



THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. ANDREW
SERVING CHARVIL, SONNING AND SONNING EYE

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

Wednesday, 27th April 2016

at

The Parish Church of St. Andrew

Written Reports For 2015



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

To be held at St. Andrews Church, Sonning

On 27th April 2016 at 8.00 pm

A G E N D A

1. Opening prayers
2. Appointment of Secretary
3. Apologies
4. Election of Churchwardens and Deputy Church Wardens
5. Minutes of Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on 22nd April 2015
6. Matters arising from Minutes
7. Vicar's Report
8. Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement of Parochial Church Council
9. Presentation of Terrier
10. Election of representatives to the Sonning Deanery Synod for a five-year term
11. Election of members to the PCC for a three-year term
12. Election of Chalice Bearers
13. Election of Sides people
14. Electoral Roll
15. PCC Committee Reports
 - a) [Buildings and Maintenance](#)
 - b) [Social Committee](#)
 - c) [Deanery Synod](#)
16. Other Reports
 - a) [Friends of St Andrew's Church](#)
 - b) [Churchwardens](#)
 - c) [Parish Magazine](#)
 - d) [Choir and Organ](#)
 - e) [St Andrew's Church Sunday Club](#)
 - f) [St Andrew's Flower Arrangers](#)
 - g) [Wednesday House Group](#)

- h) [Book Group](#)
- i) [Monday@8](#)
- j) [Tuesday Afternoon Group](#)
- k) [A Time to Pray](#)
- l) [Bell Ringers](#)
- m) [Stewardship](#)

17. Appointment of independent examiner

18. Any other business

19. Closing prayers

[Appendix 1 - Giving outside the Parish](#)

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
For the year ended 31st December 2015**

Incumbent: The Revd. Jamie Taylor,
The Vicarage,
Thames Street, Sonning, RG4 6UR

Independent Examiner: Mr Allan Williams

THE VICAR'S REPORT 2015

As I reflect on 2015 I perceive that although at times quite demanding and perhaps draining for those of us with leadership responsibilities, we have actually seen God at work amongst us in some significant and I believe far-reaching ways. I am very heartened by this and, as we move into a new phase, with the PCC's 20/20 vision priorities to be published during a special service at Pentecost, it is good to look back and see what the last such exercise, from 2009, has brought about. The need to prayerfully develop a vision for a church is essential and without it, drift and complacency soon set in, with all the inevitable negative consequences that we wish to resist at St. Andrew's. Our whole PCC went away for a weekend in November 2015 and worked with a Diocesan facilitator to develop this new vision, an experience which was a first for all of us, and one that was of great benefit, on many levels.

At the last APCM Liz Nelson and Mark Sullivan were elected as parish wardens, Liz having served for a year previously and as deputy warden before that. The role of warden is an important one, and in busy parishes like this it is hard work. With significant pressures of caring for elderly parents and being a working mother, Liz, wisely in my view, felt that her responsibilities as warden needed to be laid aside, and this she did, with my full support and thanks for her service. We have been very fortunate that Terry Hunt offered to return to the role temporarily and he has done so at a very significant time involving Pub Lease Renewals with very complicated legal issues to address from 50 years ago, now resolved; Hall

Tendering, Contract signing, not to mention that our other warden, Mark, took on a new job in London, working very long hours. All of this has prompted us to assess the role of warden and to divide it up, and so we have initiated a new Pro Warden role, bringing in others with relevant gifts and experience to help with the many duties and responsibilities. I am most grateful to our new Pro Wardens for their willingness to serve and the wardens will explain more about this new way of working at the APCM. The considerable advantage of this new approach will be to widen the scope of available candidates to be Churchwarden, especially those in full time employment.

Musically, it has been very good to end 2016 on a happier note than we began it, and I have been greatly encouraged to see the excellent way that both choirs have responded to Chris Goodwin's ministry. The commitment to rehearsing has really paid off and we are all benefiting, Sunday by Sunday. We are really most fortunate to have recruited such a highly qualified and approachable Director of Music. As well as his duties at St. Andrew's, I am delighted that Chris has been keen to offer his time at Sonning School and he is now going there on Friday afternoons, and is running a school choir. This is just one more way that St. Andrew's supports local schools.

