

ST. CATHERINE'S CHURCH, LITTLETON

DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER



ANNUAL REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

by the

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

for the

YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2016

RECTOR: REVD JAX MACHIN
ASSISTANT PRIEST: REVD DAVE MAPES

CHURCH WARDENS: CAROL COLEMAN (until APCM 2016)
SIMON KINGSTON
CLIVE THOMPSETT (from APCM 2016)

ST CATHERINE'S LITTLETON - ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 2016

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Annual Review of Church's Activities 2016

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

St Catherine's Church, Littleton, sits within the Downs Benefice, created in 2008 and comprising 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 Revd Dave Mapes and a ministry team comprising retired clergy and licensed lay ministers.

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

Wardens:

Mr Simon Kingston	
Mrs Carol Coleman	until 2016 APCM
Mr Clive Thompsett	from 2016 APCM

Representative on the Diocesan Synod:

Mr Michael Coleman	Treasurer
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Representatives on Deanery Synod:

Mr Simon Kingston
Mr Clive Thompsett

Elected Members:

Mrs Carol Coleman	from 2016 APCM	
Mrs Margaret Harris		
Mrs Lucy Kingston		
Mrs Barbara Kingston	from 2016 APCM	Secretary
Mr Michael Lupton		
Dr Ruth Meyers	from 2016 APCM	
Mr John Morrell		

*Simon Kingston
Churchwarden*

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. As last year and the previous year, 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, e.g. 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 e.g. 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 31st December, there were 176 persons on the electoral roll. Of these 81 (46%) were non-resident in the parish. The following movements have taken place.

	Members
Electoral roll as at 1st January 2016	179
Post January 2016 : Died	-1
Moved away	-5
Joined	3
Electoral roll as at 31st December 2016	176

The average Sunday attendance is 55 adults.

Clive Thompsett
Electoral Roll Officer

2.2 Ministry Team

The Revd Jax Machin continues as our Incumbent having now completed her second 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.

The Revd Dave Mapes joined the ministry team in September 2015 as Assistant Priest (formerly called House for Duty priest) to support Jax in her work across the Benefice. Dave and his wife, Jill live in the Rectory at Chilbolton and Dave works part-time on Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays.

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 Jill Aussant, Revd Nicky Judd, 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. 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.

At the end of 2015 Revd Tim Maguire came off the rota to take services regularly, but he acted as celebrant at the Trinity Sunday service at Northdown Park on 22nd May 2016, which provided an opportunity for members of all the congregations in the Benefice to give thanks for and celebrate Tim's ministry over many years.

Simon Kingston
Churchwarden

2.3 Services

In May 2016 the service pattern in St Catherine's changed so that monthly schedule is:

			Average attendance in 2016
1 st Sunday	4.00 pm	Café Church	23
2 nd Sunday	10.00 am	Family Communion (shorter format)	52
3 rd Sunday	10.00 am	Morning Worship	44
	6.00 pm	Peace and Wholeness Service	18
4 th Sunday	10.00 am	Family Communion	50

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 78 adults and 5 children and 100 adults and 5 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 1st and 3rd Wednesdays each month - average attendance 8.

The following services also took place in church or in the parish: Funerals and services of thanksgiving (9), Baptisms (3), 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, Christian Aid Week Service, Ascension Day, Trinity Sunday, Littleton Show Service, All Souls, War Memorial (11th November), Barracks Remembrance Day, Posada (with Café Church), 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*

Café Church 2016

Following reorganisation of Sunday services throughout the Benefice, Café Church on the first Sunday of each month, at 4.00 pm, was launched in May 2016. This new venture has given the opportunity for folk to attend a less formal church service, offering an informal space (the Church Room) in which to explore all things faith-related through discussion, reflection, musical worship and prayer – and space to relax over a cup of tea and cake! Themes have included “Who is my neighbour?”, “The Body of Christ”, “Clothed in the image of God”, “Hearing the Voice of God”, amongst many others.

