



ST. JOHN'S CHURCH  
LACEY GREEN, LOOSLEY ROW  
AND SPEEN  
ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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## Vicar's Remarks

It has long been my view that being a faithful local Church means three things. Firstly, that we aspire to give of our best in the worship we seek to offer. Secondly, that we do work together to build a sense of community and friendship within the membership of our Church; and that this does include people of all ages; children, young people, and adults. And, thirdly, that we do our aim to look outwards and to be of service both in our local community and also by trying, insofar as we are able, to respond to the needs of the wider world which is, of course, God's world. These three dimensions to the life of the local Parish Church, taken together, represent the yardstick by which I assess our progress in serving the purposes to which God calls us as a Church.

As we reach this key time in the annual governance calendar of the Church, our PCC "Deanery Learning Communities" task group and three-quarters of the way through the programme of four two-day sessions held at Holy Trinity, Aylesbury, with two further days remaining and which are scheduled for 14th and 15th September. The focus of this Aylesbury Deanery initiative is more effective mission and the fostering of Christian discipleship. We have been working alongside groups from St. Mary's in Aylesbury, St. James the Great in Bierton, and the Barleyfields Anglican Community Church in Thame. Each participating Church has devised its own mission statement which for us at St. John's is the simple phrase "coming to faith, growing in faith". This is meant to be the measure by which we consider the effectiveness of all the hard work and endeavour we are engaged in as the local Parish Church for the villages of Lacey Green, Loosley Row, and Speen. And I do trust and believe that it embraces the three aspects to the work of the local Parish Church with which I began these Vicar's remarks.

It is in part through ideas emerging from the "Deanery Learning Communities", we have now modified our structure of meetings of the Parochial Church Council in that the PCC now meets in alternate n months rather than every month. In between the PCC meetings, the statutory PCC Standing Committee of Vicar, Churchwardens, Treasurer, and Secretary, now meet in the intervening months with the task of shaping the PCC agenda as well as addressing any urgent business which cannot await the next meeting of the full PCC.

It is also through the Deanery Learning Communities process that we have been encouraged to try to give young people more regular involvement in the worship life of our Church.

For myself, my own annual ministerial review has not long ago taken place and my three specific and personal priorities for the coming year involve supporting the strengthening of our work with children and young people; working with the PCC in addressing the issues arising from the financial shortfall in our 2016 accounts which, although manageable, represents a matter which need to be kept under control, and supporting the work we seek to do by way of Christian learning for the adult members of our Church.

Both at PCC Standing Committee level and full PCC, we have been seeking ways to advance the decision that we made towards the end of last year to form a mission link with the Church of St. Mary's, Kuruman, in the Diocese of Kimberly and Kuruman in South Africa; a Diocese with which our Diocese of Oxford has a long established link. As I write this, we plan to have a congregational lunch gathering after Church on Sunday 9th July to look at ways to foster the link.

I continue to be a Governor of the two Church Schools which serve our Parish. At St. John's CofE (Aided) Combined School, my role as Governor for RE and Collective Worship is supported by termly meetings

with the Head Teacher, Mrs. Grimsey, and the teacher responsible for RE in the School, Mrs. Thomas. Also I have termly meetings with Mrs Grimsey and a group of children, two from each year group, to look at ways of improving school Collective Worship and giving the children more direct involvement in school assemblies. At Speen CofE (Aided) First School, where I am the appointed Special Educational Needs Governor, I meet termly with the Head Teacher, Mrs. Nayna, to review the SEND provision for the children needing extra help. Both schools continue to hold assemblies in St. John's Church; in the case of Speen School at the end of each term; and in the case of St. John's School both at the beginning and end of term as well as for important occasions such as Armistice Day, Ash Wednesday, St. George's Day, and several other major festivals of the Church year. So far as Friday assemblies at both Schools, are concerned, I am responsible for rota of clergy which involves myself, Reverend James Tomkins from St. Dunstan's Monks Risborough, and now also Padre Mike Hall as base chaplain from RAF Strike Command High Wycombe. In addition, Reverend Heather McIntyre from Speen Baptist Church is involved on a regular basis in Monday assemblies at Speen School.

In addition to my duties in St. John's Parish itself, I continue to be a Bishop's Reviewer for Ministerial Development Review in the Buckinghamshire Archdeaconry of the Diocese of Oxford. Also, I have regular involvement in the life of the Risborough Team Benefice, in the ongoing work of Churches Together in Risborough, and as a volunteer at the Princes Centre. I have earlier this year been recruited as a Trustee of the Churches International Student Network, a charity which meets in central London and is under the auspices of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland; and also as member of the list of occasional chaplains for Saga ocean-going cruises. And I have recently been asked to become a Trustee of the Princes Risborough Rotary Club.

