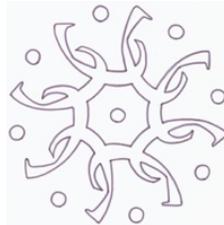


**ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, LITTLETON**

**DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER**



**ANNUAL REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES**

**by the**

**PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL**

**for the**

**YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2017**

<b>RECTOR:</b>	<b>REVD JAX MACHIN</b>
<b>ASSISTANT PRIEST:</b>	<b>REVD DAVE MAPES (until May 2017)</b>
<b>CHURCHWARDENS:</b>	<b>SIMON KINGSTON CLIVE THOMPSETT</b>

# ST CATHERINE'S LITTLETON - ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2017

## CONTENTS

<b>1.</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
1.1	Context .....	2
1.2	Representatives .....	2
1.3	Explanation of Strategic Priorities .....	3
<b>2.</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1</b>	
2.1	Church Membership .....	4
2.2	Ministry Team .....	4
2.3	Services .....	4
2.4	Deanery Synod .....	5
2.5	House Groups .....	5
2.6	Diocesan Lent Course .....	6
2.7	New Wine .....	6
2.8	Prayer .....	7
2.9	Peace and Wholeness .....	7
2.10	Music .....	8
<b>3.</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2</b>	
3.1	Littleton Church Toddler Group .....	8
3.2	Children's Work .....	9
3.3	Messy Church .....	9
3.4	Social and Fundraising Events .....	9
<b>4.</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3</b>	
4.1	Parish Visitors .....	10
4.2	Village Outreach .....	10
4.3	Mission Support Group .....	11
4.4	Littleton Luncheon Club .....	12
4.5	Residential Care Homes .....	12
4.6	Winchester Nightshelter Christmas Gifts .....	13
4.7	Safeguarding .....	13
4.8	Data Protection .....	13
<b>5.</b>	<b>STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4</b>	
5.1	Finance .....	14
5.2	Volunteers .....	15
5.3	Church Fabric .....	15
5.4	Churchyards .....	15
5.5	Church Room .....	16

# Annual Review of Church's Activities 2017

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Context

St Catherine's Church, Littleton, sits within the Downs Benefice, which was created in 2008 and comprises St Catherine's Littleton, St Stephen's Sparsholt with Lainston, St Mary's Crawley, St Mary-the-less Chilbolton and St Peter and Holy Cross Wherwell. The Downs Benefice lies within the Andover Deanery.

Revd Jax Machin, as Incumbent, leads the Benefice with support from a ministry team comprising retired clergy, Licensed Lay Ministers and other lay leaders.

The five Parochial Councils and Benefice Council continue to be supported by the benefice administrators and a vast host of others, who each make a valuable contribution to the work of God in this place.

*Simon Kingston  
Churchwarden*

### 1.2 Representatives

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

*Incumbent:*

The Revd Jax Machin

*Assistant Priest:*

The Revd Dave Mapes (until May 2017)

*Wardens:*

Mr Simon Kingston  
Mr Clive Thompsett

*Representative on the Diocesan Synod:*

Mr Michael Coleman **Treasurer**

*Representatives on Deanery Synod:*

Mr Simon Kingston  
Mr Clive Thompsett

*Elected Members:*

Mrs Carol Coleman  
Mrs Margaret Harris  
Mrs Lucy Kington (re-elected at 2017 APCM)  
Mrs Barbara Kingston **Secretary**  
Mr Michael Lupton (re-elected at 2017 APCM)  
Dr Ruth Meyers  
Mr John Morrell (re-elected at 2017 APCM)

*Barbara Kingston  
Secretary*

### **1.3 Explanation of Strategic Priorities**

The following strategic priorities were identified by the Diocese in 2013 and mission action plans (MAPs) have subsequently been formulated to focus on these priorities by the Deanery (dMAP) and through the Deanery by individual benefices (bMAPs) and parishes (pMAPs). Please see Section 2.4 below. The strategic priorities have not changed, but following the end of the initial three-year period for implementation of the various action plans, work has been done at Deanery and Benefice levels to review the plans for the next triennial commencing in 2018. As in the last three years, this Annual Report has been laid out in sections by reference to each of the four strategic priorities (SPs).

