



2017 Annual Reports
presented to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
of the
Parish of Widford
on
16th April 2018

WIDFORD PARISH PCC

2017 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council (PCC)
of the Parish of:-
St Mary Widford
with
Church of the Holy Spirit.

AIM AND PURPOSES

St Mary's Church and Church of the Holy Spirit, Widford PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Stephanie Gillingham, in promoting in the parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Widford Parish Centre, Forest Drive, Widford.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC is committed to encouraging people to worship with us at our different services and to become part of our parish church family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer, Bible reading and teaching, music and the sacraments.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community.

Our wardens have led us in managing the fabric of our properties, for which we are very grateful.

OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT READS:

We want to grow:

- To be more like Jesus
- Knowing Christ together
- Loving one another
- Serving others
- Being at the heart of our community

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

• TO BE MORE LIKE JESUS

We are developing our healing and prayer ministry with mid-week prayer, and prayer before PCC meetings. We enjoy a pattern of teaching and preaching on Sunday mornings which is linked to the church lectionary materials. We continue to make stronger links out into our community; Beeches Pre-school, Westlands School, Widford Lodge Prep School and Hylands School, and the local Scout Groups.

***P**rophecy: Praise God that He has again continued to speak to us through prophecy. During 2017 we received some prophecies relevant to the nation and these were shown to Dave Gilbey and the 24/7 prayer support team. They were happy to accept these prophecies in order to pray over and test them. In January this year when Dave was in contact with leaders at the World Prayer Centre in the midlands, the prophecy dated 30th December 2017 spoke significantly to them; so be encouraged to read this and the other prophecies we have received which are stored in two files, one in St. Mary's and one in the porch of CHS.*

***P** rayer Report: Praise the Lord for the faithful few who regularly come to pray. Do we want to see many people set free to know and love the Lord Jesus as their own personal saviour? If that is your desire, your longing, your aim then, dear friends, prayer is the answer; individual and corporate prayer. **Jesus said "Ask and it will be given you".** Please be encouraged to start asking.*

- **KNOWING CHRIST TOGETHER**

A communion service is held in each church twice a month and through the month each church has an All-Age service and services of the Word. Regular Baptism Services take place on the first Sunday in the month at St. Marys church. In addition to these regular Baptisms, there have been Baptisms at Church of the Holy Spirit and on other Sundays at St. Marys. We have learnt to be flexible with our Communion Service Sundays due to clergy vacancies from January to June in the Moulshams and from September to the present day at St. Michaels, Galleywood. We are grateful to Andy Griffiths for supporting us here in Widford when he can whilst Stephanie goes to St. Michaels to support them.

Within the framework of the service:

At St. Marys: Our worship pattern follows Holy Communion on 1st & 3rd Sundays each month, Morning Prayer on 2nd Sunday and All Age worship on 4th Sunday. When there is a 5th Sunday we join with CHS or with our wider South West Churches group, comprising St.Michaels, Galleywood, St Johns, Moulsham and St.Lukes, Moulsham Lodge. With the departure of Revd. Canon Andy Griffiths to a new post, Stephanie and Gemma have seen a sizeable increase in their responsibilities this Autumn.

Within the frame work of our Sunday services our music is provided by Daniel Gullick and Rob Perry only in exceptional circumstances have neither of them been able to cover a service. Our services are greatly enhanced by their playing. We use the combined Songs of Fellowship hymn book and sing both ancient & modern hymns. We have a number of lay members who are confident in leading intercessory prayers and other lay people who either lead services or assist Stephanie; everyone is encouraged to use their spiritual gifts.

The needs of our small number of Children are met by Pam Myall, who has been assisted by Will Wiseman before he went to university, providing them with Scripture based activities. At All Age services Pam pro-actively involves any children present in the service. We have seen two young girls in particular growing in understanding.

Within our Sunday morning services, we incorporate Baptisms and Blessings when the opportunity arises. We witnessed an adult baptised into the Anglican faith this year. Stephanie uses Funerals as an opportunity to reach out to people with the gospel. Other services take place at various times on Saturdays or Sundays. These include Compline & Carol services, a Christingle and Mid-night communion on Christmas Eve.

We have seen increased participation in services by members of our congregation which has been instigated by Stephanie and we have seen a number of family groups and couples attending on a regular basis, our prayer is that they will grow in faith and become committed followers of Christ, which is what we are all aiming for. With His help we will.

At Church of the Holy Spirit: Despite the fact that we have had very few children attending our Sunday services, often with no children at all, Joan Barker, Gill Wood and Tammy Squirrel have shared the responsibility of teaching the children who do attend from time to time, and one of them would always come to the Sunday service prepared for this. This has been

done with the use of stories, crafts, quizzes, collages and puzzles.

The Worship Team at CHS has been sad to lose Nicola Davey from the group but were delighted that she has married Matt and they will be worshipping together at Saffron Walden. The group meet to practice and learn new songs to introduce to the congregation most Wednesday evenings. When the whole Worship Team is together there are two guitarists, one keyboard player, two singers and Kerry Schofield has taken on the roll of drummer.

Gill Wood has agreed to coordinate the monthly All Age Services and these services are popular, with Lisa and Gill using puppets to make us laugh and teach us. Jen Gaskin has joined the leading and preaching team for which we are grateful.

Our Two Churches Together: On Palm Sunday, we began our service at St. Marys Church then walked to Church of the Holy Spirit with flags and hobby horses for the children.

On Maundy Thursday we chose to visit either St. John's for an Agape meal or St. Lukes for a Holy Communion Service.

Easter Sunday was celebrated by the two congregations in worship and breakfast at St. Mary's and lunch together at Church of the Holy Spirit. Both churches held an Easter egg hunt for the children. Both Churches celebrated Holy Communion.

St. Mary's and Church of the Holy Spirit have both held Baptism services. Funerals, Interment of Ashes, Weddings and Marriage Blessings have taken place at St. Mary's.

We continue to seek ways, under God's guidance, that we can serve our community

Average Attendance	16 and Over	Under 16	Baptisms	SM 10 CHS 1
St. Mary's	31	2	Weddings + Blessings	8
Church of the Holy Spirit	29	3	Funerals Interment of Ashes	22 1

more effectively.

- LOVING ONE ANOTHER**

We have a number of house groups which meet regularly, and we remember birthdays and special events. We have a prayer chain which supports people as they need it, and a team willing to visit people at home with communion and our blessing.

Pastoral Group: A small group of Stephanie, Shirley, Gill and Peter, Tracy, Lisa and Pam make up the Pastoral Group. We meet three times each year and certainly do not claim to do all the pastoral work of the Parish! One of our remits is to make bereavement contacts. We arrange a Bereavement Coffee Morning on two occasions each year, when we invite those whose loved ones have recently died.

Several of us are involved in taking Home Communion to folk who cannot get to church. We also help with Healing Services (whether in Widford, or elsewhere in the South West Chelmsford Churches.

House Groups:

St. Mary's House Group Our group consists of 9 members. We meet monthly on Friday evenings for Bible study, finishing with prayers. We rotate hosting the meetings and begin with a shared meal. We held 2 social events during the year; we met for a Barbecue in July and in December we celebrated by a visit to The Hare PH for a Christmas meal. At the beginning of 2017 we continued our study of St. John's letters where we had left off in 2016. In the autumn we began watching a video series of studies entitled Living Distinctively, about people from different walks of life sharing how they live out their faith at work. These sessions provoked interesting discussion points. We plan to continue this study into 2017. Over time we have built up a strong bond of trust between us, where love is the key to a great feeling of togetherness which makes it a pleasure to meet.

Chignal Smealy House Group. During most of the year, our small group met each **Wednesday morning at Doreen Brackpool's home. On some Wednesdays, Doreen and her carer were not at home, so our Bible study took place at the Parish Centre.** Our studies followed the life of St Paul, through Acts and some of his letters. We then began reading the book of Exodus. Ever since her health deteriorated, Edna had been missed in the group. We praise **the Lord that she was 'promoted to glory' in December.**

- **SERVING ONE ANOTHER**

Widford Waddlers toddler group meets on Thursday mornings during term time from 10am -11.30am at Widford Village Hall. We are a friendly group made up from mums, grandparents and child minders. We have welcomed several new mums and their babies during the year and we have a regular core of members who come every week.

We provide toys for babies and pre-school children, play dough and a comfy reading area. Zoe continues to run the craft table which is very popular with the children and their mums where they can make something to take home based on the theme for the week. During the morning Sheila serves refreshments and we finish the session with a singalong which often includes celebrating children's birthdays.

At Easter we held our meeting at St. Marys church with lots of crafts and drama which was enjoyed by all. We also met at CHS in June, everyone loved the soft carpet and the different toys that were available. We had a summer party in July when we said goodbye to those children starting school in September and a Christmas party which included making hats and singing Carols.