It was great to witness Theresa and Philip May and the Bishop of Reading breaking ground, with varying degrees of success, on our new hall! First debated in the early 1990's, we are almost there, and none of this would have happened without our excellent project manager and deputy warden, Perry Mills. It is a pleasure to work with him and it is good to know that the whole process is in such capable and trustworthy hands. As expected, the funding has been a major preoccupation and inevitably, costs have risen as the months have passed whilst we awaited everything to be in place. We have found ourselves in the ridiculous situation of not being able to apply for Diocesan Faculty permission until two thirds of the funds were collected, but not being able to apply for grants until the faculty had been granted! To break the deadlock the PCC decided to apply for a mortgage on the

house that the Vicar and Wardens own in Charvil which houses our Associate clergy, and this then enabled the project to begin. We are working hard to minimise the amount needed to be borrowed for obvious reasons, but we at least know that the bill for the whole building can be paid upon demand. A significant rental increase from Fullers has given us the confidence to take this course of action although it was not done lightly. The work of fundraising continues however, not least for the other costs associated with it such as furnishing and equipping the facility and we greatly look forward to using the hall and office at some stage later this year, with a formal opening probably in early 2017.

I am, as always, grateful to my ministerial colleagues, and enjoy working with them. We always knew that we wouldn't have Alison in post for many years, but we will nonetheless miss her and the family. She has established the new stipendiary post to be one that makes a real difference for the parish in its work with families and young people and there is much to build upon for her successor. She leaves us with our thanks and love and we know that the people of her new Benefice will benefit hugely from her ministry.

Finally I would like to mention the Parish Magazine. We have seen its remarkable transformation, from an amateur photocopied black and white booklet with a less than scintillating format that hadn't changed for decades, to a high quality colour publication with a vastly increased free circulation. The publication of Gordon Nutbrown's book 'A Thames Side Parish' in 2015 has brought to life its long and fascinating history and I believe we have something to be very proud of in our magazine. Clearly I am not alone in thinking this as it has now been declared the best parish magazine in Great Britain during 2015 in the annual national competition. Well done and thanks to Bob Peters for his excellent editorial work and to Gordon and the others who assist with its production and distribution. On a personal level, as the then temporary editor who dared to drop the old format and develop it on its way to what it is now, with the inevitable

grumbles that come when anything is changed, I am very relieved at the outcome! Onwards and upwards!

Jamie

PIONEER MINISTER'S REPORT

The children's work in the parish bedded in during 2015. Liturgy with an all age focus continues to be used regularly at our Family Service and Family Communion, encouraging younger members of our church community to worship and participate in the liturgical practice of the Church. The ever popular Christmas Crib Service was led by children from Sonning School and our own Sunday Club, telling the Christmas story through the witness of stable animals.

I have continued to lead collective worship at all three schools within our parish: Sonning, Charvil Piggott and the Reading Blue Coat School. I have also worked closely with staff too on Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development, helped prepare for the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist schools due at Charvil and Sonning and taught a PSHE class on Faith and Religion at the Blue Coat. My service on two governing bodies has again involved the appointment of a new Head, this time at Sonning School.

The third Easter Holiday Club explored how great God's love is for us and many children attended having lots of fun and learning. We were Megamakers, exploring science and undertaking experiments. I am hugely grateful for all the committed volunteers who enable this event to go ahead.

GLUE club, for ages 7+, has seen some changes as some of our number have moved on to secondary school but new members have joined and we continue to provide a safe space for young Christians to ask questions and explore their faith.

I also had the privilege of preparing four young people from our congregation for confirmation.

This will be my last report for the APCM as I will be moving on to new pastures during 2016. It has been a great pleasure and an honour to work with St Andrews and I look forward to hearing all about the continuing development of children's work in Charvil, Sonning and Sonning Eye.