#### **Strategic Priority 1 - Discipleship**

We grow authentic disciples going out as individuals passionately, confidently and courageously sharing our faith, and coming together as creative church communities of prayer and worship that live out kingdom values.

dMAP Objective: To train, resource, and motivate people more readily to live out their faith.

#### **Strategic Priority 2 - Re-imagining the Church**

We re-imagine the Church intentionally connecting and engaging with our local communities in culturally relevant ways. We will rejoice in the richness of the “mixed economy” of all ministry and proactively promote vibrant parochial and breathtaking pioneering ministries amongst ‘missing’ generations, eg children, young people, under 35s.

dMAP Objective: To actively engage with young families, children and youth, especially in schools.

#### **Strategic Priority 3 - Working for Social Transformation**

We are agents of social transformation using our influence as a Diocese to transform public and personal life. We will demonstrate loving faith at work in local communities and across the globe, bringing healing, restoration and reconciliation eg through education, social enterprise, health care, spiritual care teams.

dMAP objective: To develop a Pastoral Care Ministry which will transform lives in our local communities.

#### **Strategic Priority 4 - Sacrificial Giving and Good Stewardship**

We belong together in Christ, practising sacrificial giving and good stewardship of all that God has entrusted to us. We will combine radical generosity, care and capacity building with a clear focus on directing finance into the mission of Jesus. Sharing and multiplying local good practice, using people, buildings and other resources wisely, we will seek to prune, plant and invest boldly in building for the Kingdom.

dMAP objective: To continue developing a more unified Deanery identity, sharing our resources more eagerly.

*Simon Kingston  
Churchwarden*

## 2 STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1

### 2.1 Church Membership

At 31<sup>st</sup> December, there were 178 persons on the electoral roll. Of these 81 (46%) were non-resident in the parish. The following movements have taken place:

	Members
<b>Electoral roll as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017</b>	<b>176</b>
Post January 2017: Died	-3
Moved away	-6
Joined	11
<b>Electoral roll as at 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017</b>	<b>178</b>

The average Sunday attendance is 53 adults.

*Clive Thompsett  
Electoral Roll Officer*

### 2.2 Ministry Team

The Revd Jax Machin continues as our Incumbent, having now completed her third full calendar year in what is her first parish. She manages a daunting workload in the Downs Benefice combining leadership with preaching, pastoral care and the myriad ex officio commitments, which she undertakes with passion and good sense.

We have also been fortunate to have the assistance of retired priests, Revd Norman de la Mouette and Canon Bruce Kington to take services for us and assistance from outside the parish from Revd Brian Pickett, Revd Liz Pickett and Canon Graham Trasler. Our Licensed Lay Ministers (formerly known as Readers), Alan Disher and Charlotte Nash, continued to contribute to and support the ministry team joined by lay leaders Alastair Barron (Sparsholt), Andrew Kent (Chilbolton) and Sally Wesley (Sparsholt). We owe them all a great debt of gratitude, not only for their hard work but also for the enriching diversity of worship we were privileged to enjoy during the year.

*Simon Kingston  
Churchwarden*

### 2.3 Services

The monthly schedule of Sunday services in 2017 remained:

			Average attendance in 2017
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	4.00 pm	Café Church	18
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	10.00 am	Family Communion (shorter format)	56
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	10.00 am	Morning Worship	42
	6.00 pm	Peace and Wholeness Service	19
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	10.00 am	Family Communion	53

*These attendance figures exclude children (under 16) as the average attendance was less than one child per service. The average attendance figures also omit Easter Sunday and Christmas Day where the attendance figures were respectively 85 adults and eight children and 92 adults and five children, and a 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10.00 am service in January which included a baptism and where the attendance figures were also 85 adults and eight children.*

The Peace and Wholeness Service is preceded by House Communion at 10.00 am on Saturday.

There is a BCP Holy Communion held 9.30 am on 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays each month - *average attendance eight*.