Carol Ward

2.4 Deanery Synod

There were three regular meetings of the Andover Deanery Synod in 2016. In May Charlotte Scott, a regional organiser of Christian Aid gave a presentation concerning the Charity's work. Also in that meeting the Revd James Pitkin, a representative on the General Synod from the Winchester Diocese, gave an update on the make-up of the General Synod (now 50% men and 50% women and 50% new members overall) and the topics being debated this quinquennium (migrant crisis, scripture and sexuality, evangelism, blood and organ donation, ministerial education and resourcing for the future). Updates on the bMaps and pMaps were given and the primary issue arising was concern over training (or lack of it) for

lay leaders and parish visitors and the division of responsibility between the diocese and the individual parishes. The Downs Benefice through the Benefice Council produced its own action plan (bMAP) in 2015 after consultation with the individual parishes in the benefice. This was circulated more widely within the parishes in 2016 and continues to be reviewed and updated at Benefice Council level.

The Revd Jax Machin remained as a clergy member of the Deanery Mission and Pastoral Committee which is overseeing the implementation and development of dMAP.

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, and this year we followed the story of Nehemiah as he rebuilt the temple walls in Jerusalem; used a Bible Society course to study refugees in the Bible and today; and looked at how we steward faithfully, act justly and serve sacrificially using the Diocese's "I Witness" Lent materials.

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.

Examples of our study this year include The Parables, The Book of Ruth and now we're studying Isaiah.

*Tim Speakman
House Group Leader*

2.6 Diocesan Lent Course

The 2016 Diocesan Lent course titled 'I Witness' aimed at equipping us to communicate our faith confidently. Two homegroups in the Benefice followed the course which was divided into five sessions covering: steward faithfully, act justly, serve sacrificially, teach effectively and proclaim boldly. Each session was supported by Bible passages from Luke and Acts and questions to guide discussion, plus a range of related activities. The course was accompanied by individual booklets and encouraged us personally to think more deeply about our individual stories of faith and ways we could communicate them effectively. We were encouraged to pray for others, one helpful example was to pray for five people for one minute each, every day.

In addition, the Benefice hosted a series of meetings which took place in the benefice churches. A variety of interesting speakers shared with us how their faith in the Lord Jesus helps them in their daily lives and in the work they do. The speakers were Revd Bryan Taphouse, SSM priest at Romsey Abbey and International Company Director of Lewis and Irene Ltd, Colonel David Parker, retired Colonel of the Parachute Regiment, Cllr Caroline Horrill, Company Director of a successful Marketing Consultancy and Director of Youth Options and Dr Dale Webb, Director of Research and Information with The Stroke Association and Musical Director of Wherwell Singers. Their stories were personal and inspiring and gave listeners practical demonstrations of how our faith can help us to steward faithfully, act justly, serve sacrificially, teach effectively and proclaim boldly. As we heard their stories and engaged with them the challenge lies before us as how God can change us and use us so we can be witnesses and channels of his love to others. The course fittingly concluded with Compline and the Deanery half night of prayer in Wherwell church.

Charlotte Nash

2.7 New Wine Conference 2016

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 summer our family was the only one from the Benefice to attend, but as usual we were joined by a former resident of the Benefice who was enjoying the hospitality offered by a local B&B. Once again one of us was on team, teaching 320+ 3 and 4 year olds about King Jesus' everlasting kingdom, while the others took the opportunity to spend the week relaxing, listening to enlightening talks and enjoying the uplifting celebrations.

If you would like to join us in 2017 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 at the beginning of each month and includes prayer for people and situations of concern and need. Copies are available at the back of the church for anyone wishing to use it in their own intercessions, or it can be emailed to you (contact Margaret Fowkes: mjfowkes@gmail.com). At the back of the church there is also a board on which prayer requests can be placed.

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 and the people and situations on the Prayer List are included. The service lasts about 20 minutes and is attended by a loyal group of about six people.