I do thank our Churchwardens Pat and Dick for their continuing friendship and support; and I do thank our PCC Treasurer Caroline, our PCC Secretary Cathy, all the key officers of the church and all members of the Parochial Church Council, for their hard work and commitment. I do thank Cher Mole and Rosemary Mortham, and all members of our choir – adults and young people - for all that they do in ensuring that our Church music is of such a high calibre. I do thank Bex and Caroline and everyone who has been involved in leading Junior Church over these past 12 months including Suzanne Field who stood down last Summer after several years of leading Junior Church, as well as Claire and Deborah, who have both been very much involved in leading Junior Church in the latter part of the past year. And I do thank all of you, members of our St. John's family, for your enthusiasm and your devotion to the life of our Church, and for all your hard work over the past year in anticipation and expectation that the coming year will also bring so much by way of encouragement and achievement!

**Reverend Canon A. F. Bundock**  
**Vicar of St. John's**

## Churchwardens' Annual Report

We welcome you to St John's Annual Parochial Church Meeting for the year 2016. Revd Canon Tony has been at St John's now for over two years and we very much appreciate his ministry with us.

The Spring visitation by the Lay Chair of Deanery Synod will take place this year but as yet we do not have a date for the visit.

We can report that the fabric of the Church is in reasonably good order, but, as always there are ongoing repairs to be done. These have to be undertaken as to priority and of course, availability of finance plays an important part.

However, we have had several people in the congregation who have come forward to do jobs which has been very welcome but mostly they prefer not to be named. The churchyard has been well kept by a group of enthusiastic volunteers; the hedges and frontage have been kept in an immaculate order, gates and railings have been repainted. A few problems arose with the boiler at the beginning of the winter. These have been dealt with but it may be that further work will be necessary in the future to sort out the flue on the boiler. This is complicated and advice will need to be taken. Our grateful thanks to all those who have worked so hard to keep the Church and churchyard in good order.

There are also a number of people who work, often in the background, who have offered help with ongoing jobs in the Church, and many, who have participated for lots of years, who also have continued their commitment. We have 4 teams of cleaners working on a weekly rota basis and we thank them for their support. Also, we have had a number of regular successful working parties in the Church yard. The support from all these willing volunteers is very much appreciated.

Similarly, we have been blessed with helpers for fundraising events and new initiatives have been forthcoming. The choir organised an excellent Harvest Supper in the Autumn. The Christmas Fayre was another success and the date for the Fayre this year will be the 18th November 2017.

We would as usual like to give thanks to a number of people who do so much, often working in the background and without whom the Church would not function. Our thanks must go to;

- the ladies who wash the linen and set up the Communion,
- the Verger, servers, sidespersons, readers, intercessors and the PCC;
- the Junior Church teachers, the Youth Study leaders the hosts for the House Groups;
- the flower ladies;
- the choir, their leaders and the organists;
- the people on the coffee rota,
- all who assist with fundraising,
- the helpers who look after jobs inside and outside of the Church and those who keep the Churchyard tidy.

We apologise to any person(s) we have omitted to mention.

At this time we are looking for volunteers for the Cleaning rota, the Coffee Rota and most importantly leaders for Junior Church. Everyone has gifts, of one sort or another, to enrich the life of St John's and we do urge you to come forward with your time and talents to help us to upkeep our lovely Church.

**Pat Rushmere**  
**Dick Field**

## St. John's Church Choir

The last year has been a very busy one for the Choir. Thanks to our very loyal members, we have managed to fulfil all our commitments, and thanks to Cher, the standard of singing has been very good.

The year began with the presentation of ribbons to the Junior Members. Charlotte Eden became our Head Chorister for the next two years. The Juniors are now singing really well, and we have attended a number of Royal School of Church Music courses to help their progress.

As normal, choir members were involved with the Church Fete, both manning the stalls, and producing music. Sadly, in July, my husband died. The whole choir helped me greatly to produce a really memorable Thanksgiving Service for him. I am also very grateful to Tony for his help and support.

Adult Choir members provided the food for the Harvest Lunch, while the juniors served the food, and sang Harvest songs with help from Cher and Gavin. Also in October, we were glad to sing for a special service for Jean and John's Wedding Anniversary.

Remembrance Sunday was celebrated in style with a History Exhibition, featuring the history of the church and the two chapels in the village, which was beautifully supported by the choir.

Once again, Advent and Christmas proved very busy, as have the recent Lent and Easter Services. The choir has managed to be present whenever requested. Cher and I are most grateful for their loyalty.

Again, the choir has provided cakes and flowers for Mothering Sunday. We entered two teams for the Church Quiz, and didn't do too badly.

In spite of the many strengths of the choir, we have lost a few members, and are now in serious need of new juniors to be trained for the future. A recent recruitment drive has so far not been successful. If any churchgoers know of people who might like to join us, please let Cher know. She works so hard, and this is a great opportunity to receive musical training completely free!