The following services also took place in church or in the parish: Weddings (4), Funerals and Services of Thanksgiving (8), Baptisms (8), monthly services at Flowerdown and Westholme care homes, Toddler Group services (3), Messy Church (3), Benefice Communion (1), Ash Wednesday, Mothering Sunday, Good Friday meditation, Ascension Day, Trinity Sunday, Littleton Show Service, All Souls, War Memorial (11<sup>th</sup> November), Barracks Remembrance Day, Posada, Advent Compline, Carol Service and Crib Service. In addition, there were morning and evening prayers and other contemplative services which took place in the Church or the Church Room on other occasions throughout the year.

*Simon Kingston  
Churchwarden*

## **2.4 Deanery Synod**

There were three regular meetings of the Andover Deanery Synod in 2017 and one additional meeting in September. The April meeting (the first of the year) was attended by Archdeacons Peter Rouch and Paul Moore, who explained the role of the Archdeaconry in developing common themes discovered during the development of the various mission action plans (MAPs). The Archdeaconry's own MAP is not another layer of objectives but rather designed to assist and enable deaneries, benefices and parishes to work towards their own objectives. The main focus of the three succeeding meetings concerned the review of the Deanery's MAP approved in 2014 and the discussion of a revised MAP for the period 2018-2021. The draft revised dMAP was produced by the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee (DMPC) following consultation and approved with amendments by Synod in November 2017 for submission to the Archdeacon. [The final version with few changes was eventually approved by Synod in January 2018.] The Benefice's own MAP has been updated in step with the revised dMAP.

The Revd Jax Machin remained as a clergy member of the DMPC and therefore had an important role in the development of the revised dMAP as did Andrew Kent (Chilbolton – Lay Chair of Synod) and Alick Kay (Crawley) as lay members of the Committee.

Michael Coleman continued as Lay Chairman of the Finance Committee and Clive Thompsett continued as a lay member of that Committee.

*Simon Kingston  
Deanery Synod Representative*

## **2.5 House Groups**

The Mid-week House Group meets on Wednesday evenings during term time for a mix of fellowship, study and prayer. We use a range of materials to guide our discussions, this year studying Psalms 1-5 and the Book of Revelation, and using Lent materials from the charity Stewardship to consider what it means to be "a living sacrifice" (Romans 12).

If you would like to come along, either on a regular basis or just from time to time, we would be delighted to welcome you. Get in touch with Michael and Carol Coleman on 01962 881886 – perhaps you might like to start by joining one of our popular "bring and share" meals – look out for details in Across the Downs or give us a call.

*Carol Coleman  
Mid-week House Group leader*

The Tuesday House Group has nine members. We meet in each other's houses and are an ecumenical group, with Baptist Church, United Reformed and St Catherine's Church represented.

Samples of our study in 2017 include The Acts of the Apostles, and St Paul's letters, which we are currently studying.

*Tim Speakman*  
*House Group Leader*

## **2.6 Diocesan Lent Course 2017**

We had a visiting speaker for each of the five Lent meetings. Christians involved in a variety of ministries shared their experiences in a variety of callings, giving us interesting and challenging evenings. These brief notes are a bit reminiscent of Eric Morecambe; 'all the notes are correct, but not necessarily in the right order'.

We heard from a Street Pastor, one of the Street Reach team, and a manager from the Nightshelter. The remaining three were selected from our regular Mission partners: Julie Winning, the new co-ordinator of Karis Kids; Howard Rowe before he retired from leading the City Chaplaincy team; and Nick Drayson, on his work as the Bishop of Northern Argentina when 100 people from the five benefice churches shared a meal together and listened to an excellent and challenging illustrated talk.

All our speakers are serving people in great need in the name of Jesus, the Servant King.

*Alan Disher*

## **2.7 New Wine Conference 2017**

New Wine is a Christian conference that takes place every summer at the Royal Bath and West Showground, Shepton Mallet. Thousands of people come from across the country to join together in worship, listen to inspiring speakers, engage in a variety of crafts and other activities, or simply to relax in the company of their fellow Christians.

This year we were fortunate to camp with the group from Christ Church, Winchester and partake in their hospitality, including discussions over tea and cake each afternoon and, in true British style, a cheese and wine party in the rain! We were also blessed with day visits from friends from the Benefice and beyond. In the words of one of our visitors: "A day visit provides a taster of the variety and scope of the worship, Bible study and seminars which are on offer and can be a time of great blessing. Stepping aside from one's usual schedule and taking time to consider one's own faith journey, or considering in depth some particular aspect of Christian teaching, surrounded by so many fellow believers, can be illuminating and inspirational. One might not be able to fit in the whole week away, but a day trip is a good second best!"

