



St Mary's Church  
Lytchett Matravers

Annual Report  
2015-2016

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# The Parish of St Mary the Virgin Lytchett Matravers Annual Report Year ending 2016

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## Background

St Mary's Church Lytchett Matravers is responsible, with the Team Vicar the Rev Ali Mepham (in post until December 2015), 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 Rev 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 2015-16 consisted of the following members:

<b>Ex-Officio Members:</b>	<b>Office Held (if any)</b>	<b>Post Ends</b>
Ali Mepham	Vicar & Chair	<i>Resigned December 2015 due to move</i>
Annie Mitchener	Church Warden	
Mat Riddell	Church Warden	
Jackie Cannings	Deanery Synod Representative	
Heather Argent	Deanery Synod Representative	
<b>Elected Members:</b>		
Frances Tomlinson-Mynors	Treasurer	<i>Resigned January 2015</i>
Debbie Phipps	PCC Secretary	<i>April 2016</i>
Bill Carter	PCC Vice Chair & Fabric Team Chair	2016*
Kat Mepham	Associate Pastor	<i>Resigned December 2015 due to move</i>
Riette Hodson		2017
Kat Riddell	Children's and Families Worker	2017
Elizabeth Carter		2017
Jo Sepkes-Jones		2017
Anne Brown		2018
Ian Henry		2018

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

\*PCC requesting re-election as for Office Holders at the end or of their 3-year term.

## The PCC April 2015 - April 2016

### Meetings

The PCC met 13 times and the Standing Committee once during the year since the last APCM (20 April, 28 April, 13 May, 23 June, 21 July, 14 August, 29 August, 9 November, 29 November (Standing Committee), 8 December, 14 January, 9 February, 7 March, 12 April. All PCC meetings are advertised in the newsheet and all members on the Electoral role can request to see the minutes of these meetings after they have been accepted by the PCC (with any confidential matters removed). A summary will be added to the newsheet following a meeting.

### Appointments

Riette Hodson was appointed by the PCC to join the PCC to take the place of Nikki McGee who left the area.

### Fundraising

The Fundraising Team are now in the swing of organising events both in the church and in the community. This year they organised 20 Events raising £6234.34. The fundraising is to go towards the Ministry and upkeep of St Marys including community events.

On 12th September 2015 some of our congregation joined the Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride to raise funds both for our church and this invaluable charitable organisation. The total raised was £135.

### St Mary's Electoral Roll Report 2016

The roll was revised on the **13th April 2016**

There were **2** deletions

There were **2** new names added.

The roll now stands at **80** of which **5** live outside the parish.

## Review of the Year

Our year at St Mary's continued with our regular pattern of services with our 8am Book of Common Prayer (BCP) communion, 9.30am Holy Communion with a joint Service of the word on 3rd Sundays with our Methodist community and the @11 all taking place in St Mary's. The monthly Evensong service on third Sunday evenings is led by Rev Stewart Timbrell and we are grateful to him for his dedication to this.

The difficulties surrounding our lovely ancient building have not gone away and much time and energy has been spent trying to find a solution to the outstanding issues, which the Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC) would approve of and which the church could afford. With the arrival of our new Archdeacon Antony MacRow-Wood, the opportunity to have a temporary solution for a period of possibly five years whilst a long term feasible option is sought along with finding has opened.

Frances Tomlinson-Mynors has done another sterling job with our finances and the parish share was paid in full for the sixth year in a row. The fundraising team have had another busy year with a wide variety of events being offered to the church and village community.

Then in late September Rev Ali Mephram announced he was moving on to a new role in the Winchester Diocese at Eastleigh and St Thomas. So as we approached another winter without heating, we were also going to be entering another period of interregnum. The Methodist church kindly agreed to share their worship space with us and we began joint services in November. The PCC met with the Archdeacon to discuss the way forward to find a new incumbent and consequently on Easter Day as St Mary's moved back to our lovely church, we were able to announce that Rev Stephen Partridge would be taking up the role of vicar on 19th July 2016.

## Messy Church

Messy church continued to be popular this year with a newly designed Facebook page, good advertising with engaging posters and leaflets going into school bookbags. We held 5 regular messy churches which were six weeks apart with a break over summer for film nights and fundraising events. These messy churches led up to November and were well attended with the average Messy Church seeing 80 people. The summer messy special was a big success with lots of fun and was well attended. Our dedicated messy helpers made the crafts really engaging for the children and fostered conversations between parents and their children.

Messy church spending was kept to a minimum with the help of forward planning using the messy magazine ideas as a base for each event and a generous grant from the Lion Hall Trust. Messy church was put on hold due to Kat becoming unwell and unable to continue planning and presenting. Kat is now making a good recovery. There has been a lot of continued interest in messy church during this period which is encouraging. Looking forward; we are seeking god's blessing for a relaunch with new roles in the Messy Church team. These will be; Crafts ideas and preparations, Leading, Cooking and Praying for Messy Church. We would welcome anyone to join us in these new roles or in our existing team manning tables, Washing up and Singing.