Finally, a big thank you to Stephanie for her support and encouragement. Please remember us in your prayers.

V Festival: *The setting up of the tent this year, proved to be rather difficult as a number of the team members who usually help were either unable to attend or had to leave early. Hopefully, some extra helpers will be willing to come over on the Friday to help set up in future.*

As usual we had many people passing through many of whom we were able to pray with and or help with their various problems. Mathew Baptiste, from Galleywood Church, was able to join us and proved to be a valuable member of the team. We were slightly unfortunate to occupy a new location on the site which proved to be unbelievably noisy as we were opposite the DJ Tent. This resulted for some of us in lost voices on the Sunday and even the days to follow. It also turned out that the location of the tent was not within the area of the site which is opened to campers on the Friday night so we made our way over there on the Friday evening for nothing.

V Festival 2017 turned out to be the last. It has now been succeeded by 'The Rise' Festival at which we hope to carry on in our normal role. Please pray for this continued ministry, that we will again be welcome and our long-standing connection with V will continue to be recognised by the new organisers.

Again, a happy and welcoming team from St. Mary's gave out drinks to the festival goers as they passed.

Supaclub: *The new Head Teacher welcomed the continuation of 'our' Club, on Monday afternoons in term time. We adapted to the new safeguarding regulations and now have all been checked as suitable.*

The group is made up of 8 - 10 pupils in years 2 and 3, who have asked to come for a term. After some refreshment, a Bible story is shared, with a related game and craft activity. They are a lively bunch, they always enjoy the snacks and often draw our attention to aspects of a story which we have not thought about.

A Baptism early in 2018 was to involve one of the current members of Supaclub, and his older Brother now in year 6, who described Supaclub (when he was in years 2 and 3) as the best club ever – and said that it inspired him to ask to be Baptised!

We endeavour to follow the church main themes and introduce old and new testament stories in between. The children come with a variety of Biblical knowledge, some of them are quite astonishing. It is good fun journeying with them for a couple of years – they continue to chat to us once they have left when they see us in the corridors, which is always nice.

Thanks to Gill who helps us out now and again.

C children's ministry: *This year we have held another successful holiday club and have held Sunday school regularly in both CHS and St. Marys. Holiday club this year was 'Guardians of Ancora' which was set in the fictional city of Ancora. Each day the children joined a quest in order to find the story treasures that would unlock the story for the day, which were all based on some of the miracles that Jesus performed. There was also a daily Bible story and some teaching around the story, a prayer activity and a craft or a game. The club was well attended, with similar numbers to previous years, although attendance at the closing service on the Sunday was poor. This event requires a huge amount of work in order to make it a success and, therefore, many thanks go to every person who was involved in any way: arranging prayer activities and crafts, leading from the front, leading small groups, arranging refreshments, registering the children and so many more things.*

Sunday school at CHS was led by Tammy, Gill Wood and Joan and has covered a wide variety of topics from the Old and New Testaments, using a range of methods, including

story-telling, crafts, storyboards, collages and biscuit decorating. Sunday school at CHS has not happened every week as there were not always children present in the service.

Messy Church met 4 times in 2017. It takes place on a Saturday morning between 10:00am and 12:00pm and is usually held in the Church Hall.

It takes the form of a number of themed activities, for example, painting, drawing, colouring, playdoh, an activity with food, nail painting, Scalextric, sand pit, water activities and crafts of various sorts. We usually finish the activities around 11:30am and move into the Church where we act out a play relating to the Bible story on which the theme is based and then sing some songs and have a short talk/explanation of what the story is all about. We then sit and eat a light meal together, children, parents and leaders, in the Church Hall.

We usually have around 15 children who come, along with their parent(s). The parents have to stay with their child(ren). The numbers do vary but as we do not meet every month, consistency is hard, and so advertising is important. We try to remind the parents by email, Facebook, text, and leaflets. The themes have been: **Three Wise Men-January 2017, Mum's the Word (Moses)-April 2017, Three in One (Trinity - Baptism of Jesus)-June 2017 and Harvest October 2017.**

The team consists of Peter and Gill Wood, Roger and Stephanie Gillingham, Pam Myall, Pat Deal, Shirley Deering, and Sheila Schofield, and Elaine (**Pat's friend**).

We would value your prayers for energy and enthusiasm and that what we do is both an effective witness for Jesus and also provides a point of contact with the children and adults. Pray that we have enough leaders to maintain and possibly increase the frequency of the events.

Knit and Natter. We continue to hold meetings on the first Thursday of each month from 7-9pm. We have a small regular group while others come when they can. Some of us have learnt new skills from others in the group. We enjoy a hot drink plus biscuit or cake, and relax in each other's company sharing each other's news.

Tithing: Regular payments of £250 each quarter, continued to the Edipal Family in Kenya. The rest of our 5% tithe was divided between Chelmsford Community Transport; Marie Curie Nurses; CHESS (especially because of the expense of adapting the newly acquired building); **The Grassroots Trust; 'Too Many' (charity seeking to educate about the dangers of Female Genital Mutilation); Premier Radio.**

To enable our support to be more meaningful, a speaker from Premier Radio addressed the congregation of CHS and a representative from Chelmsford Community Transport came to St Mary's.

From the 'Emergency Pot', it was decided to make a contribution of one Sunday's giving, to TearFund, and £100 towards the Diocesan Lent Appeal – for water provision in Northern Kenya.

The PCC accepted a proposal that, in future, Tithes should be paid on the basis of our **previous year's income** – to facilitate calculation, and that a single payment should be paid to each recipient, except the Edapal family. It was felt that this would be more useful to most charities than to receive four small cheques over the course of a year.

Just for men: "This group met in the Parish centre on a monthly basis on 1 Monday each month. Sadly, despite efforts to gain a decent number of people attending, support was limited to around 3 to 5 attendees, which included Colin White and Alan Davey who ran the meetings. Unfortunately, due to this, the decision was

taken to no longer meet on a monthly basis but to plan occasional trips out to places of interest or have an evening out locally. We hope to increase the interest by adopting this approach in 2018.

Lunch Club . At the end of the report for 2016, we expressed a prayer for Del Fleming (our helper who was facing surgery and treatment). By the Autumn, Del had been through it all and expressed the wish to return to Lunch Club. She is again a regular member, welcomer and server. Praise the Lord! Sandra Kyte continues to be a valued member of the team, helping with transport as well as within Lunch Club itself. In many ways, the situation is very similar to our report last year. Sheila Schofield continues to be our Main Cook and we realised at Christmas that she had been working with Lunch Club for over twenty years. We expressed then, and repeat here, our deep appreciation for her commitment, wonderful culinary skills and sheer hard work. Thank you, Sheila.

Judith Large has continued to cook for us about once a month. Lynette Hunwicks, Tracy Davey and Robert & Maureen McPhee have all taken on the challenge. On two occasions, when no-one was able to step in to cook, we resorted to Fish & Chips from Robinsons which was tasty but much more expensive. It was only thanks to the wonderful economy of the regular team that this could be provided at no extra cost to diners, funded from the Lunch Club account. When it comes to second cooks, tribute has to be made to Beryl Clark, who has been involved with Lunch Club since it started and, in 2017, continued to be a very regular member of the team. Other regular helpers were Janet Bird, Valerie Hayward, and Linda Stephens. Jeff Gilbert, Alan Davey, Carol Le May and Zoe who helped when they could. Towards the end of 2017, Janet Aldridge **joined the team. She's very welcome! Stephanie joins us whenever she can and is prepared to turn her hand to anything needed, which is very much appreciated.**

There have been sadnesses. In particular, six regular members of Lunch Club died in the last half of the year. They leave Husbands, Sons, Brothers and Friends, all of whom need support. It has been a privilege to share with them in their mourning, and to continue to serve those who remain. Despite bereavements, the numbers attending Lunch Club have not dipped below 20 and several new members have recently joined – through personal invitation and links with our South West Chelmsford Churches. On the first Wednesday of the month, the Hunnaballs Friendship Group boosts our numbers and we value their presence. They are no longer strangers.

May Lunch Club continue to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus and a powerful expression of His Love.

Women's Fellowship: We are still a small group with an average of 10 people attending each week. We try to keep to our weekly budget of about £5 but this does not allow for many outside entertainers. We do a lot for ourselves by having friends, who will share their talents with us, talking about their own interests and sharing handcrafts, which we all enjoy doing and then taking home with us. We use boxed games such as scrabble or countdown, small jigsaws and memory games. Also, one of the latest interests is colouring pictures or designs. Another time we will have quizzes on all sorts of themes. It is good to see everyone enjoy a cup of tea and a biscuit while they chat with their friends before we go home. All this for 50p from 2.15 – about 3.45pm.