If you would like to join us in 2018 and experience New Wine for yourselves, whether for the whole week or just a day trip, please contact Carol and Michael Coleman on 01962 881886.

*Carol Coleman*

## **2.8 Prayer**

The Benefice Prayer List is produced regularly and copies are available at the back of the church for anyone wishing to use it in their own intercessions. In the past it has included the first names of people who have asked for prayer and agreed to the inclusion of their names. However, in the future, as a result of new data protection laws, people will no longer be identified by name and the Prayer List will include only general categories for prayer, recent deaths and the names of people with roles in the church.

A short service of prayer is held in the church room each Tuesday at 4.15 pm. It is based on the Evening Prayers for Healing liturgy. Given the data protection changes mentioned above, the Revd Jax Machin now produces a weekly list of people who have asked to be prayed for and these names are included in the service. This list is not copied or circulated and is returned to the Benefice Office immediately after the service. For more information, contact David Targett on [wdtcgt@aol.com](mailto:wdtcgt@aol.com).

The Mission Prayer Diary is produced every two months and is designed to help church members pray for the mission interests of St Catherine's. It is available at the back of the church. The Mission Support Group meets every two months (second Monday of alternate months) to share information and prayer. It is held at the house of Alan and Christine Disher in Vernham Road, Weeke, Winchester. For more information, contact Alan on [alan@disher.org.uk](mailto:alan@disher.org.uk).

The Prayer Chain is a means by which emergency prayers may be offered by a group of people in response to a critical situation. Anyone wishing to activate the Prayer Chain should telephone the Benefice Office or any member of the Ministry Team. It is a confidential prayer chain which aims to provide prayer support in time of urgent need.

On the fourth Wednesday of each month there is a half-hour service of Meditation at 7.00 pm in St Catherine's church.

The Julian meeting is held each Friday at 4.00 pm. It is a half-hour of meditation held in various homes. For information and to confirm the venue contact Sheila Trussler on 01962 881089.

*David Targett*

## **2.9 Peace and Wholeness**

Services are held in St Catherine's Church at 6.00 pm on the third Sunday of each month, when we aim to create a quiet and peaceful space where all may come for reflection, comfort and renewal.

On the preceding Saturday mornings, we meet for worship - including prayers for those in need in the Benefice and beyond - discussion and preparation. Do come along if you are interested - venues can be found in Across the Downs or from the Benefice Office.

If you have any difficulty in getting to the services, lifts can be co-ordinated through Kris Morrison on 01962 880326 (email [krismorrison@mac.com](mailto:krismorrison@mac.com)).

*Betty Allen*

## **2.10 Music**

In 2017 Tony Wootten, who had valiantly taken the role of temporary choirmaster for a number of years, also selecting the hymns and anthems to be sung at regular church services, stood down from this position, although he remains a valued choir member. At the same time, Ernest Witts, who had been a choir member for many years, retired. Both Tony's and Ernest's contributions were recognised by the PCC and church community. The selection of hymns and anthems is a task now performed by Barbara Kingston and Carol Coleman.

The choir now numbers eleven regular members. Much support is given by Tim Rogerson, who not only plays the organ for many of our regular services, but has also taken charge of a number of our weekly choir practices. Tim has introduced us to some new music, and did much of the preparation for the evening carol service at Christmas which was particularly well received.

Deirdre Wratten and Nikita Petrine have both played the organ regularly for our morning and evening "third Sunday" services, and with Harry Halliwell's increasing help, we have been able to have organists playing at all our regular services.

The choir sings at all communion services, usually performing an anthem. The choir has also attended a number of weddings and funerals during the year when requested; organists for these services being sourced by the Benefice Office.

One day the choir will have to face potential change, and volunteers to join the choir are welcome together with ideas for church music in the future.

*John Morrell*

## **3. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2**

### **3.1 Littleton Church Toddler Group**

This group meets in the Church Room every Monday morning during term-time, and is open to all babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their carers from across the Benefice and beyond. Numbers have increased during the year, and we now regularly have 12-15 children attending each week with their Mums, Dads, nannies or grandparents.