Alison

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Sonning

Aim and Purpose

To provide:

- Regular public worship that is open to all.
- Sacred space for personal prayer and Contemplation.
- Pastoral work which includes visiting the sick and the bereaved.
- The teaching of Christianity through sermons, courses and small groups.
- The leadership of religious assemblies in schools.
- The promotion of Christianity through the staging of events and meetings, and in the distribution of literature.
- Promotion of the whole mission of the Church through provision of activities for parents and toddlers.
- Support of other charities in the UK and overseas.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship in our parish and to become part of our parish community within Sonning, Sonning Eye and Charvil. The PCC vision is to:

- Serve better those who choose to worship with us and share a journey in faith
- Reach out and draw others to the knowledge and love of God
- Attend to the pastoral needs of those around us (As individuals and as an organisation)
- Preserve our Anglican heritage
- Engage with our local community and find new ways to serve them

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular the specific 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 through:

- Worship - Learning about the Gospel and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Mission and pastoral care - Giving to others and the provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Buildings and Maintenance - To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of our church.
- Social - Arranging social events throughout the year.

Administrative Information

The Parish of Sonning encompasses the thriving communities of Sonning, Sonning Eye and Charvil, located between Reading and Henley-on-Thames in a beautiful section of the Thames valley. We have a growing congregation and are welcoming and uplifting, embracing the broad Anglican tradition. The correspondence address is St Andrew's Sonning, The Vicarage, Thames St, Sonning, READING, Berkshire, RG4 6UR.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity registered with the Charity Commission.

During the year, the following served the Parish:

Incumbent (and Chairman) Pioneer Minister Licensed Lay Minister	Revd Jamie Taylor Revd Alison Waters Bob Peters
Churchwardens (Normally 5y term):	Liz Nelson (until October 2015) Terry Hunt (until APCM 2015 and from October 2015) Mark Sullivan (from APCM 2015)
Deputy Churchwardens	Molly Woodley Perry Mills
Treasurer	John Scoble
Secretary	Shirley Chard
Representatives on the Sonning Deanery Synod (Normally 5y term): (Total elected: 4)	Molly Woodley Terry Hunt Richard Moore Rory Symes
Elected members of the PCC (For 3y term)	Emma Leggett Peregrine Chard (until APCM 2015) Tom Farncombe (until Sept 2015) Hilary Rennie (from APCM 2015)

(Total elected: 7)	Stuart Bowman Rachel Argent Perry Mills Alison Elms
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Review of the year

The PCC met on 7 occasions during the year and the meetings were always well attended with an approximate average attendance of 74%.

Shirley Chard, PCC Secretary

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees, which meet between the full meetings of the PCC.

Standing and Finance

This is the only committee required by law and has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. Members are the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary.

Buildings and Maintenance

This committee attends to matters relating to stewardship of the church buildings and fabric. Chairman: Mr Terry Hunt.

Mission and Pastoral

This committee attends to matters concerning external giving from the Parish. Chairman: Rev Jamie Taylor.

Social

This committee is responsible for arranging social events. Chairman: Mrs Sue Peters.

The Parish Magazine:

Delivered free to every house in the parish.

Editor: Bob Peters

Advertising and Distribution: Gordon Nutbrown

ELECTORAL ROLL

At the APCM in April 2015 there were 295 people on the Electoral Roll.

The total number on the new April 2016 Electoral Roll is .

Sonia Boyles

Parish Administrator

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted and designated funds were £250,000 of which £92,500 was received as rent from The Bull, and £1,700 as dividends and interest. The main category of restricted donations and grants was £78,000 (including tax rebate) for the New Hall. Restricted Investment Income of £5,600 was also received, mostly for the Churchyard and St Andrew's building maintenance.

Excluding amounts received for the New Hall, and for the piano in 2014, total donations, collections and tax receipts from Gift Aid are down by around £3,500.

Excluding amounts spent on the New Hall and on the piano in 2014, expenditure was up by around £5,900 compared with 2014. Small increases and decreases happened in many categories, as is normal. Additionally, the PCC decided to further reduce our Parish Share contribution from £90,000 in

2014 to £80,000 in 2015, as against the requested amount of £102,200.

As at 31 December 2015, the New Hall fund total stands at £249,600. That includes:

- Donations and sales of promotional items in 2015 of £85,500
- The total transferred from other PCC funds in to the New Hall fund so far of £127,950.