CHS provided the venue for the South-West Chelmsford churches commissioning day in May. This was a well-attended, successful event at which we hosted Bishop John, Archdeacon Elizabeth and opening speaker Jean-Michel Knutson.

- BEING AT THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

We are still mindful of Bishop Stephen's call for Mission. With that in mind we held a number of social events throughout the year which we invited the community to. We don't usually make a charge for any of the events we provide for the community. We are able to do this through the generosity of our Church Family.

*P*ancake Parties were again held on Shrove Tuesday for all ages. We provided puzzle sheets and word searches for people to do and chat over while they ate their pancakes. Approximately 110 pancakes with a variety of fillings and toppings were readily consumed! Many families attended this year.

*B*arbecue: This was held in the Parish Centre at the end of the Holiday Club Week.

*Q*uiz night: We had one quiz night this year which was organised by Alan and Tracy Davey. This was a very successful and enjoyable evening.

*L*ast year we held our first bring and buy coffee morning in aid of Christian aid which was very successful. Thanks go to Linda Stephens and Shirley Deering.

*F*riends of Essex Churches Ride and Stride: Once more, our churches were open and ready to welcome Riders and Striders, on the second Saturday in September. Will, Zoe and Pam strode to 21 churches of various denominations, met some fascinating people and raised £100 in sponsorship. Half of this came back to our Parish. *The Cream Tea at St Mary's was delightful and delicious and Compline made a blessedly peaceful close to the day.*

*H*arvest saw us collecting for the local Food Bank at both churches. At St. Marys the Money collected was given to Chess and at CHS the money was given to Tearfund. At CHS we were pleased to welcome Sandra Evans a local volunteer for Tearfund.

*O*ur annual Fireworks night, held at St. Marys, was another great success in November. We provided an evening of food, fireworks and a bonfire for the community.

The Parish Christmas Party was great fun. Peter and Gill Wood organised the buffet food. There was music, and for those who wanted to join in, we played group party games led by Roger Gillingham and Gill Wood organised for various church members to teach others a dance of their choice.

*For Christmas, we celebrated with a Nativity Play at Church of the Holy Spirit. This year we invited everyone to come dressed as their favourite Nativity character. We also held a Christingle at St. Marys, a Carols by Candlelight at both churches. This year Christmas Eve fell on the Sunday and so we held a meditative, reflective Christmas Service in the morning at St. Marys and then a **Children's Christmas Service on Christmas Eve afternoon at Church of the Holy Spirit** (with a special visitor giving presents away), Midnight Communion on Christmas Eve at St. Marys and an All-Age Service on Christmas morning. On the 31st December, we held an All Age Communion Service at St. Marys for all the churches in the South West Chelmsford Group. Which was very well attended and great fun.*

ELECTORAL ROLL

There was one person removed from the Roll and two people added. There are 77 members on the Electoral Roll as of April 2017, 38 resident and 39 non-resident.

DEANERY SYNOD

We are entitled to two members of the PCC to sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

Deanery Synod: At our APCM in 2017, Bob Wiseman and Pam Myall were re-elected as lay representatives, for three years. They attended the four meetings of the year, with Revd Stephanie. Stephanie and Pam also served on the Standing Committee.

In February 2017, Synod met in St Luke's Church. Mark Tiddy, the Youth Adviser for the Bradwell Area was the main speaker, supported by Revd Gemma Fraser. They brought a lively approach to relating with young people; listening to them, involving them in decisions, sharing experiences with them, and they shared positive examples from their own experience.

The June Synod Meeting, held in The Orchards, Meadgate, was the first of the new 'triennium' (the period of three years served by Synod representatives). Our first task was to elect Deanery Synod Officers. Andy Griffiths was re-elected as Area Dean, Christine Horton as Lay Chair, and Harry Marsh as Treasurer. Standing Committee members were also elected. Our principal speaker was Steve Kersys, Diocesan Children's and Families' Adviser. Steve reminded the meeting of the Church of England policy that "every child and young person should have a life-enhancing encounter with God". He reported on recent research among children, in which they were asked when they feel close to God. There was an unexpected preference for silence. Children need to be listened to. On a practical note, Steve demonstrated a special box containing meaningful items relating to faith, to be given to children to aid them in their faith journey.

In September, Robin Stevens helped Deanery Synod, in a lively but authoritative manner, to understand its role in the context of the Church. Unexpectedly, Revd Andy Griffiths announced that it would be his final meeting as Area Dean, because he had accepted the offer of a Diocesan appointment and would be leaving Galleywood. Appreciation was expressed for his ten years as Area Dean during a time of great change. In

November the new Area Dean, Revd Tim Ball of Meadgate Church was installed by Archdeacon Elizabeth at the Deanery service (the fourth of our annual meetings), at St Mary's Church, Great Baddow. David Hague came from the St Cedd Centre for Pioneer Mission and gave a challenging talk in the midst of a thoughtful service of prayer and praise.

CHURCHWARDEN'S REPORT

Services:

At St. Mary's a regular number of committed Christians support and attend the worship on Sundays and we have a caring fellowship. Our services start at 9.30am. Our worship continues to fit comfortably between the formal liturgy & a relaxed approach to convention. 8 couples were married at St. Marys, including Roger Gillingham's niece Helen and Mark Randall and also Nicola Davey with Matt Williamson. Additionally, several families have brought their babies and young children for baptism and Stephanie encourages them to incorporate their Baptisms into the morning services, the regulars enjoy the interaction. Stephanie has continued to encourage an increasing number of members to participate in services with positive outcomes. Pam Myall regularly leads All Age Worship once a month and gets members involved in these services. Rob Perry and Daniel Gullick have provided the music for our worship throughout the year and their involvement is a blessing to us all. A lot of our church family involve themselves in a multitude of duties which keep the place running, all without seeking recognition. So, this is an opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to everyone.

At CHS we continue to hold regular Sunday services including Communion services, morning worship and all-age worship. We have held additional services such as a remembrance service, to which Scouts, Cubs and Beavers attended this year, parading their flags and helping to lay wreaths, and messy church. Our Christmas services included a nativity, carols by candlelight, a Christmas eve children's service and a Christmas day present service. In November we hosted Bishop Stephen at a Sunday morning service.

On 5th Sundays we have joined together with the other churches in the South-West Chelmsford churches group and have enjoyed experiencing different styles of worship. CHS provided the venue for the South-West Chelmsford churches commissioning day in May. This was a well-attended, successful event at which we hosted Bishop John, Archdeacon Elizabeth and opening speaker Jean-Michel Knutson.

Buildings.:

At St. Mary's, as far as the fabric of the building is concerned this year was marked by redecoration of the toilet by Barbara Oxlade and Bob Wiseman laid a new floor in the kitchen and corridor. Some minor improvements were made to the electrics by electrician Mr Neil Osborne. Since 2015 we have been endeavouring to get the Nave and Chancel repainted, unfortunately our efforts have been thwarted by the DAC, who seem to challenge every detail. We hope for better progress in 2017. Recognition must go to Lionel Blanks for providing us with new external notice boards in memory of his late wife Brenda and to Sylvia Skardon for donating a new Altar Frontal in memory of her late husband Jack.

There are more challenges ahead but we trust that with God guiding us, our plans will come to fruition. Praise Him for His love and favour.

In the parish centre we had the boiler replaced after the previous one was condemned. The floor in the Widford room began to crack so we had it tested and it was found to

contain low-levels of asbestos, we had the old flooring removed and disposed of, and had new wood-effect vinyl flooring laid, which I think we all agree looks great!

***W**e have a good relationship with Westlands school and have hosted them for their Easter, Harvest and Christmas assemblies.*

***T**he PCC had an away day in November at the retreat house in Pleshey. We enjoyed a short service together and then evaluated our priority focus areas from the last year and discussed our focus for the coming year.*

***S**adly for us, Barbara Buck and Edna King died during the year but we are confident their faith has assured them a place in heaven. They will be remembered.*

***T**hroughout the year St. Mary's has continued to hold special events from a cream tea afternoon, fireworks on November 5th and a Songs of Praise Evening. Also, from May to October, St. Marys was open on Friday afternoons to visitors, while a small team of volunteers worked to keep the grounds tidy and cared for. On wet days they worked inside.*

***T**he carpark at St. Mary's has proved to be a good source of income this year so we have invested some of the money earned in shingle to maintain it.*

***A** lot of our church family involve themselves in a multitude of duties which keep the place running, all without seeking recognition. So, this is an opportunity to say a big 'thank you' to everyone who plays a part in the life of our two churches and helps us to fulfil our responsibilities.*

LYNCHPIN'S REPORT

The South-West Chelmsford Churches lynchpins group met approximately every 6-8 weeks in order to discuss ways in which our parishes can work together effectively, particularly with regards to our mission focus, which is to tackle loneliness and isolation within our communities. The meetings begin by sharing communion together.

