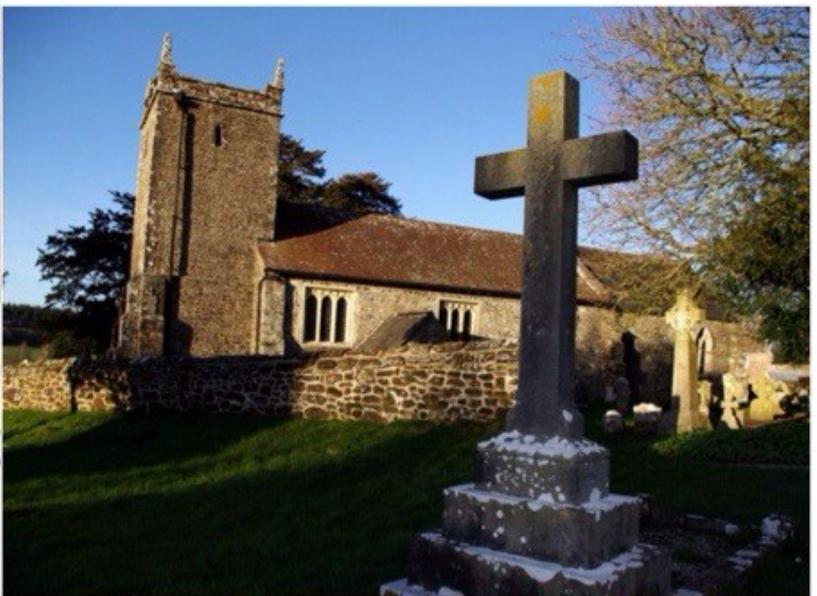


St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers



Annual Report
2013 - 2014

The Parish of St Mary the Virgin, Lytchett Matravers. Annual Report Year ending 2014

Background

St Mary's Church, Lytchett Matravers is responsible, with the Team Vicar, the Revd. Ali Mepham, to enable worship of God and to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in and for our geographical parish community.

The *Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary's the Virgin, Lytchett Matravers* is a charity excepted from registration with the charities commission.

St Mary's is an independent parish within the *Benefice of The Lytchetts and Upton* in *Poole Deanery*. The Revd. Jean de Garis is the Team Rector and Parish Priest for the Parish of Lytchett Minster and Upton.

The Benefice is part of *Diocese of Salisbury* within the *Church of England*.

The PCC for the Year 2013-14 consisted of the following members:

Ex-Officio Members:	Office Held (if any)	Post Ends
Ali Mepham	Chair	
Annie Mitchener	Church Warden	
Gill Clayton	Church Warden	
Liz Southgate	Deanary Synod	
Carole Singleton	Deanary Synod	
Elected Members:		
Frances Tomlinson-Mynors	Treasurer	<i>Office holder re-election 2016</i>
Debbie Phipps	PCC Secretary	<i>Office holder re-election 2016</i>
Bill Carter	PCC Vice Chair - Fabric Team Chair	2014
Jill Everitt		2014
Mary d'Orton-Gibson		2014
Kat Mepham		2015
Heather Argent		2015
Claire Coakes		2015
Nikki McGee		2016

The method of appointment to the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC during 2013-14

The PCC met 5 times during the year since the last APCM (24 July 2013, 4 September 2013, 20 November 2013, 5 February 2014 and 9 March 2014). There was also a meeting of the Standing Committee on June 10th 2013.

Ali is looking into appointing a church member to be registered as our new child protection officer and parish safeguarding administrator.

Annie has finished cataloguing the graveyards and put onto a CD.

In our July meeting the PCC decide to appoint Kat Mepham as Associate Pastor. This would be a voluntary position and reflects her role leading the @11 and Messy Church. We continued to create the movement towards a PCC ministry team structure to make decision making and the ministries of the church easier to administer.