Please pray for messy church as we seek God's vision for its future and may god bless everyone who has supported and attended messy church this year.

## Deanery Synod Report

The Deanery synod met three times during the year. Each meeting is explained briefly.

**The June meeting** was held at CJ's Youth Café - a new and wonderful building in Lytchett Minster. We had a varied programme that included; help setting up youth workers within your church, how to grow leaders in practical ways and an encouragement to join in the Ride and Stride for Dorset Historic Churches. There was also a Poole Wau update, which highlighted the difficulties experienced. If anyone wants to be involved in the project, contact Chris Strain.

**The November meeting** was held at St Phillips West Howe.

We were joined, at this meeting, by the new curates in Poole Deanery, and a lively bunch they seemed! We discussed together the 'Do's and Don'ts' of Intercessions. A copy of the document used is available from the Deanery secretary.

We were also informed that any future date for a visit to Wau would be in the Deanery newsletter.

Information was shared that the new name for the Deanery would be '**Poole and North Bournemouth Deanery**'. The only representative elected for general synod from our Deanery at the moment was Fenella Cannings-Judd.

**The February meeting** was held at St Mark's Talbot Village. Christian Aid speaker Stephen Dominey shared the idea of the 'Big Breakie' as a way of hosting breakfast in homes, offices and coffee mornings for this year's Christian Aid theme 'Love every neighbour'. The discussion 'difficult discussions associated with death' was led by Revd Jane Lloyd. Discussion groups shared ways of getting people to talk at coffee mornings, home groups or similar. This concept is called 'Grave talk' and proved interesting to all who took part. The Wau update told us how we are advised not to visit due to the situation there. Photos were shared showing the new guest house that Poole had totally funded.

## Churches Together

**Harvest Supper** (2 Oct): Went well. Good evening. Food arrangements worked well too.

**Remembrance Day** (8 Nov): Road closure worked very well, and should be easy to organise again for next year as precedent has now been set, and Parish Council has the road signage. Large numbers again attended Act of Remembrance (approx. 500) and afterwards in Village Hall.

**Christmas card distribution**: Went very well.

**Village Hall Carol Service** (6 Dec): Went well with a full Village Hall, though numbers attending were slightly down.

**Women's World Day Of Prayer** (Friday 4th March): was attended by 33 people.

There was a very colourful service written by the women of Cuba. As usual, the Methodist Church was beautifully decorated and members of St Mary's, Lighthouse and Methodist Church took part.

We were surprised at how little we knew about the lives of the people of Cuba and how events during our lifetime have affected them.

## **Finance Report**

Financially it's been a mixed year for the church. Our income has increased overall, mainly due to donations to the building fund for heating.

### **General fund**

Income into the general fund has fallen since 2014, by around £5,000. Expenditure has stayed steady, including payment of our share to the diocese of £35,956 in full and on time. Our expenditure has exceeded income by around £7,000 partly due to the transfer of minor trust money - approximately £5,500 - into the building fund. Income from the magazine is still an important source of funds, and we would like to thank all those involved in the printing, production and distribution of the magazine for their hard work.

All giving has reduced, both planned giving and collections in services. Fundraising for the general fund is lower than the previous year, as fundraising has been focussed on the building fund.

We have not given any money to mission partners in 2015, though we have spent some money on outreach to the local community through events such as messy church, @11 specials and community meals.

### **Restricted (Building) fund**

The fundraising group have been working very hard, and have been very successful in helping to contribute to the church's income this year, in particular to the building fund, raising over £4,000. I would like to thank them for their hard work and fantastic enthusiasm over a wide range of projects and events. We have received over £16,000 in donations from the wider community for our building.

We have had to spend significant amounts of money from our building fund. Just under £5,000 was for routine maintenance, and around £21,000 was towards the heating and redevelopment plans.

The restricted fund was left at the end of the year with £12,000 of which £4,000 is an outstanding loan owed to a church member.

### **Reserves Policy**

The PCC would like to have reserves for the general fund, but this is not possible with our current financial situation.

### **Safeguarding**

Jo Sepkes-Jones is our Safeguarding officer and the safeguarding situation with St Mary's is current and up to date.

## **Fabric Committee Report**

Almost all our energy and available finance has been spent looking into the re-ordering of the interior of the church buildings. What we initially hoped to achieve, when costed out and allowing for professional fees, turned out to be far beyond our current budget and even when scaled down to a minimum was still too costly. Having taken advice from the newly appointed Arch Deacon we are now looking at spending some money on a temporary heating solution while we seek to replenish and build up our fabric fund with a view to implementing a full solution in five years' time. This has been a frustration to us as you can imagine but better to find out now before we were committed to spending money that we don't have!

On a more positive note we have authorised a replacement bell rope guide as the current one is badly corroded at the points where the steel is anchored in the walls. The work will be done soon after Easter. In January 2016, our architect carried out a quinquennial inspection and this will form the basis for a maintenance programme over the next five years.