Weekly crafts include play-dough, painting and collages, and we always finish the session with the *Hokey-Cokey* which is almost as popular as snack time! As well as providing the children with fun activities and opportunities to improve their social skills (especially sharing!), carers are very appreciative of the chance to relax and discuss the joys and stresses of child-rearing.

At Christmas, Harvest and Easter the group meets in the church for a brief celebration, usually with an interactive story about the festival, prayers and singing. For more information, please visit our Facebook page: Littleton Toddler Group.

*Carol Coleman  
Children's Work Coordinator.*

### **3.2 Children's Work**

In addition to Toddler Group and Messy Church (see below), the main focus for children's work at St Catherine's has again been our very popular Posada. This year a total of 20 families hosted Mary, Joseph and their entourage, and they were, as ever, very well entertained. They tried their hands at street dancing and rugby, went carol singing and Christmas shopping, and even attended the pantomime at the Theatre Royal. The Posada arrived safely back in church for the crib service which was very well attended and the whole event raised over £630 (including Gift Aid) for Toybox, a charity which works with street children in Latin America. Further information can be found on our Facebook page: Littleton Posada.

St Catherine's also contributed to the Benefice provision of nativity Advent calendars to all the children in Sparsholt Primary School.

*Carol Coleman  
Children's Work Coordinator*

### **3.3 Messy Church**

In the Downs Benefice, Messy Church circulates around the parishes of Littleton, Sparsholt and Crawley. Sessions take the form of one hour of crafts and other activities around a central Christian theme; a celebration with a Bible story, songs and prayers; and a delicious meal to round the afternoon off. This year we have squelched in the mud with the Prodigal Son and his pigs; marched in the Roman army with the faithful Centurion; and rattled dry bones with Ezekiel, but most importantly we have had fun together whilst learning about God and his love for us.

Messy Church in the Downs Benefice takes place on the second Saturday of each month (except April and August) from 4 to 6 pm. We have a tremendous team of volunteers from across the three parishes who willingly spend the afternoon cooking, helping children with crafts, laying tables or simply chatting with parents whilst their children are absorbed in their creations. Without these willing helpers, we could not have achieved the wonderful success we have had to date. In 2017 a total of 21 families attended at least one Messy Church, some of whom have had very little previous contact with the church.

For more information, see our posters or visit our Facebook page: Messy Church in the Downs Benefice.

*Carol Coleman  
Messy Church Leader*

### **3.4 Social and Fundraising Events 2017**

2017 has been an action-packed year for arranging events. These embraced the whole community as well as raising money for church funds.

In May we had three events:

- We welcomed the Quiristers from Winchester College who performed in the Church; a memorable concert enjoyed by 100 attendees.
- We 'hosted' a car boot sale in Winchester.
- The ever-popular Safari Supper was held and enjoyed.

In August we held our 'week of walks', which attracted 92 walkers who each averaged two walks from the fourteen that were on offer. 2017 was the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that St Catherine's has organised walking events.

October was the next busy month with four enjoyable events:

- The annual Autumn Sale of Plants and Produce
- Harvest Supper
- Faith in the Arts III. A series of four talks organised by David Targett which this year included glass sculpture, drawing, art and dancing.
- A concert by the Odyssey Quintet in the Millennium Hall, at which a two-course supper was served.

The year finished with a visit from Charles Harris who entertained his audience with a presentation on the art of Norman Rockwell, the American illustrator.

As well as raising £4,700 valuable funds for the church, social events like these enable us to connect and engage with our local communities, many of whom are supportive of the church even if not necessarily active members of the congregation.

The church family meet in the church room for refreshments following Sunday morning services, a valuable time to greet newcomers, hear news and renew and deepen friendships.

*Clive Thompsett  
Churchwarden*

#### **4. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3**

##### **4.1 Parish Visitors**

2017 has seen the re-shaping and equipping of our Benefice Pastoral Visitors through a Pastoral Visitors Course designed and executed by the Rector. Revd Jax is grateful to all those who offer their pastoral gifts in this valuable work in Christ's name.