The Fabric Team continues to tackle the challenges of maintaining and developing our ancient building. There are ongoing discussions and meetings with regard to the heating system and there have been one or two setbacks during the year but this is still being processed. There is going to be new external lighting for the church which should cover all corners of the building. An Asbestos report was carried out and a small amount of asbestos was discovered which should not cause any problems as long as it is checked every now and then. A new soakaway is to be installed under the yew trees on the north side. A small amount of painting is also planned behind the piano. A health and Safety Risk Assessment has been carried out. A Fundraising Team has been established and they are in the process of organising 3 fundraising events for 2014 in March, July and November. The next team to be re-established will be the Pastoral Team.

In September the PCC met for the Annual Vision Day. During the morning session we looked at our interpersonal styles - how we function as individuals working together on the PCC. We acknowledged we are very different individually but can learn how to work to accommodate others. In the afternoon we revisited the team structures and worked on which teams were needed to help us in our mission to "transform our community with God's love".

A discretionary fund has been set up to be administered by Ali and Kat to help those in need who approach the church for help. This would allow Ali to give small amounts where needed. To ensure accountability the fund would be part of PCC funds and the treasurer would keep records of expenditure.

Our new church website has been running now for several months. It is a major design overhaul from the previous site and is designed to reflect our diverse and vibrant church community to visitors, enquirers and to provide information to those seeking occasional offices and other ministries of the Church. It is also designed to be an information hub for members of the Church community providing interaction via social media for those who want it. Due to the increased use of the website we have increased the capacity to be unlimited use.

Carole will be standing down as Deanery Synod rep having done 3 years. Currently the Synod reps are Carole Singleton and Liz Southgate. Carole will also be standing down as Electoral Roll officer at the APCM. Debbie has agreed to take this on.

The Church Opening routine was a success in 2013 so this will continue in 2014 from 1st March to the beginning of October with the addition of opening on a Sunday as well as Saturday.

At the final PCC meeting the PCC approved the accounts of the Church.

Electoral Roll

The Electoral Roll is a list of names and addresses of every person who can vote in the Annual Meeting (APCM). Every six years a new roll is prepared with an annual amendment of members prior to each APCM in the intervening years.

The roll was revised on the 28th February 2014 with 1 deletion and no new names added. The roll now stands at 83 of which 6 live outside the parish including names that have been added since the Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2013.

Review of the Year

The year 2013/4 has been one of challenges in the life of the St Mary's community.

Our pattern of regular services has continued with our 8am Book of Common Prayer Communion, 9:30am (Morning Worship on third Sundays with the Music Group) and the @eleven in the Village Hall on Sundays.

The monthly mid-week communion service on the 1st Wednesday of every month has continued to offer a small, but important, community worship at a time that is more accessible to those unable to attend on a Sunday morning.

We continue to offer a monthly Evensong service on third Sundays which is attended by a dedicated but small number of worshippers and we are extremely grateful to Revd Stuart Timbrell who regularly leads this Book of Common Prayer service.

At 9:30 we have witnessed a small decline in those attending worship each week. This sadly is largely to do with an ageing congregation that has experienced a significant amount of illness and has lost some dear friends during the course of the year. The added difficulty of the dilapidated heating and sound systems has also made the Church a less than hospitable environment for worship especially during the winter months. We continue to explore how to be traditional Church in the 21st Century. In recent months necessity has brought a wide range of priests to lead and preside and we have been enriched by their varying styles and passions.

The @eleven community has had an interesting year as it has continued to explore its identity and its place within the life of St Mary's. For a small community we lost a number of significant families from the community through people moving away from the village. However recent months have seen exponential growth and the community is now more than twice the size it was a year ago, made up largely of regular, weekly worshippers. As the @eleven has developed the idea of 'community' rather than 'congregation' has been a significant influence in its identity. In recent months we have begun to explore what it means to be a missional community and how to develop rhythms of a godly lifestyle beyond simply being a member of the Church.

The @eleven continues to explore its core ethos as an All Age community where the very youngest to the very oldest members learn and share together in worship. This has brought many challenges and many joys.

As a whole Church we have remained committed to our ethos of being "*One Church Worshipping in Different Ways*" providing different and varied styles of worship across a broad spectrum of styles. This approach brings both joys and challenges as each of our communities has its own identity and integration between the varied parts of our community can be difficult to facilitate.