£70,000 has been spent so far, including £12,000 which was spent in 2015. The amount spent in 2015 which has been capitalised as Work in Progress, appears separately in the Balance Sheet as an Asset, so is still included in the total fund balance quoted above.

It is pleasing to see that the cost of producing the Parish Magazine continues to be covered by the revenue from advertising. Additionally, the archiving of the old editions of the magazine has made good progress, being funded by Gordon Nutbrown's book and by a grant. As was originally decided by the PCC, the cost of distribution is considered to be part of our mission to the parish, and is funded from General Funds.

Rental income on Jubilee Hall has fallen in 2015, with a few regular hirers reducing their hours, and very few private hirings. We have become aware of certain items which will need repairs, and for this reason, a provision of £3,500 has been made in the accounts. The combined effect of these results in a shortfall of £900, as against a surplus of £5,500 in 2014. There has also been damage to the floor, caused by water seeping into the floor coverings over a period of time. We have been unable to trace any leak in the structure or the equipment which would cause this, so the reason may never

be established. The damage was temporarily repaired in early 2016, but if the whole floor is to be replaced, this is expected to cost in the region of £10,000.

It was realised in 2015 that for a large number of years, the PCC accounts have erroneously included The Bull as an asset. The Bull is in fact not owned by the PCC, but by the Vicar and Churchwardens. The Bull has therefore been removed from the balance sheet. The rental income which is due to the Vicar and Churchwardens will continue to be paid by them to the PCC.

The last Quinquennial inspection was undertaken in August 2014. Certain items will require attention in due course, but no items were identified requiring major expenditure.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted and undesignated funds (if possible), which equates to at least three months unrestricted payments to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time, and £55,000 is held in a Designated General Reserve Fund for this. No change in the amount held in the General Reserve Fund was made in 2015.

All balances held with CAF Bank earn interest on a daily basis at the prevailing market rates. It is our policy to invest other monies with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

John Scoble

Honorary Treasurer

BUILDINGS & MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Meetings

The Committee has not held a formal meeting this year, although many informal discussions have steered our path forward.

Routine maintenance

The usual range of minor repairs and maintenance has been undertaken.

Again, there has been no infestation of wasps, bees, beetles, worms, pigeons, or squirrels.

The boiler has been regularly maintained, the electrical appliances tested and fire extinguishers, checked and replaced as necessary. The alarm and CCTV has been maintained and kept in good order by the installation Company.

A close watch is being kept on the floor-mounted brasses following our decision not to seek funds for a major restoration last year.

New Building

The new building is progressing well under the leadership of Deputy Warden Perry Mills.

Fund raising is well under way for this important addition to our facilities.

Terry Hunt

Chairman

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The social committee have hosted several events during the year. We served wine after various services including the Piano Concert, All Souls Service and the Confirmation Service. We catered for the Lent Suppers again, which were well attended, and for the Seder Meal that Alison introduced this year - a very interesting and rewarding experience. We also assisted Alison with the barbecue and refreshments at the Parish Family Fun Day on Easter Saturday.

A barbecue was held in the vicarage garden to welcome Chris and Helen Goodwin and introduce them to the choir members and their families along with the ministry team. The social committee made salads and desserts and served the food, an enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

The Harvest Supper held at Pearson Hall was well received and the meal was followed by an auction of the produce donated to decorate the church. At the Dickensian Fayre we sold mulled wine, fruit punch and mince pies and were delighted to raise over £270 for the New Hall fund.

We would like to thank the many willing helpers who are not on the social committee but help to cook and serve food and drinks, as well as lifting, carrying boxes and shifting furniture for us. If you haven't yet joined us for any of the social events we look forward to seeing you at one of them soon!

Sue Peters

Chairman

DEANERY SYNOD

There were five meetings of the Deanery Synod in 2015, starting in January, proceeding in March to Wokingham St Paul's, to St Mary's Winnersh in June, to St Sebastian's,

Wokingham in September, and finally to The Cornerstone, Wokingham in November.

