMOOR WAR MEMORIAL 2014/15

The Blackmoor War Memorial is managed on behalf of St Matthew's Blackmoor and Whitehill by Blackmoor Estate Ltd who agree to indemnify the Parochial Church Council for any cost or liability which might be incurred by the PCC as a consequence of the PCC acting as custodian of the War Memorial on behalf of the local community.

There have been no transactions during the year on the Blackmoor War Memorial Account. The balance held by Blackmoor Estate Ltd stands at £246.73.

John Selborne
March 2015