In September we launched "Community Wednesdays" The vision for Community Wednesdays is to help the community of St Mary's love each other better, love God better and love our community better. Based on Acts chapter 2, each month we eat together, worship together, learn and discuss together and serve together. This is facilitated by a four-week programme that includes:

- Home Group** - meeting in small groups to look at the bible and learn together about God and His word.
- Community Meal** - an opportunity for us to eat together once a month.
- Deeper** - a worship and teaching service that encourages us to go 'deeper' into our teaching than we are able to do on Sunday Morning
- Community Week** - we encourage each other to do something practical to love and serve our wider community either individually or in groups.

It has been a great joy to see members of our different worshipping communities come together to share in fellowship and study through these activities as well as it attracting people from outside our immediate Church family. In particular the Small Group and Community Meals have been successful in building relationships across our services.

In July the PCC affirmed Kat Mepham's growing role in Church leadership at St Mary's by appointing her as Assistant Pastor, a voluntary role that acknowledges her leadership in some key areas of Church life including Messy Church, the @eleven and pastoral and leadership teams. Due to personal circumstances and illness this position was not fully announced until the New Year.

In May we were heavily involved, with our friends in Churches Together, in the new Village Fayre which replaced the Carnival. The coffee and cream teas offered were a huge success, as was the 'Dunk the Vicar' stall which attracted an unwarranted level of custom! Money raised was gifted back to the Fayre committee as a gift from the Lytchett Churches for future events.

Both Easter & Christmas attracted people from our wider village community to worship as always. Again both our St Mary's Choir and our ecumenical 'Churches in Harmony' choir brought a significant contribution to the life of the Church during these festivals. In addition a special Churches in Harmony Evensong in September attracted a number of people from across both St Mary's and the Methodist Church.

In November we were able to stage another work by Graham Stanfield based on the Knights Templar. It was a great success and really encouraging to see the Church building used in innovative ways for our village community.

Francis Tomlinson-Mynors took over as Church Treasurer at the last APCM and has done a fantastic job developing and updating our procedures. Although our finances continue to challenge us we paid our Parish Share in full for the fourth year in a row. The PCC also committed to the biblical call to tithe our income working towards re-establishing links with mission partners and increasing our giving accordingly. We agreed to take on two mission partners to support financially and prayerfully. These are the Christian Child Sponsorship charity 'Compassion' and 'The Wisdoms' a missionary family working with children and a school in Burundi.

The Fabric team has continued to work very hard maintaining the St Mary's building and working on solutions to the large number of issues arising over the course of the year. The main areas of concern are heating, lighting and sound. All of which are in desperate need of replacement. A big

disappointment was the failure of the faculty application for a new heating system and much work has gone into moving forward on these issues. However it has set the plans for the building back considerably.

The latter part of the year saw a number of initiatives postponed or cancelled due to difficult family issues for Ali and family followed by absence due to Ali's ill health.

Messy Church

It has been a great year for Messy Church. We continue to introduce non-church families to Jesus in a relaxed, informal style. There is craft, singing, family worship and we always finish with a wonderful meal provided by Angela and her team. This year due to lots of circumstances we have not met every month but still continue to welcome lots of village families. During the year Kat became Regional co-ordinator for Messy Church Dorset which means that we occasionally get other people come to observe our messy church. Messy church offers a place where families can come and spend time together in a safe, loving atmosphere. It is a chance for us to tell a generation who have very little knowledge of church or Jesus that they are loved, special and God has a plan for their lives.

Thank you to all those who work so hard – who do cutting before the event, organise craft activities, set up, make food, count cutlery, put out chairs, help with craft, do registration, lead singing, wash up, etc. etc. etc.

Some comments from Messy Church families:

'such a great way to serve the community – my daughter really enjoys her time here.'

the children have a great time and have lots of fun with their friends. You get to meet people and make new friends. Thank you for making this happen'

'My children LOVE messy Church! It's really hectic but they have a lovely time and wish it was every week'

We love Messy Church because it is so much fun!. Thank you to everyone who helps and makes it great.

'We love coming along our children are aged 4,2 and 0 so ALL enjoy it. We have bags of goodies to take home which reminds us of what we have learned. Most importantly we feel we belong because we see our children feel safe and at home. Thank you!'