The Diocese underspent its budget in 2014 due to a higher than expected number of vacancies and so there was a small rebate of Parish Share due to parishes in respect of that year. The 2015 Deanery Parish Share was 91.1% paid by November 2015, with a small shortfall expected for the full year.

The Synod continued to monitor progress against the Deanery Mission Action Plan throughout the year.

Synod also heard a number of presentations during the year including one from The Refresh Partnership, who run a food bank and lunch club in Finchampstead; one about Funeral Ministry and what the Church of England is doing about encouraging people towards holding funerals in church; and one about Holocaust Studies at Sandhurst School, which looked particularly at the work of the school in Rwanda.

Richard Moore

Deanery Synod Representative

THE FRIENDS OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

Bob Hine became a Trustee to replace Tom Farncombe who was moving away from the area. The Trustees met on four occasions during the year.

With fund raising commencing for the New Hall in 2014, the Friends were asked by Jamie to suspend fund raising for a year. This we did and recommenced in August 2015 with an Afternoon Tea kindly hosted by Allan and Wendy Williams in their delightful garden. The event raised just under £900.

The produce stall in the St Sarik Room continued to be a great success and was much appreciated by the congregation. It raised over £1,200, a wonderful result. We are indebted to

Wendy Williams for the incredible amount of time she has spent making cakes and preserves for the stall and thanks also go to Jean Collin, Janet Giles and Barbara Jones. In December Wendy told me that, sadly, she feels unable to continue with the Stall. We would like to thank all those who have helped over the years, both with cooking and in donating fruit and vegetables. There will be opportunities to purchase your marmalade in the future, just not at the Stall!

The two designs of Christmas card were well received, selling out of one and almost the other.

The Chairman wished to record his thanks to all who have supported the Friends this year.

Expenditure was minimal as there were no projects to fund but we did pay for the Christmas tree again. Just before Christmas we were informed that the central heating boiler required replacing and the Trustees have agreed that The Friends should fund this work. Initial estimates suggest the cost will be in the region of £25K.

The surplus for the year was £7,271. The trustees are comfortable with retaining a reserve of £86,600 (which will reduce to about £61,000 after replacing the boiler) against unforeseen eventualities.

Keith Nichols

Chairman

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

This year has been an interesting (and - at times- intense) one for the Church Wardens. Certainly, there has not been a single dull moment.

In particular, two events stand out for us:

- we welcomed Chris Goodwin to St Andrew's as our new Director of Music in September, since when he has had a significant and beneficial effect on the quality of our worship; the anthems especially have been a joy to hear; and
- we started the actual building work for the new Hall, a watershed moment in the life of the Parish after so many months (years?) of planning, discussing and fund-raising. That we can now see concrete progress is largely due to the faith, hard work and resilience of both Jamie and Perry. We pray that, once completed, this hall will be used to strengthen our ministry to our children, our fellowship as a church and our outreach to the local community.

As always, the work of the Wardens has been made that much easier by the substantial (and often unsung) contributions made to the smooth running of the church by the deputy wardens, the vergers, the parish administrator, the sides-people, the flower arrangers, the gardener and all the other volunteers who give so selflessly. We are grateful to them for their continuing support.

We are also indebted to the 'pro-wardens' (a recent innovation created by Terry Hunt) who have kindly agreed to use their experience and expertise take on the distinctly unglamorous but nonetheless vital specific tasks (for which the Wardens of course remain responsible) such as looking after the lighting, boiler and insurance and similar matters. This system is already working well.

We continue to see substantially increased attendances for the 'special' services at Christmas, Easter and Remembrance.

Finally, we would like to thank Liz Nelson who was Warden until October last year for her valuable service.

Mark Sullivan and Terry Hunt

Churchwardens

PARISH MAGAZINE

2015 closed with the news that The Parish Magazine had been compared with 600 other parish magazines from around the country and voted the 'Best in Britain'. The judges considered the design, layout, accuracy, content, and print quality of all the magazines so the award was particularly satisfying.

As well as producing the magazine, a great deal of time during 2015 has been put into a programme to restore and protect the historically valuable magazine archives which date back to 1869. One result of this work is that we now believe that The Parish Magazine is the longest, continuously published journal of its kind, which is quite an achievement for the parish as whole.