As a group we have helped to arrange the 5th Sunday united services.

The lynchpins group arranged a day event for the commissioning of our Mission and Ministry unit. The event was held at CHS and we welcomed Bishop John, Archdeacon Elizabeth and opening speaker Jean-Michel Knutson, as well as others who ran seminars covering topics to help us to move forward as an MMU. We had a time of worship and also shared lunch together.

The lynchpins have spent time determining what services we currently offer to our communities and whether there are any groups of people who are not currently catered for. We discovered that as a group of parishes we offer many different groups, clubs and services to the people in our local areas.

This year, the two Lynchpins from our parish have been Tammy Squirrel and Linda Stephens.

RECTOR'S REPORT

'The steadfast Love of the Lord never fails' (Lamentations 3: 22 – 24)

This year has been rather different! It started with my colleague Carol leaving to go to Kent. **Consequently, we had been supporting St Luke's and St Johns. Then in the Summer Gemma** took up that position and all was well, but then Andy decided it was time to move on, and so we have been supporting a vacancy in Galleywood. And yet, despite the staffing shortage, it has been another busy and happy year for us as a Parish. Our Parish centre is used more for the community, and we have made steady progress with the re-ordering at St Marys. We have been frustrated by the inability to paint the church – but hope that will be in the plan for 2018. So many of our groups go from strength to strength, and we remain thankful for their good leadership and the many willing hands that enable them to flourish.

We remain thankful to our God in Widford, but also in South West Chelmsford

'His mercies never come to an end'

I am nearly at the end of the Diocesan Leadership Course. I have met some interesting people and learnt about Parish and Mission and Ministry Life across the diocese. We all have similar joys and struggles, but it is clear that we are a successful working model of an MMU – and so we are **strengthened in our ministry by working alongside Galleywood, Moulsham St Luke's and St Johns**. We have been successful in establishing strong united services, both morning and evening and have a Pastoral leadership team. I will be developing a spirituality team – which should be fun – let me know if you are interested in joining. Gods mercies to each and everyone of us are:

'new every morning;'

...and so, as each new day arrives we can thank God for his many gifts to us – strong and able leaders, so many talented people from the washer uppers to the Churchtalk producers, office **workers and so it goes on. We are truly blessed...and soon we will have the gift of a Curate, Andy Brown.** We will look forward to welcoming him to the Parish in July – he will be Deaconed as a Curate in September – **so please pray for him and start to plan...how can we welcome him into the life of our Parishand how can you share what God is doing in your life** with him. Please keep him in your prayers as he completes his studies.

Something which resonates with each one of us as we serve our Lord in this Parish, and in our work, and the many other groups we are part of, we know a God who is faithful and true, and so we join together in our thankfulness for another amazing year:

'Great is your faithfulness – O God my father'

Enjoy this amazing report which is full of life.

Treasurers Report

I am pleased to report that the 2017 Parish accounts have once again returned to surplus, following 2016, which finished in deficit. Total income for the year was £93,361.39, which is virtually the same as 2015 and a pleasing improvement on 2016, when the figure shrank to £76,583.76. However, this is still some way behind the peak years, when totals in excess of £118k were recorded.

As stated previously, those can be regarded as exceptional years but there is still some concern in this area, as it has to be reported that without two significant donations, the total would not have bettered 2016 by much more than £2k. Naturally, we are most grateful for the continuing generosity of these givers and ironically, had those sums not been received, we would have been showing a small deficit.

Fortunately, the other main giving categories have held up fairly well and in some cases even exceeded the previous year but as will be seen later, there will be growing pressures on all parishes going forward to support the Church of England ministry through the new Parish Share appropriation scheme now being applied through the work of the Ministry and Mission Units.

Therefore, we may need to think about new ways of improving our giving and raising more money through other projects. There has already been some improvement in this area, with increased use of the Parish Centre facilities and growing demands for use of the car park at **St Mary's by local companies. This is now providing us with significant income and hopefully will** continue to expand in the coming year.

As always, we need to be aware of underlying trends, which again, we will continue to monitor during the coming year. In this respect, I am delighted to report that total expenditure was £80,390.27, a very significant fall of £18,605.50 compared to 2016. This also compares most favorably with 2014, when the outflow was a whopping £105,887.99 and is an important step forward for the Parish finances.

I would like to thank all those who have helped towards achieving this objective, particularly the band of volunteers who have helped to realize our plans. I should state at this point that whilst I am pleased that we have been able to bring this to fruition, it is not just a matter of limiting church spending but more a case of ensuring that our money is being spent on things we would wish to spend it on.

For example, we have for the last two years reduced our Tithe payments by 5% and in time, it is very much hoped that we will be able to return to the status quo. For now, however, we are facing a year when there is the likelihood of considerable expenditure on capital and restructuring projects and until this is completed, we should continue to use prudence as the byword in all our financial dealings.

Some of the above measures have already moved forward and I can advise that a total of £4,968.00 was spent on the re-surfacing of the Parish Centre flooring and £1,985.00 on a new boiler for the CHS building. These were unexpected developments but the main structural work **remains at St Mary's, where in spite of some improvements in 2016, the main projections are still** a work in progress.

This has been very frustrating, as progress has been hampered by continuing obstructions from official and regulatory quarters, which have been going on for a long time. These funds were originally designated many years ago and in spite of new plans being mapped out, the longer the money stays in the Parish books, without being spent, the less effective these funds will be.

That is why it was so important to stop the flow of moneys leaking from our reserves and the deficit of £22,412.01 recorded for 2016 is effectively wasted money. It is anticipated that further monies will be spent during the coming year and the original estimate of £15k could well

become a more substantial figure, as we attempt to meet the demands being placed on us, as we try to bring about these improvements.

Therefore, we have continued to plug the current account expenditure and this can now be **seen in this year's accounts. Two items in particular have shown a significant drop. These are** firstly, the cost of our printing, which has fallen by £5,495.58. It should be remembered that the **previous year's figure did include the buy-out of the old printer but conversely, this year's figure** includes the purchase of a new one.

This totaled £1,177.90 and without it, the cost of printing would have shrunk to just over £1k, **which is a much more realistic sum. This is a significant part of the parish's outreach and** demonstrates that the process can be managed, although it remains to be seen how sturdy and long lasting the new printer proves. The second item is the wages and salaries, which have dropped by £6,737.95.

This has arisen following the retirement of our office administrator and the decision to operate going forward exclusively with volunteers. Clearly, there is not an insignificant work load required in the running of any church and particularly in one with two separate locations. In this respect, we must acknowledge the part played by our volunteers, which has proved absolutely invaluable.

However, it is arguably the case that most parishes operate in the same way and therefore, this would seem to be the way forward. Accordingly, the need for volunteers will continue to be paramount, as it would seem that there is an ever growing level of bureaucracy involved in running any organization these days and this is well demonstrated by the new Data Protection Laws.

It should be acknowledged that the reduced expenditure is partly reflected in the fact that no Tithe payments have been made for 2017, with the exception of the Edapal family from Kenya, with whom we have had a long standing relationship. The total to be paid will be a further £3,568.06. The reason for this situation is that it has been decided that future payments will be on a yearly basis, rather than monthly.

Also, it should be noted that there have been no major repairs at St Mary's, compared to 2016 but offsetting that is the fact that there have been some repairs/refurbishing at CHS. Two other possible savings are now underway in regard to telephone costs (where we have renegotiated our contract with BT) and bank charges (where Nat West is reconsidering the structure of our account).

Once again, we were able to meet our Parish Share payments in full, although we continue to make installments at a reduced monthly rate. At this stage, there is no intention to change our approach, although this year, we have agreed to an increase of 4.13% on the total indicated by the Diocese. This has been agreed between all members of the SW Chelmsford Churches Group, in collaboration through the MMU.

The situation reflects the changed process, where the Mutual Support Fund provides assistance for churches unable to meet their obligations each year. In future, some parishes will be able to ask for a grant to cover the shortfall but other more affluent groups can also offer to provide additional assistance. This year, the total shortfall for our own group has not been covered by the grant.

The objective of the Diocese is to reduce the shortfall and gradually offer less in the way of a grant, unless they are totally satisfied that we are unable to pay in full. The likelihood is that if we remain financially stable, we will be paying more in the future, if only to help other less

fortunate parishes. Our current position helps greatly with cash flow and this does not impact the discount received by the other parishes.

At least to date, the dialogue has been convivial and positive. We are all working for the same end and the PCC are in full agreement that we wish to help all the other group members, wherever possible. As always, we remain indebted to all those who contribute so generously to our cause and as ever, we are grateful to our Lord for the provision he always seems to provide in our times of need.