Through the central control of a Parish Visitor Administrator, we now have a good spread of trained visitors to the vulnerable, sick and bereaved in each parish, in addition to a number of Licenced Lay Home Communion Assistants who support Revd Jax in the provision of Communion to individuals and groups in nursing homes, hospice and home settings. In general, Holy Communion to the sick in hospital settings is conducted by Hospital Chaplaincy staff via a formal request from Revd Jax.

Anyone requiring a Pastoral Visitor or Holy Communion in hospital, hospice, care home or home setting should contact Revd Jax Machin through the Benefice Office on: (01962) 880845 or by email at: [office@downsbenefice.org.uk](mailto:office@downsbenefice.org.uk).

*Revd Jax Machin*

##### **4.2 Village Outreach**

St Catherine's hosts:

- the weekly Toddler's Group, which provides a much-appreciated opportunity for parents and carers to get together. Carol Coleman is the organiser.
- The monthly lunch club for our more senior parishioners. This is organised by Shirley Lupton and supported by cooks and helpers from across the community.

In addition to these regular events there are other activities:

Bereavement Anniversary cards are prepared and hand delivered where possible. Careful planning is given to the organisation of the benefice All Souls service. This involves a personal invitation and where possible a visit to each bereaved person. Our special thanks go to Vivienne Aspin for her expert work in the preparation of these services.

We also owe a big thank you to Geoff and Betty Allen for their regular coffee mornings, which are much appreciated and offer friendship and the opportunity to meet and chat to many of our clients.

We are grateful to the team of drivers who continue to pick up residents from the Sunrise Care Home, enabling them to attend our Sunday services. They really appreciate the participation and the welcome they receive from the St Catherine's congregation. This same team also provides a pick-up service to parishioners who are otherwise unable to attend church.

The St Catherine's Links system in Littleton continues to ensure that each road has a 'Link' who ensures that newcomers are welcomed and that the clergy are informed of sickness or special needs.

*Eryl Thompsett  
Links Coordinator*

### **4.3 Mission Support Group**

In some ways our group is shrinking; we meet as a group of four every other month. But in other ways we are expanding, because a small number of our congregation regularly receive the prayer letters from our overseas Mission partners; more about that in a moment. In spite of small numbers, we have much to encourage us and (hopefully) you who read this. This is mainly due to the outstanding quality of our Mission partners, and here they are:

"The Brickworks". John and Poppy Spens have a list of huge achievements in South Sudan, John by initiating many projects for new schools and new hospital buildings and equipment – all quite breath-taking. They have also provided funding for training teachers and hospital personnel. Poppy has revolutionised ante-natal care and maternity care, and also set up an Eye Clinic which is supported by visits and equipment from Winchester Hospital. I have dealt with this at length, because the civil war in South Sudan has destroyed much of this work, yet far from giving up, John and Poppy have visited the refugee camps in the north of Uganda. If you want to learn of their sterling work there, we can arrange for you to receive their prayer letters, and then **meet them at the AGM in Weeke later in the year.**

Karis Kids: Supporting families who have adopted orphaned children from their own wider families. This fine project is well supported by the Benefice and is thriving, helping nine families in Okuvu, Kampala.

MAF: Laurie and Emma have left MAF for work in Saudi Arabia (but we still pray for them). We have been blessed by a link with their replacements in Uganda; **Greg and Jill Vine are hoping to visit St Catherine's early this summer** (If we get one!) Some of us met Jill and three of the girls in 2016, and they are lovely!

Chris and Kesia Pain: The fact that after 10 years (a relatively short time), Chris has been made Field Director of OMF Japan speaks for itself; both he and Kesia are very gifted and committed, and their monthly prayer letters (one side of A4 with photos) are very readable and helpful. **They will be visiting us later this year.**

Canon Winston Williams: We don't hear from him very often, but we never forget to pray for him in his isolated and difficult ministry in Guyana.

Bishop Nick and Catherine Drayson: Nick's visit in March 2017 (sadly, without Catherine who was not well) was a memorable occasion for many of us; personally it was an occasion I will never forget. The icing on the cake is that it clearly moved and encouraged Nick. Christine and I met them both at a CMS meeting shortly before they left the UK for Northern Argentina and they spent a lot of time chatting to us. A recent update from Nick finished, "Warm greetings to everyone at Littleton and in the Benefice. In Christ, Nick".