Looking back, as we have, through almost every issue ever published, it is interesting to note how the content and financing of it have changed. The content has shifted from being a purely church centred publication, to one that at times was dominated by the civil, rather than ecclesiastical, affairs of the parish and one that on several occasions came very close to ceasing publication because of the lack of money. It has also been - and continues to be - funded totally by St Andrew's Church.

Since moving to the current format at the end of 2012 - which introduced free delivery to every home in the parish - we have given a great deal of attention towards both the balance of the magazine's content and the financial soundness.

Content-wise, we believe that during 2015 we achieved our aim to move to a more church-centred publication that also encompasses a range of other news and general interest items both from within the parish as well as nationally and

internationally. From the response we receive regularly from our readers, both from within our church family and our neighbours in the parish, we believe that the content of the magazine is now well balanced. Complaints about it are few and far between and the most popular one seems to be 'my magazine has not been delivered yet'!

To ensure the continued financial stability of the magazine, much effort during 2015 was put into developing a new structure that would ensure that we have tight control over every aspect and have a secure means of income. This involves appointing a treasurer to manage our accounts and towards the end of 2015 Pat Livesey agreed to take on this role. We believe that the new financial structure will reduce considerably the past worries previous editors had about continuing publication because of a lack of funding and so it should ensure that The Parish Magazine will continue to be published in the future.

An important part of the archive programme got underway during 2015, namely the digital recording of every issue. Because of the fragility of many of the archive volumes this has required highly specialist technology and skilful operators. This does not come cheaply, and we were extremely grateful during the year for a very generous donation towards this work from the Sonning Volunteer Fire Brigade Trust who, like us, are keen to see the valuable archives protected and made available for all in the parish to enjoy, both for this generation and those to come. Other funding for this project is coming from the sale of Gordon Nutbrown's three part work called A Thames Parish Magazine. The first volume of this was published in 2015 and provides a fascinating insight into life in and around the parish since Victorian times.

Our aim for 2016 is to continue in much the same way!

Bob Peters and Gordon Nutbrown

CHOIR AND ORGAN

ST ANDREW'S CHOIRS

As I joined St Andrew's only in September, my report restricts itself to the last four months of the year. It was immediately apparent that St Andrew's benefits from the dedicated attendance at both practices and services of very experienced and enthusiastic singers. A lot of new repertoire was rehearsed and sung, including a new setting of the Mass, culminating in an excellent service of Nine Lessons and Carols where unaccompanied singing and junior-only items were presented among the mix of traditional and modern carols, boosted by Roger May on the trumpet. Many members of the congregation passed on their appreciative comments.

Apart from the "common task and ceaseless round" of weekly practices and services, there was a super BBQ with bouncy castle in the Vicarage garden in September (for which many thanks to Jamie), four of the Junior Choir went to an RSCM Young Voices Festival in Salisbury Cathedral in November, and there was excellent support both for the Victorian Christmas Fayre (where the choir sang three half-hour sessions) and at Sunrise residential home to sing carols and Christmas songs. Particular thanks are due to Caroline Taylor for her help with Junior Choir and to Sue Thomas for administering the choir account. Junior Choir membership prior to Christmas held steady and we were delighted to welcome Ray back into the senior choir.

ST ANDREW'S ORGAN & PIANO

We continue to benefit from the extensive repairs undertaken to the organ some fifteen years ago. Minor issues are bound to crop up regularly with a very old instrument, but at present the organ continues to be able to perform reasonably adequately its principal task of accompanying services. Unfortunately, due to its positioning, much of the sound is lost before it reaches the ears of the congregation in the nave. Like many thoroughbreds it is a difficult animal to

master, with its straight pedalboard, Victorian “tubular-pneumatic” action, lack of balanced swell pedal and no thumb pistons. The parish should be aware that uninterrupted service cannot be expected of our historic organ indefinitely and some sort of change, perhaps extensive, will have to feature eventually. We are most fortunate to have an excellent grand piano and it has been a joy to play this, particularly when bringing the choir forwards to sing.