As ever, prayers are needed to help ensure the Parish finances remain stable and healthy and that all future plans and projections are well received and supported by the whole parish and those charged with carrying them out. However, the PCC remains thankful for the generosity and encouragement we receive in so many ways and to our Lord for the guidance and blessings we receive in all matters.

I would like to express my own thanks to Sheila Schofield, Barbara Oxlade and Peter Wood for their help with the Gift Aiding and Envelope Schemes and the banking respectively. I would also like to thank Stephanie Gillingham, Bob Wiseman and Rosalynd Griffiths for their ongoing support and the many people within the Parish and the Diocese, who provide help and advice to the Treasurer in very many ways.

Finally, many thanks also go to the loyal band of sides-persons at both churches for their assistance each week and once again to George Large, for being the Independent Examiner for the 2017 Report and Accounts. George continues to perform this essential role and we remain extremely grateful for his continued and invaluable assistance.

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE PCC
in respect of the year ended 31 December 2017

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2017, is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations') and s.43 of the Charities Act 1993 ('the Act').

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements; you consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and s.43 (2) of the Act does not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under s.43 (7) (b) of the Act and to be found in the Church guidance, 2006 edition. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

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


- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect, the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and to prepare financial statements, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations, have not been met;

or

- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Mr George Large

166 Beeches Road, Chelmsford

Signature:


Date: 28th March 2018

Parish of St Mary Widford - 1128307

Receipts and Payments Account

For the period from 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

	Unrestricted funds	Designated funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	Total funds	Prior year total funds
Receipts						
Planned giving	39,961.11				39,961.11	44,028.22
Collections and other giving	7,661.17				7,661.17	7,661.42
Other voluntary receipts	15,626.23				15,626.23	1,107.15
Gift Aid recovered	10,785.74				10,785.74	9,270.73
Other receipts	4,826.42	555.05			5,381.47	3,084.88
Activities for generating funds	4,293.85				4,293.85	3,452.00
Investment Income	7.45	119.76	2.02		129.23	245.03
Receipts from church activities	4,160.00		5,362.59		9,522.59	7,734.33
Total receipts	87,321.97	674.81	5,364.61		93,361.39	76,583.76
Payments						
Cost of generating funds	116.43				116.43	
Missionary and Charitable Giving	3,076.51				3,076.51	7,793.53
Parish Share	41,145.00				41,145.00	41,709.00
Clergy and Staffing costs	4,109.46				4,109.46	10,922.03
Church Running Expenses	14,465.44	536.50	6,583.53		21,585.47	27,035.67
Hall Running Costs	487.02				487.02	790.07
Church Repairs & Maintenance	2,035.45				2,035.45	4,270.45
Hall Repairs & Maintenance	7,511.36				7,511.36	533.58
New Building work						5,865.96
Governance Costs	323.57				323.57	75.48
Total payments	73,270.24	536.50	6,583.53		80,390.27	98,995.77
Excess of receipts over payments before transfer	14,051.73	138.31	(1,218.92)		12,971.12	(22,412.01)
Transfers						
Gross transfers between funds - in						15,237.64
Gross transfers between funds - out						(15,237.64)
Excess of receipts over payments before other gains	14,051.73	138.31	(1,218.92)		12,971.12	(22,412.01)
Net movement in funds	14,051.73	138.31	(1,218.92)		12,971.12	(22,412.01)
Reconciliation of funds						
All assets at 01 January 2017	2,930.90	47,135.95	5,041.28		55,108.13	77,520.14
All assets at 31 December 2017	16,982.63	47,274.26	3,822.36		68,079.25	55,108.13

Parish of St Mary Widford - 1128307
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2017 to 31 December 2017

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2017 31 December 2017	01 January 2016 31 December 2016
CHSdev - CHS development (Restricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Investment Income			
Bank and building society interest		0.90	
	<i>Total Investment Income</i>	<u>0.90</u>	
Total receipts		0.90	
Payments			
Church Repairs & Maintenance			17.97
CHS Maintenance			17.97
	<i>Total Church Repairs & Maintenance</i>		<u>17.97</u>
Total payments			17.97
		<u>0.90</u>	(17.97)
Excess of Receipts over Payments			1.57
Transfers to/(from)		319.40	335.80
Brought forward balance		<u>320.30</u>	<u>319.40</u>
Total carried forward balance			
Dreams - Dreams (Designated) Fund			
Receipts			
Investment Income			
Bank and building society interest		56.14	
	<i>Total Investment Income</i>	<u>56.14</u>	
Total receipts		56.14	
		<u>56.14</u>	
Excess of Receipts over Payments			105.57
Transfers to/(from)			(10,000.00)
Transfers to/(from)		22,728.16	32,622.59
Brought forward balance		<u>22,784.30</u>	<u>22,728.16</u>
Total carried forward balance			

Note

From 01 January 2017 01 January 2016
To 31 December 2017 31 December 2016

Hebron - Hebron Holiday Fund (Restricted) Fund

Receipts	
Receipts from church activities	
Holiday Club	2,067.03
<i>Total Receipts from church activities</i>	<u>750.00</u>
Total receipts	2,067.03
Payments	
Church Running Expenses	
Holiday Club	3,249.53
<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	<u>300.00</u>
Total payments	3,249.53
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(1,182.50)
Brought forward balance	1,192.15
Total carried forward balance	9.65

Lunch - Luncheon club (Restricted) Fund

Receipts	
Receipts from church activities	
Lunch Club	3,295.56
<i>Total Receipts from church activities</i>	<u>3,086.85</u>
Total receipts	3,295.56
Payments	
Church Running Expenses	
Lunch Club	3,279.60
<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	<u>2,866.03</u>
Total payments	3,279.60
Excess of Receipts over Payments	15.96
Brought forward balance	220.82
Total carried forward balance	906.50

Marydev - St Mary development (Designated) Fund

Receipts	
Investment Income	
Bank and building society interest	63.36
<i>Total Investment Income</i>	<u>63.36</u>
Total receipts	63.36
Payments	
Church Repairs & Maintenance	
St Mary Maintenance	4,026.55
<i>Total Church Repairs & Maintenance</i>	<u>4,026.55</u>
New Building work	
St Mary Re-ordering	5,865.96
<i>Total New Building work</i>	<u>5,865.96</u>

Note	From To	01 January 2017 31 December 2017	01 January 2016 31 December 2016
Total payments			9,892.51
Excess of Receipts over Payments		63.36	(9,892.51)
Transfers to/(from)			128.18
Transfers to/(from)			5,000.00
Brought forward balance		22,517.05	27,281.38
Total carried forward balance		22,580.41	22,517.05
Quin - Quinquennial fund (Designated) Fund			
Receipts			
Investment Income			
Bank and building society interest		0.26	
	<i>Total Investment Income</i>	<u>0.26</u>	
Total receipts		0.26	
Excess of Receipts over Payments		0.26	
Transfers to/(from)			0.45
Brought forward balance		95.93	95.48
Total carried forward balance		96.19	95.93
SMcap - St Mary Capital (Restricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Investment Income			
Bank and building society interest		0.84	
	<i>Total Investment Income</i>	<u>0.84</u>	
Total receipts		0.84	
Excess of Receipts over Payments		0.84	
Transfers to/(from)			1.39
Brought forward balance		297.39	296.00
Total carried forward balance		298.23	297.39
SMorgan - St Mary Organ Fund (Restricted) Fund			
Receipts			
Investment Income			
Bank and building society interest		0.28	
	<i>Total Investment Income</i>	<u>0.28</u>	
Total receipts		0.28	
Excess of Receipts over Payments		0.28	
Transfers to/(from)			0.48
Brought forward balance		101.49	101.01
Total carried forward balance		101.77	101.49

Note

From 01 January 2017 01 January 2016
To 31 December 2017 31 December 2016

Travel - Travel fund (Designated) Fund

Receipts	
Receipts from church activities	
Social and Trips	370.48
<i>Total Receipts from church activities</i>	<u>370.48</u>
Total receipts	370.48
Payments	
Church Running Expenses	
PCC Awayday	150.00
<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	<u>150.00</u>
Total payments	150.00
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(150.00)
Brought forward balance	1,453.80
Total carried forward balance	1,303.80

Waddlers - Widford Waddlers (Designated) Fund

Receipts	
Other receipts	
Widford Waddlers	555.05
<i>Total Other receipts</i>	<u>555.05</u>
Total receipts	555.05
Payments	
Church Running Expenses	
Widford Waddlers	386.50
<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	<u>386.50</u>
Total payments	386.50
Excess of Receipts over Payments	168.55
Brought forward balance	(260.91)
Total carried forward balance	341.01

WidChar - Widford Charities (Restricted) Fund

Payments	
Missionary and Charitable Giving	
Home mission	16.36
<i>Total Missionary and Charitable Giving</i>	<u>16.36</u>
Total payments	16.36
Excess of Receipts over Payments	(16.36)
Brought forward balance	2,025.33
Total carried forward balance	2,025.33