The Mission Prayer Diary is produced every two months and is designed to help church members to pray for the mission interests of St. Catherine's. It is available at the back of the church. The Mission support group meets monthly (on the second Monday) to share information and prayer. It is held at the house of Alan and Christine Disher in Vernham Road, Weeke, Winchester and for more information contact Alan on 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 may telephone the Benefice Office, or any member of the clergy or Prayer Chain. It is a confidential prayer chain which aims to provide prayer support in times 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.

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

Margaret Fowkes

2.9 Peace and Wholeness

In our monthly candle-lit service we aim to create a quiet and peaceful space where all may come for refreshment, comfort and renewal.

In preparation, usually on the Saturday preceding the service, there is a House Communion to which everyone is most welcome. The service is followed by a time for reflection, discussion and the updating of the Benefice Prayer List. This list includes requests for prayer for anyone in the Benefice or beyond and copies are available in all five churches. If you are interested, do join us; venues are printed in 'Across the Downs', so just come along at 10.00am. There is always time for sharing over a cup of tea or coffee.

Details of forthcoming services are circulated by email (or hard copy if requested). Should you wish to be added to this list, please contact Margaret Fowkes on 01962 861320 (email mjfowkes@gmail.com). Lifts can now be co-ordinated through Kris Morrison on 01962 880326 (email kris Morrison@mac.com).

Betty Allen

2.10 Music/Choir

The position at the end of 2016 remains the same as at the end of 2014 and 2015. We are still without a replacement for the post of Organist since the last incumbent, David Brown, retired at the end of 2013. We are still reliant upon the services of visiting organists to supply instrumental accompaniment for our services, and the number of organists available to be invited has reduced during the year. John Morrell, who took over the onerous task of ensuring that the organist's bench is filled for all Services, during 2015, has maintained a 100% record in 2016 in the face of ever growing difficulties, and deserves the heartiest commendation for doing so.

In the choir, we have the same twelve regular choristers. Choice of hymns and anthems, and the organisation of the choir and of choir practices remain in the hands of the Temporary Choirmaster, who was drawn from the choir's ranks at the end of 2013. The standard of singing remains excellent, and new material in hymns, anthems, and carols at Christmas were introduced during the year. Morale is good, but we do need the appointment of a permanent, full-time, professional Organist and Choirmaster to maintain the continuance of music as we know it in St. Catherine's. and for its further development in the future.

The Choir has maintained its standards of loyal service throughout the year. A four-part choir has been in attendance at every Sunday morning Service other than the monthly

Morning Worships, providing a full programme of hymns, an anthem, and appropriate canticles. Individual members of the choir also attend Morning Worship to help lead the singing. The Choir has also attended a number of weddings and funerals, when their presence has been requested.

Tony Wootten

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.

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 16 families hosted Mary, Joseph and their entourage. The sheep were particularly adventurous, taking part in a Christmas concert in Southampton, being rounded up by a real-live sheepdog, and one even travelled as far as Lapland! The Posada arrived safely back in church for the crib service which was very well attended and the whole event raised nearly £560 (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 and Wherwell primary schools.

Carol Coleman
Children's Work Coordinator

3.3 Messy Church

Messy Church has been running within the Downs Benefice for over 4 years. Sessions take the form of 1 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. Recent Messy Church themes have included Paul's letters, Pentecost, and the Messianic prophecies (except in our case they were Messy-anic!). We have turned Sparsholt School field into the Sea of Galilee (for our first ever outdoors Messy Church), toppled a cardboard temple on top of Revd Dave (for Messy Samson) and celebrated the Queen's

birthday with a ping pong ball gun salute, 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 4-6pm, circulating between the villages of Sparsholt, Littleton and Crawley. 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 2016 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 2016

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. We are enjoying our new coffee machine and wide range of teas!