Chris Goodwin

Director of Music

ST ANDREW’S CHURCH SUNDAY CLUB

In Sunday Club we have continued to learn about the Bible through stories, activities, crafts and songs. We have expanded the material we use from Scripture Union to include resources aimed at 8 to 11 year olds, alongside our existing resources for under 5's and 5 to 8 year olds.

This year we first looked at Jesus’s life in the gospels of Matthew and Luke. At Easter we explored the Last Supper in John’s gospel. We then learnt about Paul’s missionary journeys in Acts, Elijah the prophet, and Peter in Mark’s gospel. In John’s Gospel we discussed Jesus the friend. Finally at Christmas we looked at what the Old Testament prophets said about the coming of Jesus.

Thank you to the Leaders and Helpers of the Sunday Club this year. We are always looking for extra volunteers, especially when we move into the new hall and can expand the activities we offer.

Rachel Argent

Sunday Club Leader

ST ANDREW'S FLOWER ARRANGERS

Once again I have to express my thanks to all our volunteers who have given their time to maintain a consistently high standard of flower arranging in St Andrew's. It appears that few churches manage to have flowers regularly week by week - long may we manage to continue this proud tradition at St Andrew's!

Barbara McGregor

WEDNESDAY HOUSE GROUP

The Wednesday House Group meets every two weeks at 7.45pm. As a general rule we select books from the bible and delve into them. If you would like to join us you are more than welcome. Just phone for details or look in the weekly newsheets.

Mark Jordan

BOOK GROUP

We continue to meet as a very small group, and meet informally, to discuss a book which we hope will enable us to grow in our Christian Lives. Normally we meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, at 11:00, for about an hour, although sometimes we do miss a month.

The books we have looked at in the past year include:

- The Reason for my Hope by Billy Graham
- God on the Beach by Michael Volland
- The King's Gold: True Wealth is found in Deep Places by Grace Turner
- Mere Christianity by CS Lewis

If you are interested in finding out more, do please ask me.

John Scoble

MONDAY@8

This group have continued to meet, usually on the first Monday of the month at 8pm, in the St Sarik Room, occasionally meeting in homes (to help with child-care). Friendships have strengthened throughout the year. As many have school-aged children, it has been helpful to give mutual support to one another. We enjoy exploring the Christian faith using passages from the Bible, asking questions, having lively discussions and sharing prayer needs. A meal in the new Coppa club, and later in the year, mince-pies and mulled wine was enjoyed by all!

A new venture developed late autumn, 2015, when some of this group helped run a Christian book stall, selling Advent calendars and Christmas books at Sonning Primary school. If you are a young parent, please do feel able to meet with us, you will be most welcome.

Jenny Sullivan 0118 986 2090

TUESDAY AFTERNOON GROUP

This group have changed venue this year and now we meet at Pam Sim's home commencing at 2 p.m. Our worship and bible study have continued to be uplifting and presented a time for sharing and discussion. The Lent Prayer course in 2015, inspired different prayer ideas and we had the pleasure of welcoming 4 new members to the group during that period. We are delighted that Brenda Jackson, decided to remain after the Lent course as she enjoyed it so much! It was wonderful to support her decision to be confirmed later in the year, a celebratory occasion. Throughout August, members

continued to meet together for fellowship, prayer, coffee and cake, in each other's homes. We are excited to see how God will lead in 2016. If you would like to join this afternoon group for encouragement and inspiration or wish to come and 'taste', (without any pressure to commit long-term) or would appreciate the opportunity to rejoin a group, then please know you will be most welcome on a Tuesday afternoon from 1.45 p.m.

Jenny Sullivan

A TIME TO PRAY

In 2015, our small group has continued to see many answers to prayers for our church, parish, other people's requests and personal needs as we meet together in the St Sarik room on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month at 11am for an hour. This group finds it constructive to have an oasis in our busy schedules and to take this opportunity to thank God for His faithfulness as well as to pray practically for local needs, our world leaders and situations, Christian aid agencies and specific individuals working in war-torn, persecuted areas. We are called to pray and encourage one another, so, do consider coming to a 'Time to Pray' and joining us for coffee and prayer. You are most welcome to come any time throughout the year! We look forward to welcoming you soon. Come and see for yourself how God transforms, answering prayer!