Note

From 01 January 2017 01 January 2016
To 31 December 2017 31 December 2016

Ythol - Youth/Holiday Club (Restricted) Fund

Receipts			
Receipts from church activities			
Holiday Club			98.00
	<i>Total Receipts from church activities</i>		<u>98.00</u>
Total receipts			98.00
Payments			
Church Running Expenses			
Holiday Club		54.40	201.08
Children's Work			140.19
	<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	<u>54.40</u>	<u>341.27</u>
Total payments		54.40	341.27
	Excess of Receipts over Payments	(54.40)	(243.27)
	Transfers to/(from)		351.00
	Brought forward balance	199.02	91.29
Total carried forward balance		<u>144.62</u>	<u>199.02</u>

General - General fund (Unrestricted) Fund

Receipts			
Planned giving			
Standing Orders		19,442.00	22,097.00
Gift Aid - Envelopes		3,736.50	4,450.00
Envelopes CHS		4,565.69	5,897.00
Envelopes St Mary		8,581.48	8,434.22
Other planned giving		3,635.44	3,150.00
	<i>Total Planned giving</i>	<u>39,961.11</u>	<u>44,028.22</u>
Collections and other giving			
Plate Collections St Mary		4,409.87	4,421.90
Plate Collections CHS		3,169.30	2,230.30
Wedding & Funeral collections		82.00	82.52
One-off Gift Aid gifts			926.70
	<i>Total Collections and other giving</i>	<u>7,661.17</u>	<u>7,661.42</u>
Other voluntary receipts			
Donations appeals etc		15,626.23	1,107.15
	<i>Total Other voluntary receipts</i>	<u>15,626.23</u>	<u>1,107.15</u>
Gift Aid recovered			
Tax recoverable on Gift Aid		10,785.74	9,270.73
	<i>Total Gift Aid recovered</i>	<u>10,785.74</u>	<u>9,270.73</u>
Other receipts			
Other funds generated		4,615.22	1,029.60
Miscellaneous Income		211.20	1,641.19
	<i>Total Other receipts</i>	<u>4,826.42</u>	<u>2,670.79</u>
Activities for generating funds			
Bookstall sales - fund raising		35.85	
Hire Charges		4,258.00	3,452.00
	<i>Total Activities for generating funds</i>	<u>4,293.85</u>	<u>3,452.00</u>

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2017 31 December 2017	01 January 2016 31 December 2016
Investment Income			
Bank and building society interest		7.45	245.03
		<u>7.45</u>	<u>245.03</u>
Receipts from church activities			
Fees for weddings and funerals		3,802.00	3,389.00
Women's Fellowship		30.00	40.00
Social and Trips		191.50	
Holiday Club		136.50	
		<u>4,160.00</u>	<u>3,429.00</u>
Total receipts		87,321.97	71,864.34
Payments			
Cost of generating funds			
Costs of fetes & other events		116.43	
		<u>116.43</u>	
Missionary and Charitable Giving			
Tithe		2,219.88	3,348.18
Gifts		226.00	3,905.00
Giving - relief and development agencies		148.23	
Home mission		482.40	523.99
		<u>3,076.51</u>	<u>7,777.17</u>
Parish Share			
Parish Share		41,145.00	41,709.00
		<u>41,145.00</u>	<u>41,709.00</u>
Clergy and Staffing costs			
Assistant staff costs			58.62
Salaries and Wages		4,029.46	10,767.41
Visiting speakers / locums		80.00	96.00
		<u>4,109.46</u>	<u>10,922.03</u>
Church Running Expenses			
Fees for Weddings and Funerals			2,536.00
Insurance St Mary's		3,102.27	3,170.50
Insurance CHS / Parish Centre		1,290.78	1,277.49
Office Equipment		359.28	269.70
Office Printer		2,227.39	7,722.97
Office Stationery		82.01	378.72
Church maintenance		116.12	267.75
Cleaning		41.48	60.03
Worship and Services St Mary		234.56	139.38
Worship and Services CHS		387.27	183.00
Teaching		18.21	
Outreach & Evangelism		198.44	80.00
Confirmation			25.95
Upkeep of churchyard			50.00
Administration		1,246.68	1,141.81
Children's Work		71.31	101.35
Youth Work		20.04	31.25
Social and Trips		118.10	
CHS Weekend			154.62
Church running - electric		237.49	
CHS General			267.76
St Mary General		16.99	189.72
Gas CHS		1,148.18	1,094.93
Gas St Mary's		859.52	953.64
Electricity CHS		1,442.69	1,283.55
Electricity St Mary's		230.55	308.04
Water CHS		622.59	688.99

<i>Note</i>	From To	01 January 2017 31 December 2017	01 January 2016 31 December 2016
Water St Mary's		63.49	61.24
Church running - heating and lighting		330.00	339.98
		<i>Total Church Running Expenses</i>	<i>22,778.37</i>
		<u>14,465.44</u>	<u>22,778.37</u>
Hall Running Costs			
Parish Centre general		487.02	790.07
		<i>Total Hall Running Costs</i>	<i>790.07</i>
		<u>487.02</u>	<u>790.07</u>
Church Repairs & Maintenance			
CHS Maintenance			101.77
St Mary Maintenance		1,723.26	111.12
Church major repairs - installation		250.00	
Church interior and exterior decorating		62.19	13.04
		<i>Total Church Repairs & Maintenance</i>	<i>225.93</i>
		<u>2,035.45</u>	<u>225.93</u>
Hall Repairs & Maintenance			
Parish Centre Maintenance		2,391.48	475.61
Hall + major repairs - installation		4,968.00	
Other PCC property upkeep		151.88	57.97
		<i>Total Hall Repairs & Maintenance</i>	<i>533.58</i>
		<u>7,511.36</u>	<u>533.58</u>
Governance Costs			
Governance costs examination/audit fee		323.57	75.48
		<i>Total Governance Costs</i>	<i>75.48</i>
		<u>323.57</u>	<u>75.48</u>
Total payments		73,270.24	84,811.63
		<u>73,270.24</u>	<u>84,811.63</u>
Excess of Receipts over Payments		14,051.73	(12,947.29)
Transfers to/(from)			(237.64)
Transfers to/(from)			4,649.00
Brought forward balance		2,930.90	11,466.83
Total carried forward balance		16,982.63	2,930.90
		<u>16,982.63</u>	<u>2,930.90</u>

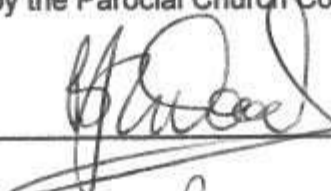
Parish of St Mary Widford

Statement of Assets and Liabilities


for the year ended 31 December 2017

Cash Funds	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Total 2017	Total 2016
Cash on Deposit	2,652.18	42,683.71	720.30	46,056.19	45,926.96
Cash at Bank	13,937.49	4,590.55	2,982.39	21,510.43	9,037.18
Cash in Hand	392.96	-	119.67	512.63	143.99
	<u>16,982.63</u>	<u>47,274.26</u>	<u>3,822.36</u>	<u>68,079.25</u>	<u>55,108.13</u>
Other Monetary Assets					
Income tax recoverable	<u>6,000.00</u>	-	-	<u>6,000.00</u>	<u>3,550.00</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council and signed on its behalf by:



PETER WOOD Date: 28th March 2018



PAMELA MYALL Date: 28th March 2018

Notes to the Financial Statements

1. The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
2. Assets recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities include:
Computer for office administration work.
Audio and visual presentation equipment.
Church inventory assets vested in the churchwardens on special trust.
3. During the year the PCC employed an administrator and a caretaker, both of whom worked part-time and none of whom earned in excess of £40,000.
4. The expenses paid to clergy may include a small immaterial proportion, which relates to their function as PCC members. Tammy Squirrell, who is also a PCC member and is employed as a caretaker was paid £3,604 (2016: £3,144). No other payments were made to PCC members.
5. In addition to the above amount of Income Tax Recoverable, a further sum is due for the period April to December 2017, relating to the HMRC Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. This amount will be calculated in April 2018, as the claims are made on an annual basis according to the Tax Year. It is estimated to be a sum in the region of £1,260.

28 March 2018


PARISH OFFICE

The Office continues to operate from Monday to Friday, being open for between 2 and 2.5 hours each day, enabling people to call in. This year we managed limited opening in August.

At the end of January Tracy Davey stepped down from her role as Parish Administrator after a long and dedicated service. We thank you Tracy.

It is manned by Bob Wiseman Monday, Barbara Oxlade Tuesday, Peter Wood Wednesday, Shirley Deering and Valerie Hayward Thursday and Sylvia Skardon Friday.