### **Rosemary Mortham**

## **Server's Report**

My role at St John's is Sacristan and Altar Server, which means that I assist the Celebrant during the main Eucharist service on Sundays and other occasions. I also have responsibility for ordering altar supplies including candles, communion wafers and communion wine and the general care of the items used in the Sanctuary. I also have responsibility for preparing the list of readings and the rota for duties at the Sunday 10.00 Services on behalf of Canon Tony, our Vicar. I am also a member of the PCC.

During 2016, I have continued as the sole server at St. Johns. Margaret Gray, as Verger, has assisted on a few occasions and Roger Wilkes kindly filled in on one Sunday in January 2017 when I was down with the flu. Roger has expressed interest in learning the duties of a server to act as a reserve for when I am away for any reason and training is planned for the coming year. Edward Field has continued to act as Crucifer on the Sundays he is able to be present. I am grateful to Edward, Margaret and Roger for this support.

Training is also planned for the older choristers on how to act as acolytes. This was planned for last year but for various reasons including Sunday commitments for many of the choristers has not taken place. It has been noted that even some of the more experienced choristers are a bit "rusty" in undertaking this duty so refresher training is needed. I will be looking to the new Head and Deputy Head Choristers to assist with this, particularly with scheduling of dates. I would like to get all the choristers passed to be acolytes up to uniform standard so that they are familiar with the requirements of this duty on

typical Sundays. Experienced acolytes should then be able to mentor new ones as and when they start training.

Outside of St. John's in March I was re-elected as Lay Chair of the local (St. Osyth - Buckinghamshire) Chapter of the Guild of Servants of the Sanctuary (GSS) for 2016, and will remain so until our next AGM (8th April 2017). The GSS is a national organisation within the UK for membership by Altar Servers in the Anglo Catholic tradition. The Gild has a network of local Chapters which meet at intervals during the year to sing the Guild Office and for other services. During 2016, the local Chapter celebrated a High Mass and received Benediction at St. Martin's Fenny Stratford in January and sang (or said) Guild Offices at St. Andrews Chinnor, St. Mary's Aylesbury, St. Lawrence Winslow and finally at St. Dunstan's Monks Risborough in November. The St. Dunstan's meeting was "adopted by the Guild as a Group 9 (the local group of Chapters) Festival. The Chapter has a programme of meetings scheduled for the coming year.

**Mark Roberts**  
**Sacristan and Senior Server**

## Junior Church

To follow

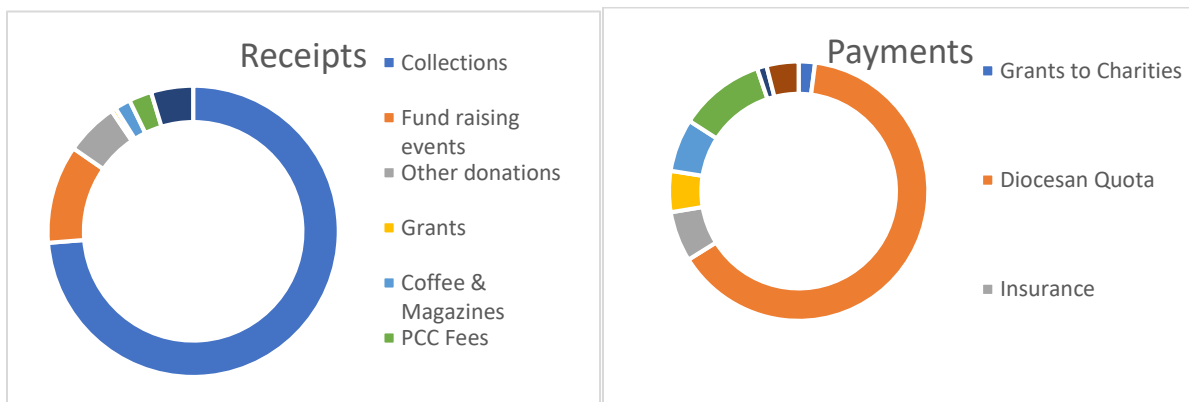
**Rebecca Field**  
**Junior Church Leader**

## Treasurer's Report

### General Fund

For the past 3 years, we have been fortunate to have covered our church running costs by way of collections, donations and enthusiastic fundraising. Regrettably, for the year just ended we find we have a deficit position of some £2,000 despite our enthusiastic fundraising efforts and the very generous work of our volunteers.

The charts below indicate where our funds are generated, and how they are utilised. The two charts represent the same amount of money (£43,076), with the dark blue section on the left hand side being the deficit – the shortfall in receipts to cover payments. A summary table of receipts less payments is in Appendix 1.