Church Fabric

We have had a hard year in 2013/14 with some minor successes but also some major frustrations. Last year's optimism was premature.

Successes:

- 1) Additional work to drains – almost finished now.
- 2) A solution to stubborn patches of internal paintwork has been found and one area successfully treated.
- 3) Steel beams in tower have been successfully treated.
- 4) Gutters cleaned repeatedly

Frustrations:

- 1) No progress on new heating system
- 2) No progress on new sound system
- 3) The broken tiles on the roof were replaced but storms before Christmas have damaged some more allowing further water ingress

Projects to be tackled in the coming months:

- 1) Tiles on roof to be replaced
- 2) Older soak-away to be replaced
- 3) Heating system
- 4) Sound system
- 5) Rewiring of church
- 6) External lights
- 7) Repointing of external walls
- 8) Minor repairs to external walls and windows
- 9) Painting gutters and downpipes
- 10) Cleaning gutters
- 11) Treating wooden window frames

What are we doing at the moment?

- 1) The Heating and Sound systems are our continuing priority. Having chosen our preferred Heating option the Diocese was unable to recommend our faculty application. The reasons they gave were general and their suggestions unhelpful. We are hoping to visit St Osmund's Church Evershot on 24th March at which the Infra-red Chandelier system will be demonstrated to the DAC. We hope that this will be the turning point in their thinking and that they will look more favourably on a revised application along similar lines. We have had two quotes for modernising the Sound system but further work needs to be done there.
- 2) When we get some decent weather I would like to get a work party together to clean gutters and treat wooden window frames.
- 3) We need to tackle the painting of the gutters and down pipes. Part of this is challenging in that two down pipes are the full height of the tower.
- 4) Our friendly-historic-building-maintenance-man Richard is working on quotes to continue with the remaining repair work listed in the last Quinquennial report.
- 5) What we do with the stepped area between the Chancel and the Nave needs to be decided.

Churches Together in Lytchett Matravers

Activities started in May last year with the Churches` involvement in providing the Cream Teas for the Village Fayre organised mainly by Kat and her team. Those taking tea and those serving and washing up enjoyed a very sociable time. The Village generally seemed to like Ali`s contribution, on the receiving end of wet sponges!

The AGM was unusually late (in July) due to everyone being occupied with the above event and also Connect at Holton Heath. Ali was re-elected Chairman and Fraser Smith gave an excellent talk on his visit to the Philippines.

Last year, after re-evaluating our regular activities, it was decided to visit each others Churches and experience the different services. Having visited the Lighthouse Church in January (reported last year) our usual Summer Service in July was replaced by an invitation from St Mary`s to our friends in the Churches Together grouping to attend our Services at 9.30 am and @11. This was successful, both services being well attended.

In September the Harvest Supper took place. In a break from tradition there was no entertainment so each Church shared good news and gave thanks for three things happening in their church. Ann Jones organised the food, enjoyed by all. Sadly numbers were down on previous years.

In November, the Community Remembrance Service was held in a full Village Hall, concluding at the War Memorial, where many more joined those who had gathered in the Hall. Due to the R.B.L.Club being closed, light refreshments were served afterwards in the Hall again organised by Kat.

In December, the joint Carol Service was held in the Village Hall – the Hall was again full which is always encouraging. Our Traditional Carol Service at the Church was held by candlelight with Churches in Harmony and, of course the usual Christmas card was delivered to every house in the Village, detailing all the Christmas events.

The next Committee Meeting is to be held on 25th March and a Service is planned at the Methodist Church in the summer to replace the normal July gathering in the Village Hall.

See you there!

Deanery Synod Report

The DS met 3 times throughout the year at the June meeting the Rev Jonathan Foster explained briefly about St Clements Church, that St Thomas Indian Orthodox Church and Faithworks are based there too.

Revd Dr Alison Morgan Alison described herself as an author and a thinker amongst her other qualifications and involvements. She treated us to a challenging and thought provoking presentation of Being Made New for Mission and the various aspects of being a culture in crisis, crisis of purpose, spirituality and happiness. She highlighted that society has moved away from the recognition of relationships being fundamental for identity and community, with money being part of the problem rather than the solution. Handouts were distributed and also slides have been circulated by email to all Synod members concerning this presentation. Do visit the Resource website sometime www.resource-arm.net Alison said what exciting times we live in as Christians and concluded that our purpose is to offer living proof of a loving God to a watching world.