The office deals with the fees and invoices, bookings and hiring out of the Church Hall and **carpark at St. Marys, production, printing and the emailing out of "Churchtalk", updating the website and Facebook, production of publicity for the church events and the general day to day running of the Parish.** The songs sheets are prepared for Music Practice and left ready each week. When one off jobs are needed we ask others to help out.

Tony and Rosalynd Griffiths have taken on the role of preparing cheques for payment of Invoices and Petty Cash requests.

Other jobs that are "administrative" include the payment of the weekly collections into the bank, usually on a weekly basis, and liaising with Roger Bird, the Treasurer.

A new Lexmark Printer/Copier was purchased at the beginning of the year.

We are grateful that we have a good team spirit and we enjoy working together. Each person contributing skills to the efficient running of the office. Thanks to Will Wiseman for covering vacancies and for completing Banns Books and Banns Services. We wished him well as he went off to University.

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our churchwardens Alan Davey, Tammy Squirrell, Bob Wiseman and Sylvia Skardon who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf, and Roger Bird who has helped us all to understand the church's accounts and its finances. We would also like to thank Peter Wood for his role as Lay chair.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At **Widford St. Mary's and CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT the membership of the PCC consists of the Incumbent, churchwardens, the licensed lay minister and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church.** All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent. New Members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met ten times during the year with an average level of attendance of 90%. The PCC continued to meet on a monthly basis throughout 2017. The National Church is encouraging us to adopt more of the Charity safeguarding procedures. Many thanks to Vicky Smith for being our Safeguarding Officer.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St. Mary's church is situated in London Road, and Church of the Holy Spirit in Forest Drive. It is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is "Widford Parish Office, Forest Drive, Chelmsford, Essex. CM1 2TS". Registered charity number 1128307.'

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2017 until the date this report was approved are:

Priest-in-Charge:

Rev'd Stephanie Gillingham

Church Wardens:

Mr. Alan Davey

Miss. Tamzin (Tammy) Squirrell

Mrs. Sylvia Skardon

Mr. Robert (Bob) Wiseman, Deanery Synod Rep.

Licensed Lay Minister:

Mr. Roger Gillingham

Authorised Local Preacher:

Mrs. Tracy Davey

PCC Members:

Mr. Roger Bird – Treasurer

Mr. Lionel Blanks

Mr. Tony Griffiths

Mrs Pamela (Pam) Myall – PCC Secretary & Deanery Synod Rep

Mrs. Barbara Oxlade

Mrs. Victoria (Vicky) Smith

Dr. Peter Wood (Lay Chair)

Report approved by the PCC on

and signed on their behalf by

The Parish of Widford
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Monday 24th April, 2017
in Church of the Holy Spirit, Widford

A. Meeting of Parishioners

Election of Churchwardens

B. Annual Meeting Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Prayer
- 1) Apologies for Absence
- 2) Notification of Any Other Business items (to be taken at the end.)
- 3) Minutes of previous APCM held on Monday 24th April 2017
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) **Stephanie's Report (Rector to Widford Benefice)**
- 6) Electoral Roll
- 7) Annual Reports
- 8) Finance
- 9) **Wardens'** - Fabric Report
- 10) Deanery Synod Report
- 11) Election of second lay representative to Deanery Synod
- 12) Lynchpins Report
- 13) Election of a Lynchpin Member
- 14) Election of PCC Members
- 15) Appointment of Sidespeople
- 16) Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 18) An item for discussion: How could we best use our share of a children/youth worker in a bid from the Diocesan Mission Opportunities Fund?

19) Any Other Business

20) Date for first meeting of the new PCC - Monday 21st May 2018

21) Date for the next APCM - Monday 22nd April, 2019

22) Close with prayer

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meetings Of the Parish of Widford Held on 24th April 2017, at the Church of the Holy Spirit.

A. Meeting of Parishioners

Revd Stephanie Gillingham welcomed everyone to the meetings and opened with prayer. Stephanie made the declaration that the meeting had been advertised on the doors of both our churches, for two weeks beforehand.

There were four nominations for the posts of Churchwarden:

Robert Wiseman was proposed by Pam Myall and seconded by Lionel Blanks

Sylvia Skardon was proposed by Pam Myall and seconded by Lionel Blanks.

Alan Davey was proposed by Sylvia Skardon and seconded by Lionel Blanks.

Tamzin Squirrell was proposed by Lynette Hunwicks and seconded by Pam Myall.

The Wardens were all elected unanimously. Thanks were expressed to them all, for their service in the past and willingness to continue.

B. Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Present: Revd Stephanie Gillingham; Bob Wiseman (who took the chair, in the absence of Peter Wood); Roger Bird (Treasurer); Joan Barker; Lionel Blanks; Pat Brown; Pat Deal; Shirley Deering; Jen Gaskin; Rosalynd and Tony Griffiths; Zoe Myall; Barbara Oxlade; Sylvia Skardon; Vicky Smith; Tammy Squirrell; Will Wiseman; Alan, Tracy and Nicola Davey; Pam Myall.

2. Apologies for Absence had been received from Peter and Gill Wood and Keith and Sheila Schofield.

3. Notification of Any Other Business The PCC had asked the Tithe Group to make recommendations for charities to support in 2017.

4. Minutes of previous APCM held on 18th April 2016, had been signed as a correct record at PCC meeting on 16th May 2016.

5. Matters Arising items covered by agenda.

6. Stephanie asked us to remember those of our fellowship who went to be with the Lord in 2016. We stood to remember Joan Crisp, Margaret Granville and Percy McDonald, and to pray for those who miss them.

As in her report, Stephanie drew our attention to Matthew 10, verses 40 - 42. *Whoever welcomes you welcomes me and he who welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me.* ...Stephanie asked us to keep in mind the thought of WELCOME.

She expressed sympathy for the family of Judith and George Large, on the sudden death of their Brother-in-law. (George, nevertheless, completed his work examining our accounts.)

There had been a big change, with Tracy ending her work as Parish Administrator. Stephanie expressed thanks for all she had done, over many years.

Thanks, too, for the amazing team of volunteers, keeping the office going and to everyone who shares a welcome.

Stephanie mentioned the Commissioning service of the MMU, on 6th May 2017. The links between the four parishes were strong and growing, and all church members were thanked for the way they have encouraged this process.

Bob responded to Stephanie's comments by thanking her for her diligence throughout the year,

for the wonderful energy from the Holy Spirit that she demonstrates. Members endorsed this with applause.

7. Electoral Roll

Shirley reported that there were 78 members on the Electoral Roll. She would be happy to continue as Electoral Roll Officer.

8. Annual Reports

These had been available to read. Bob asked for any additional comments as follows:-

House Groups: Joan noted that a House Group meets in her house. She apologised for not submitting a report.

Wid Wads: Bob was pleased to see Jen Gaskin, the original founder of Wid Wads, present at the meeting.

Lunch Club: the report on page 6 of the reports concluded on the top of page 8.

V Festival: **Roger asked about the new tent, purchased for the 'God Tent'. Stephanie reported that the new tent is amazing.**

Pulse: Bob mentioned that Pulse was not meeting at present. Sincere thanks were expressed to Nicola for all she has done. Thoughts and prayers of church members had been requested, about possible youth work in the future.

Nicola thanked all those who have supported her in her leadership of Pulse over the years.

Soul Survivor: **Nicola's report on page 7 was completed at the top of page 6.**

Women's Fellowship: Thanks were expressed to Pat Deal and Pat Jackson for their faithfulness in arranging meetings, Wednesday by Wednesday. Pat Deal thanked Bob for printing out the programme of events.

Knit & Natter: Pat Deal had been given the role of host in this group.

Parish Centre: Bob reported that the centre was being well used by local organisations; part of **'being at the heart of our community'**.

It was noted that no figures were given for Average Attendance in CHS.

Deanery Synod: **Pam's report was longer than usual, because changes were taking place. The Synod responsibilities were becoming less administrative, but it was felt that prayerful sharing of experiences, good practice and worship are valuable. Lay representatives would be elected for 3 years, later in the meeting.**

Churchwardens' Report: This had been made by all four wardens as a team. There was nothing to add.

Parish Office Thanks were expressed to Tracy for her report, for her many years of service as Parish Administrator, and for her support to the volunteers, which has helped them to continue the work of the office.

9. Finance

The Accounts had been completed by Roger, in good time, but the examining had been delayed, so they were presented as an Appendix and printed out (by Bob) on the afternoon of the APCM. In order for members of the meeting to familiarise themselves with the information, Bob suggested a short break in the meeting.

Roger drew attention to a few points and invited any detailed queries to be made later. He would look into these and discuss with PCC, if appropriate.