*A final word. All missionaries are hugely encouraged when they visit a church where people know who they are and what they are doing. The Mission Prayer Diary is valuable help for this, but better still are the prayer letters; please contact Carol Ward for electronic versions of the Diary and for the various prayer letters and updates.*

*Alan Disher*

#### **4.4 Littleton Luncheon Club**

The "First Friday Luncheon Club", run by the Village Community Care Group, has continued to be held in the Church Room each month and is now over twenty years old! The Lunch consists of a main dish with vegetables, a pudding, and coffee or tea, for a modest sum, enjoyed in happy and friendly surroundings.

Sadly, we have lost several Lunch Club members during the year and our current membership is down to 27. Please get in touch with me if you know of anyone living alone who might enjoy a home-cooked lunch once a month.

The average age of our team of cooks, drivers and helpers still continues to rise! I would be very pleased to hear from anyone willing to join us in any of these capacities.

*Shirley Lupton*

#### **4.5 Residential Care Homes**

We have seen another busy year in service to residents of care homes and hospice settings within our benefice. Monthly Holy Communion services at Westholme and Flowerdown care homes are deeply valued by all who receive them. Many pastoral relationships have flourished at critical points in people's lives, bringing them the comfort of Jesus' grace.

Revd Jax is grateful to all those who offer their gifts and skills in this (often challenging) work in Christ's name, leading and supporting the Communion services, visiting the sick in their rooms and in playing the organ at our lively worship services.

*Revd Jax Machin*

#### **Flowerdown Care Home**

A very small group of people from The Downs Benefice continues to visit Flowerdown Care Home twice a month.

A Games Afternoon is held at 2.30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month when Bingo and Horseracing are enjoyed by residents. We were all extremely saddened by the death of Richard Quick this year. He was a valuable member of the team - and an excellent Bingo Caller!

The Communion Service, in the lounge, is led by the Rector at 2.00 pm on the Third Tuesday of each month with two or three helpers. We are very grateful to Sylvia Arnold who continues to accompany the hymns for us. The Service is followed by Room Communions and visits throughout the house.

*Shirley Lupton*

#### **4.6 Nightshelter Christmas Gifts**

St Catherine's had another successful collection of Christmas presents for the Nightshelter with 60 gifts in all. These ranged from grooming kits, socks and tokens to diaries, torches and even a splendid rucksack, to mention only a few.

We later received a warm letter of acknowledgement thanking us for our generosity. Reaching out to the less privileged in our community, especially at Christmas time, is a very worthwhile activity for our church to be engaged in. And it often seems to bring as much happiness to those who give as to those who receive.....

*Margaret Harris*

#### **4.7 Safeguarding**

A Safeguarding Policy is a statement that makes it clear what an organisation or group will do to keep children and vulnerable adults safe, and the mechanism by which it will respond to any concerns raised. The Downs Benefice is still waiting for guidance from the Diocese, currently being developed at National Church level, in order for us to formulate a Benefice Safeguarding Policy. Meanwhile, each PCC has its own designated Safeguarding Officer, details of whom can be found displayed in the porch of each respective parish church. Safeguarding Officers report directly and in confidence to the Rector. Safeguarding is a compulsory item raised at each PCC meeting to ascertain any additional concerns. The Safeguarding policy document, when adopted, will be considered for revision annually prior to APCM. DBS clearance is sought for any individual deemed to be working in any capacity with children and vulnerable adults under our Benefice umbrella. Please raise any concerns you might have, in the first instance, with your Safeguarding Officer. In an emergency, please contact the Rector.

*Revd Jax Machin*

#### **4.8 Data Protection**

European GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) legislation is to change in 2018. The new framework for data protection laws will replace the previous 1995 Data Protection Directive, upon which current UK law is based. Throughout 2017, our benefice has been liaising with Diocese to ensure we are fully compliant with these changes when they come into force on 25th May 2018.

*Revd Jax Machin*

## 5. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

### 5.1 Finance

Full accounts have been produced detailing the income and expenditure of the church during 2017. The accounts have been adopted by the PCC and reviewed by an independent examiner. Copies have been posted on the notice boards in the porch and the church room and will be available to download from the church website following the APCM. If you have any questions on the accounts, then please contact Michael Coleman (01962 881886) who will be able to respond.