At the November meeting we were welcomed by the Rev David Price to Heatherlands St John and its sister church The Church of the Good Shepherd led by Rev Peter Homden. And we were asked to pray for the parish as it seeks to engage with the community.

Four new incumbents were welcomed to Poole Deanery Synod, Reverends Michael Camp at St.Peter's, Charles Boyle All Saints, Lucy Holt St James and Christine Brooks St Philip's.

Updates on Wau – Revs Chris Strain & Carol Langford reported on the deanery link with Wau in South Sudan and the partnership is flourishing.

Rev Chris Strain reported briefly on General Synod in York last summer. Mission Shaped Ministry Course - Update by Rev Paul Bradbury. Elect one member to Diocesan Synod - Joe Williams of St George's Oakdale elected unanimously.

Bishop Nicholas – “Let us Talk”- + Nicholas gave a brief overview of his first two years in Salisbury. The feedback of his conversational exercise with local churches, “Let us Talk”, is available on the diocesan website, and he enlarged on this and the responses to the 5 basic questions asked. Poole is a large deanery with much diversity and has amazing examples of Christians serving the community; some churches had their energy targeted on worship, youth work or networking like New Wine; 90% of church schools / academies were good or outstanding; engaging with others and being outward facing was important as was telling our stories to one another, renewing our hope of the church and our hope in the church.

The February meeting was held at St Aldhelm's Academy – Cheryl Heron, Principal, welcomed all to St Aldhelm's Academy which had moved into this new spacious and innovative building on December 1st 2013. It was 4 schools in one, each catering for different needs of the children. Saturday 24th May 2014 Official Opening St Aldhelm's Academy – Community Groups invited, Bishop Graham would be coming and the local MP

Choice of three presentations –

Schools' Youth Work Chris Trent and Ruth Wells (Deanery Youth Workers)

Mentoring Young People Lizzy Whitbread (Diocesan Youth Advisor)

Messy Church: where next? Barbara Meardon (Diocesan Children's Advisor)

Reports of individual presentations are available on request by email.

Mapping the Deanery youth provision – Chris Trent and Ruth Wells elaborated on their earlier presentation and likened the work to “untying knots”, being relationship focused and working in many

different settings without being driven by timetables and curriculum.

General Synod Report – Nigel Lloyd gave an overview of February Synod in London which had included debates on Ordination of Women to the episcopate, Safeguarding – major changes to be expected for the future, Climate Change - the need to be actively engaged with these issues, Synopsis of Information at www.churchofengland.org/about-us/structure/general-synod.aspx

Decide on Extraordinary Synod – 1. Rural Dean Jean de Garis asked synod about Article 8 re Women Bishops and it was agreed the subject had been explored enough with any members needing more information to contact Nigel Lloyd or Chris Strain. 2. CS requested we consider a name change for Poole Deanery to reflect more the area of Bournemouth covered by deanery. Members were asked to reflect on this idea which can be picked up again by Synod later this year if desired.

Christian Aid week – Stephen Dominey highlighted forthcoming Christian Aid Week 11-17th May and 43rd CA Walk on Saturday 10th. The focus this year is on “Conflict Resolution” with the theme “A Life Free from Fear”. Thanks expressed for past contributions and please pray for 2014.

Finance Report

Financially the church is continuing to cover its costs with our income just covering our expenditure. We have give a proportion of our income to mission split between the wisdoms in Burundi and compassion and will continue to do this in the coming year. We agreed as a PCC that our aim would be give 10 per cent of our planned giving to mission outside the Parish in the future. We paid our parish share for the year in full and spent significant amount on the fabric of the church building. The church has been blessed by a few legacies which has allowed us to continue our ministries in the parish. We have significant funds in restricted funds which we could use in the future for the fabric of the building. A fund-raising committee has been set up both for church activities and towards other projects such as the heating.

A more comprehensive verbale report will be given at the APCM. The full accounts will be available once approved by the PCC.