In the summer we held the ever popular Safari Supper and in the autumn our Harvest Supper, at which we were joined by, and entertained by, the Winchester Group WI Choir. As well as raising 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. Funds were further boosted by the Autumn Sale of Plants and Produce, which seems to have become an annual event now, spurred on by previous success. This year was no exception, thanks largely to the efficient organisational skills of Eryl Thompsett.

A second series of the popular “Faith and the Arts” talks was held in the autumn, organised once more by David Targett, exploring art, glass, music and even spiritual journeys by rail! Once again the whole series was widely enjoyed.

In addition, many of our church family joined others from the benefice and wider community in July for a week’s holiday at Rydal Hall in the Lake District.

Weekly Events	Monthly Events	Annual Events
Toddler Group	Lunch Club	Trinity Sunday BBQ (Benefice event)
Sunday Morning Coffee	Coffee Morning	Safari Supper
		Summer Churchyard Clear-up and Lunch
		Littleton and Harestock Show
		Harvest Supper

Carol Ward

4. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3

4.1 Parish Visitors

The network of Parish Visitors and Home Communion assistants have been working assiduously across the parishes to help me provide pastoral support to the bereaved, the sick and those in any sort of need. This comes with my thanks to all of the team who simply and quietly do so much to help others. I also speak on behalf of those whom you visit as a team. When I visit people, they are full of gratitude and praise for the cheery faces who visit them; you can have no idea how valuable this work is in our benefice. My particular thanks go to Eryl and Clive Thompsett who have worked so hard to ensure the pastoral needs of our parishes in past years.

In 2016, we have had a serious setback in terms of getting diocesan help to run the Parish Visitors Training Course that we had been promised. I have now made the decision to write my own training course and this will now be run early in 2017. Thank you for your patience as I know there are a number of new volunteers who are looking forward to joining the Parish Visiting team. Blessings on you all.

Revd Jax Machin

4.2 Village Outreach

Bereavement Anniversary cards are prepared and hand delivered where possible. Careful planning is given to the organisation of the benefice All Souls services. 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 is ongoing and all the Links have agreed to continue. We get together over tea and cake every eighteen months to discuss how this service can be improved.

*Eryl Thompsett
Links Coordinator*

4.3 Mission Support Group

There were two highlights for the group, both in July, and both slightly marred by circumstances. The first was an opportunity to visit the Pain family (working with OMF in Japan) while they were on a short visit to the UK; but this coincided with the Benefice Rydal holiday so just Carol Ward and Margaret Heaps were able to go to Bishop's Waltham where the family were staying with Chris's mother and this was very worthwhile. The second was a trip to Bristol to meet some of the Vine family (serving with MAF in Kampala, Uganda), but this time Margaret Heaps was unable to take part. Furthermore, Greg had to be in Australia with one of their daughters. Nevertheless, it was wonderful to make contact with Jill and two of the girls; they were delightful and both we and they were greatly encouraged.

These two encounters make a valuable point. It is a meaningful relationship with our mission links which is so encouraging for them and so enjoyable and exciting for us. Financial support and exchanging letters is good, but nothing is as helpful as personal face-to-face meetings to facilitate meaningful involvement.

One big problem for our group is its size (4); but evening meetings are not easy for most people, and yet another meeting is very difficult for most people to fit into already busy lives. So we are thinking seriously of making use of some of the communication technology that is now available, such as exchanging short videos (e.g., coffee in the church room). Perhaps the visit by the Draysons in March 2017 will give this a kick start!

If you would like to receive newsletters and prayer requests from our links electronically, or our 2-monthly mission prayer diary, then pass your email address on to Carol Ward.

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. 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, Pam Ward and Ron Smith, two longstanding members, died during the year. Hilda van de Lagemaat moved away to Chichester. Happily we have welcomed several new members and Lunch Club membership is currently at its maximum of thirty people.