This year has seen the successful launch of the St Catherine's Friends and the church is very grateful to the people who are now helping to support the church in this way.

We remain blessed with many people who continue to support the church faithfully through regular planned giving.

As can be seen from the accounts, this year the church's income has exceeded its expenditure which, combined with an increase in value of our longer term investments, means that we end the year with an increase in reserves. During the year we received a legacy gift of £5,000 and a second gift of the same amount, in lieu of legacy.

The PCC has continued its policy of supporting a range of mission partners both financially and through the development of long term relationships. The list of donations made in 2017 is as follows:

Brickworks	500
CMS (formerly SAMS)	500
Guyana Mission	500
Karis Kids	200
Messy Church	150
Mission Aviation Fellowship	500
OMF	500
Open Doors International	700
Tearfund	700
Trinity Centre	850
Winchester Basics Bank	550
Winchester City Chaplaincy	300
Winchester Nightshelter	550
Totals	<b>£6,500</b>

*Michael Coleman*  
*Treasurer*

## **5.2 Volunteers**

At St Catherine's we are extremely fortunate to have an extensive list of people who are willing and able to donate their time and varied talents to the work of the church,

- from cleaning the church to organising social events;
- from washing and ironing the linen to visiting the sick and lonely;
- from collecting up leaves in the churchyard to providing lifts to enable people to attend church services.

The PCC is indebted to you all and without you we would not be able to sustain our regular church services nor our many and varied outreach projects. If any reader is inspired by these words and wishes to volunteer in any capacity, please contact me.

*Clive Thompsett  
Churchwarden*

## **5.3 Church Fabric**

The church building is currently in a good state of repair, and the log book and terrier are up to date.

As stated in the 2015 Annual Review the required quinquennial inspection was carried out by the appointed architect, James Lunn-Rockliffe on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015. The subsequent formal report noted that the general condition of the church was "good" with "little needing immediate attention". Those items which were suggested for immediate attention were all carried out in 2015.

Repair to the plastered wall beside the vestry door and re-painting of parts of the chancel arch will be carried out in 2018.

In 2016 Planning Permission was obtained for the re-vitalisation of the entrance to the graveyard at the corner of Main Road and Church Lane. The required faculty from the Diocese was granted in July 2017 subject to one condition (subsequently satisfied). The required works are due to be carried out in Spring 2018. The fencing around the Church is also due to be replaced in Spring 2018.

Routine inspection and maintenance work was also carried out in the church during the year.

*Simon Kingston  
Churchwarden*

## **5.4 Churchyards**

The churchyards continue to be well maintained, with many people giving willingly of their time especially at the annual clear up held this year in June. We continue to have great support from the non-parishioners who have loved ones buried in our churchyard and join parishioners for a three-hour working session and then enjoy a communal ploughman's lunch. Throughout the year, a rota of people who can operate trimmers keep the area tidy. In the autumn there is a need to collect and dispose of the huge volume of leaves. Ian Muir again assembled volunteers for regular leaf-blowing sessions to ensure that the leaves are kept under control. The year finished in early December with a 'trimmer-fest', leaving the whole area tidy for Christmas and the winter

The way the churchyard is maintained is really appreciated by all those who have loved ones buried at Littleton and thanks are expressed to all who have helped.

*Clive Thompsett  
Churchwarden*

## 5.5 Church Room

The church room continues to be well used. In addition to the after-church coffee sessions, the Toddlers, the Art Group, the Tuesday Prayer Group and the WI Choir all have their weekly slots. Other regular users are the Lunch Club, Messy Church, the Littleton Players, the Gardening Club committee, the PCC and of course the monthly Café Church service.

In 2017 the room was once again the venue for a variety of talks and presentations, notably the Faith and the Arts Series III, and for a number of training courses. It continues to be popular for family parties and we are particularly pleased to be able to offer the facility for post-christening and funeral receptions following services in the church.

*Barbara Kingston*

.....  
**Simon Kingston**  
**Churchwarden**  
**On behalf of the PCC**

.....  
**Clive Thompsett**  
**Churchwarden**  
**On behalf of the PCC**

**Date: ..... 2018**

**Date: ..... 2018**