(i) The year ended with a deficit – unlike the past two years, when extraordinary gifts had, put the balance into credit at the last moment. There were ample funds in the bank, but most are allocated in some way.

(ii) We can approach the new year with more optimism, because the current account spending should be more balanced – **having bought ourselves out of the photocopying 'trap'**. Staffing costs had been reduced, at least for the time being.

(iii) **Roger had concern about 2 factors: Another £15,000 would need to be spent on St Mary's and it had been noted that regular income was slightly lower.**

(iv) With the establishment of the Mission and Ministry Units, there would be a change in the funding of Parish Share. The impact of this would not be apparent until 2018.

(v) Roger expressed his thanks to everyone who had given him invaluable help as Treasurer during the year.

Nicola Davey queried the slowness of work being done in St Mary's. It was agreed that there had been much delay – with trying to get approval for work to be done etc. However, work got underway in 2016 – and it was very much hoped that re-decoration could begin soon.

Alan Davey noted that it was hard to understand the way accounts have to be presented. The impression given was that the financial position of the Parish was worrying. Roger advised the meeting that the concern was more about current account spending and that he did not have a problem with capital expenditure for which monies had already been allocated. Tracy pointed out that the finishing of the leases and service agreements for photocopying in 2016, should make a significant difference to outgoings in 2017.

Bob asked the meeting whether it was prepared to accept the accounts, as presented. Lionel Blanks proposed the adoption of the accounts. Sylvia Skardon seconded this proposal. There were seventeen votes in favour, three abstentions and no votes against.

Thanks were expressed to Roger for all his work. He said that, after several years, he felt his knowledge and experience was now of greater value to the Parish and that, as a result, he was more confident about the work he was able to present.

10. Wardens' Fabric Report

The last Quinquennial Report on St Mary's church was in the summer of 2014. During the coming two years, Bob said that it was hoped progress could be made on some recommended stonework. Disabled access was also of concern – but this matter would necessarily wait for the future. Work on the pipe organ and bells was not regarded as priority. At CHS, the only work needed had been some roof repair (dealt with by Jeff Gilbert) and fence repair.

11. Deanery Synod Report (made already)

12. Election of 2 Lay Representatives to Deanery Synod – for three years

Bob Wiseman was proposed by Pam Myall and seconded by Pat Deal

Pam Myall was proposed by Bob Wiseman and seconded by Pat Deal

There being no other nominations, Bob and Pam were duly elected.

13. Lynchpins Report (made already)

14. Election of 2 Lynchpin Members

Linda Stephens was nominated by Pam Myall and seconded by Shirley Deering.

Tammy Squirrell was nominated by Pam Myall and seconded by Bob Wiseman.

The meeting unanimously voted to appoint Linda and Tammy as our lay Lynchpins.

15. Election of PCC Members

Bob reviewed the constitution of the PCC, as outlined on page 15 of the Annual Reports. The Wardens and Deanery Synod reps had already been elected. Lionel Blanks and Tony Griffiths were both elected in 2016, so had served one year. Vicky Smith and Peter Wood were elected in 2015, so had served two years. Only Barbara Oxlade had served the full three year term.

However, Barbara had expressed her willingness to stand for election again. She was proposed by Pam Myall, seconded by Lionel Blanks and re-elected. There remained one vacancy, but no-one else expressed willingness to stand.

16. Appointment of Sidespeople

CHS: Pat Deal and Vicky Smith were willing to continue to welcome visitors.

St Mary's: Daphne and Reg Blowers, Rosalynd and Tony Griffiths, Barbara Oxlade, Linda Stephens, Roger Bird, Jackie Dickens and Colin Groves were willing to continue in this role.

Bob proposed and Lionel seconded the acceptance of these appointments, which were voted unanimously.

18. Any Other Business

Pam read the Recommendations for the distribution of the Parish Tithe 2017, (report attached).

The meeting agreed to adopt the suggested charities.

Thanks were expressed to Lynette Hunwicks for putting the Annual Reports together for us. The proposal was made that she be asked to do the job again next year!

Joan Barker expressed concern that there had been a bit of a muddle at CHS on 23rd April. In the absence of Stephanie and both CHS Wardens, there was a lack of keys, so Andy Griffiths had needed to bring chalices from Galleywood. Bob apologised on behalf of the wardens, for failing to anticipate the problem. (However, the service had taken place without panic.)

19. Date of first meeting of the new PCC – 15th May 2017, at 7.30pm, with prayer from 7pm.

20. Bob closed the meeting at 9.15pm, with prayer and thanks to everyone for their attendance.

Leadership of Widford Parish

We are developing teams – do let us know if you would like to join one.

Wardens: Alan Davey, Tamzin (Tammy) Squirrell, Sylvia Skardon & Robert (Bob) Wiseman

Treasurer: Roger Bird & Assistant Dr. Peter Wood

Deanery Synod: Pam Myall & Bob Wiseman

South West Chelmsford Lynchpins: Tammy Squirrell & Linda Stephens

Licensed Lay Minister: Roger Gillingham

Licensed Lay Preacher: Tracy Davey

Preachers: Rob Perry, Pam Myall, Peter Wood, Gill Wood, Keith Schofield, Jen Gaskin, Nicola Davey

All Age Service Leaders: **Pam Myall at St. Mary's and Gill Wood at CHS**

Caretaker: Tammy Squirrel

Office Volunteers: Peter Wood, Barbara Oxlade, Pat Deal, Bob Wiseman Shirley Deering, Valerie Hayward, Sylvia Skardon and Will Wiseman.

Baptism /Thanksgiving home visiting team: Pam Myall and Jane Wiseman, Rosalynd Griffiths, Tracy Davey, Gill Wood

Children's work: Tammy Squirrel

Churchtalk: Barbara Oxlade and Peter Wood

Flower Arranging: Reg & Daphne Blowers, Sylvia Skardon, Shirley Deering, Janet Bird and Barbara Oxford at St. Marys, Joan Barker and Barbara Jones at Church of the Holy Spirit

Friday Afternoon St. Marys Open Church Working Group Coordinator: Bob Wiseman

Gift Aid: Sheila Schofield

Home Communion Assistants: Pam Myall, Shirley Dearing, Gill Wood and Peter Wood

Home Groups Co-ordinator: Tammy Squirrell

Knit and Natter: Pat Deal

Men's Club coordinators: Alan Davey and Colin White

Messy Church Team: Peter Wood, Gill Wood, Pam Myall, Roger Gillingham, Pat Deal, Shirley Deering, Sheila Schofield, and Stephanie Gillingham

Mission and Evangelism Team:

Music and Hymn Choice: **Dan Gullick and Rob Perry at St. Mary's. Tracy Davey, Keith Schofield, Sheila Schofield, Keri Schofield, Nicola Davey, Roger Gillingham and Lisa Quilter at CHS.**

Pastoral Team Coordinator/Pastoral Care Team: Pam Myall & Stephanie, Shirley Deering, Lisa Quilter, Peter Wood, Gill Wood, and Tracy Davey.

Prayer Chain: Dave & Maz Walker

Prayer Ministry Coordinator: Joan Barker

Prophecy: Pat Brown

Quiz Masters: Bob Wiseman, Alan Davey and Alan Jones

Safe-guarding: Vicky Smith

Sound and Visuals: Alan Davey, Tammy Squirrell, Colin White & Elizabeth Olatunji at CHS and **Dan Gullick & Rob Perry at St. Mary's.**

Sunday Children's: Tammy Squirrell, Gill Wood and Joan Barker at CHS and Pam Myall & Will Wiseman at St. Mary's.

Website and Other Media: Peter Wood, Will Wiseman and Roger Gillingham.

Wednesday Lunch Club: Sheila Schofield & Pam Myall

Wid-Wads Team: Jane Wiseman, Sheila Schofield, Zoe Myall and Stephanie Gillingham.

Women's Fellowship: Pat Deal & Pat Jackson

Youthwork:

Refreshments Teams: Valerie Hayward, Lisa Quilter and Barbara Jones at CHS. Sylvia Skardon, Jackie Dickens, Linda Stephens, Will Wiseman, Shirley Deering, Janet Bird, Barbara Oxford, & **Beryl Clark at St. Mary's.**

Church Cleaning Teams: _Jill White, Lisa Quilter, Barbara Jones, Elizabeth Olatunji & Lynette Hunwicks at Church of the Holy Spirit and Shirley Deering, Janet Bird, Jackie Dickens, Barbara Oxford, Jane Wiseman, Sylvia Skardon, Sheila Schofield & Beryl Clark at St. Marys.



Office,
Forest Drive,
Chelmsford,
Essex.
CM1 2TS
t: 01245 355 989
e: widfordchurchtalk@gmail.com
w: widfordparish.com
f: [facebook.com/widfordparishchelmsford](https://www.facebook.com/widfordparishchelmsford)