Jenny Sullivan

BELL RINGERS

We now have 21 members of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers and continue to ring for the 10.30am service on Sundays and other special services. Ringers from other towers help us ring on Sunday evenings. We still have

combined evening practices with Wargrave and some of our members help out at other towers, including Arborfield, Waltham St Lawrence, Twyford and Shiplake. We rang for 14 weddings and our bells were used for two training courses. The Guild recognizes that its ringers are mainly an ageing population and encourages the training of new and younger ringers. Our learners continue to make progress and have benefited from special training sessions and intensive day courses run by the Guild. After attending several training courses, Rob Needham has become a full member of ART (the Association of Ringing Teachers). This offers a structured way of teaching learners. One of our learners has recently passed level 1 of its learning pathway called 'Learning the Ropes'.

We are disappointed that our simulator used for silent teaching is again out of action and there is a delay with the supply of the new Belfree wireless simulator system.

In May, visitors from Ligugé made their way up the tower to watch the ringing for morning service, and that evening we rang a quarter peal marking 20 years of the twinning of Sonning and Ligugé.

We are grateful to David Willis who continues to research and extend the historical records of ringing at St Andrew's.

The tower entered the branch 6-bell striking competition and the 8-bell competition which is held jointly with Reading branch. We renewed the Tower Maintenance certificate and passed again at gold level. We again organized the branch ringing outing, this time to the Pangbourne area.

During the year the handbell team rang at the Mount Care Home, Park Church and Liberty of Earley care home. One of their 7 performances in the pre-Christmas period was at the

Dickensian Fayre. The ringers had a stall at the Fayre and supervised trips up the tower.

Pam Elliston

Tower Captain

STEWARDSHIP

I am pleased to report that the level of planned giving has continued to be satisfactory through the year, with some new donors joining the scheme.

During the year letters were sent out thanking individuals for their giving. If details of specific amounts donated are required by individual givers these can be requested from the Stewardship Co-ordinator (details below).

We continue to encourage people to change their method of giving to standing order as this provides the treasurer with a better level of certainty when forecasting our income and involves less work for the volunteers who do the weekly banking.

If anyone would like a standing order form or a gift aid form to complete please e-mail me at rmmoore@talktalk.net or call me on 0118 9692588.

Thank you for your support throughout the year.

Richard Moore

Stewardship Co-ordinator

THE PARISH OF SONNING

Giving outside the Parish for 2015

(Approved by the PCC on 27th January 2016)

From the Outward Giving Sub-Committee: Led by PCC discussions, fewer charities were chosen than previously with a view to supporting smaller, largely local, organisations and giving amounts that would be more significant to them. A range of areas are covered: Christian outreach, older people, children and families, health and homelessness. The PCC is also committed to supporting the worldwide church and in view of the recent crisis we are supporting the mission and ministry of the church in Iraq.

1. Charities in the parish and local area		
Age Concern Twyford & District	£550.00	
Charvil Senior Residents Club	£175.00	
Ranmore Trust	£1,650.00	
Yeldall Christian Centre	£550.00	
Total - 1. Charities in the parish and local area		£2,925.00
2. Charities serving the wider local area		
Berkshire Clergy Charity	£550.00	
Christian Community Action (CCA)	£550.00	
Parents and Children Together (PACT)	£550.00	
Salvation Army, Reading	£550.00	
TVC Air Ambulance	£550.00	
Total - 2. Charities serving the wider local area		£2,750.00
3. Charities serving internationally		
Chernobyl Children's Lifeline (Ukraine)	£550.00	
FRRME* (Iraq)	£2,200.00	
Karuneipuri Orphanage (India)	£1,100.00	
Total - 3. Charities serving internationally		£3,850.00
		£9,525.00**

* Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, a UK charity supporting the ministry, Christian mission and humanitarian aid provided by the Iraqi Anglican Church to Iraq and the Holy Land.

** There is also a fund of £1,650 that is available for emergency giving throughout the year, making the total £11,175.