Around 77% of our income is derived from church collections. The other main contributors to income are one off donations, fees received for weddings and funerals and fundraising. A breakdown of our fundraising income is in Appendix 2.

As is the case every year, a large portion of our income is used in paying our parish share - the large orange section on the right-hand side. The payment of the parish share is mandatory and so keeping all other costs in check is critical, something we have done very well for a number of years. I would like to thank all who help us to do this by giving of their time and talents in non-financial ways by cleaning the church, carrying out essential maintenance and keeping the churchyard and hedges in a lovely condition.

During the year, as a church and a congregation we donated £874 to various charities representing 2.8% of our total collections, as follows: £500 was donated to Lighthouse; £120 to Churches Together in Risborough; and £254 raised by harvest auction was donated to Crisis. Further, Bibles costing £279 were presented to the year 6 pupils leaving St John's school in July 2016. In addition to the amounts shown in the accounts, we also collected for the poppy appeal; made donations to Christian Aid; collected £107 for the Children's Society at the Christingle Service; donated £594 of share rebate due to us to further the work of the Diocese; donated non perishable harvest produce to Saunderton Lodge and sent 60 boxes overseas at Christmas as part of Operation Christmas Child.

At the end of 2016 we had £8,379 in the general fund bank accounts compared to £10,386 at the end of 2015. In addition, we have £643 in the bank which is restricted to payments for church repairs (2015: £643).

For anyone interested, the full annual accounts compiled to satisfy the requirements of the Charities Act and subject to Independent Examination, are displayed on the church notice board and will be available on the church website after this meeting.

### Restoration Fund and Organ Fund

Planned giving to the restoration fund, together with tax reclaimed thereon, amounted to £525 and we received bank interest of £12. No payments were made from the restoration fund during the year. The restoration fund bank accounts now stand at £19,484, and are allocated £13,015 to general restorations and £6,469 to the organ fund.

### Outlook for 2017

For 2017, our aim is simple; to return to a balanced position. We would also like to be in a position to increase our charitable giving. I urge you all to read the pew leaflet on church finances and pray about your giving.

If you have any questions, or would like more detail on any of the above, then please do ask me and I would be happy to talk to you.

**Caroline Gulliver**  
Treasurer



## Appendix 1 - Receipts Less Payments

	2016	2015	2014	2013
<b>Income</b>		£	£	£
Standing orders	16,091	14,468	12,714	13,645
Weekly Envelopes	2,629	2,034	2,255	2,404
Tax refund	6,279	6,646	7,451	6,966
Other collections	6,686	9,850	8,233	8,948
	<u>31,685</u>	<u>32,998</u>	<u>30,653</u>	<u>31,963</u>
PCC fees	1,087	3,703	2,258	1,644
Fundraising	4,686	6,034	3,730	6,640
Legacies	-	-	-	500
Other	3,611	2,958	5,731	6,138
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>41,069</u>	<u>45,693</u>	<u>42,372</u>	<u>46,885</u>
Grants to charities	981	1,615	1,201	1,266
Diocesan Quota	27,547	29,056	28,421	30,668
Church running costs	4,886	5,296	5,320	7,737
Vicars expenses and telephone	2,828	2,476	833	1,628
Cost of services	4,604	4,184	2,623	2,248
Building & grounds maintenance	517	469	982	953
Other	1,713	1,844	1,170	1,830
Recruitment costs	-	-	1,064	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>43,076</u>	<u>44,940</u>	<u>41,614</u>	<u>46,330</u>
<b>(Deficit) /Surplus</b>	<u>(2,007)</u>	<u>£753</u>	<u>£758</u>	<u>£555</u>

## Appendix 2 - Fundraising Activities

	2016 £	2015 £	2014 £	2013 £
Christmas fayre	1,162	1,492	1,156	1,158
Harvest lunch and auction of produce	816	446	516	227
Summer Fete	756	1,132	1,187	-
Ceilidh	485	784	-	-
Open gardens	484			
Easy Fundraising	431	309	33	-
Junior church car washes	228	-	-	461
Pancake party	191	101	-	-
Christmas cards and bookmarks	133	102	-	-
Wedding Dress and Flower Festival	-	736	-	-
Progressive supper	-	480	399	-
Parables concert	-	366	0	0
Plant sale	-	69	-	91
Teddy Bears picnic	-	57	-	210
All Clear concert	-	-	(400)	2,832
Table Top sale	-	-	432	480
History Exhibition	-	-	184	-
Junior choir concert	-	-	150	422
Craft fayre	-	-	73	147
Craft days	-	-	-	268
Bucks historic churches cycle ride	-	-	-	115
Live nativity	-	-	-	109
Toy sale and Easter Bunny	-	-	-	102
Webb Ivory	-	-	-	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4,686</b>	<b>£6,074</b>	<b>£3,730</b>	<b>£6,640</b>