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

Shirley Lupton

4.5 Residential Care Homes

Revd Dave Mapes and Charlotte Nash have been leading services held in the lounges in both Westholme and Flowerdown Care Homes, and taking Communion to residents who are unable to leave their rooms. We are grateful to them and those ably assisting them, particularly Shirley Lupton and her team at Flowerdown. We are also indebted to Sylvia Arnold and Deirdre Wratten for playing the organ at these services. It is wonderful to see how much enjoyment people get from singing hymns they remember from their childhood. It is often the case that people will remember The Lord's Prayer and classic hymns when dementia sadly robs them of other memories.

I have taken a number of Friday Holy Communion services at Sunrise Care Home in 2016, when Father Geordie Grierson from the North Winchester Community Church has not been able to take them.

The ministry to the elderly in care and at home is a growing part of the work of the parish and hugely important. Whilst we might be praying for young people, we are being blessed with the young at heart and this is clearly the ministry the good Lord is asking us to focus on for this season of our parish life.

Thank you all for your commitment and your fellowship to all who are in need, however they come to us in Christ's holy name. We give thanks to God for this important ministry and would ask others to consider joining the team in 2017. Please call the Benefice Office if you would like more information or to chat to me about what this rewarding work involves on (01962) 880845.

Revd Jax Machin

Flowerdown Care Home

A small group of people from St. Catherine's continues to visit Flowerdown twice a month.

The Communion Service, in the lounge, is led by the Reverend Dave Mapes at 2.15 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. This is followed by Room Communions and visits throughout the house.

A Games Afternoon is held at 2.30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month when Bingo and Horseracing are enjoyed by residents.

Shirley Lupton

4.6 Nightshelter Christmas Gifts

As part of our outreach it was decided to follow on from Gina Bruce's popular 2015 initiative in collecting Christmas presents for the Nightshelter. This was very successful. Following the Nightshelter's guidelines on appropriate choices, gifts poured in during Advent. And in the week before Christmas Bryan and I took a hundred and twenty presents along to the delighted Nightshelter office who have since sent a very appreciative letter of thanks.

Margaret Harris

5. STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4

5.1 Finance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 together with applicable accounting standards. The accruals method of accounting has been applied.

Summary of Recurring Income and Expenditure

Income

Total unrestricted income of £64,047 was higher than 2015 due primarily to increases in giving. We continue to be very grateful to our many planned givers who contribute a regular amount to the church.

Expenditure

Total expenditure this year from unrestricted funds, was £70,228 compared with £66,614 in 2015. Our single biggest expenditure is our contribution to the Diocesan Common Mission Fund which increased £3,677 to £40,442. No significant asset purchases were made during the year.

Deficit of Income over Expenditure

This year we thus have a deficit of £6,180 on our unrestricted funds.

Exceptional Items

In 2016 we received a donation of £5,000 on which we were able to reclaim a further £1,250 in Gift Aid. The money was given on the understanding that the £5,000 would become a long term loan from Littleton to the Downs Benefice.

Investments

The stock market FTSE 100 index on 1st January was 6242 and it closed up 14.4% on 31st December at 7142. Our investments performed broadly in line and year end revaluation resulted in an unrealised gain of £2770 (+13.6%).

Balance Sheet

Carried into 2017 we have £15,484 of "Restricted Funds", which can be used only for predetermined purposes. The details of the balance in each fund are shown at the bottom of page 2 in the accounts. We also have £35,838 of "Unrestricted Funds". These have not been allocated to specific Reserves by the PCC but are held to cover future significant expenditure, both foreseen and unforeseen.

Charitable giving

The PCC has a policy of donating 10% of its income to UK and overseas charities under the guidance of the mission group. The giving is usually done in December but where circumstances warrant it donations can be made earlier in the year to address specific needs. During 2016 the following grants have been made:

Open Doors International	500
Tearfund	500
Winchester Basics Bank	300
Kevin Lay Foundation	550
Guyana Mission	600
Mission Aviation Fellowship	400
Brickworks	400
CMS (formerly SAMS)	400
Winchester Night Shelter	400
Trinity Centre	750
Winchester City Chaplaincy	250
OMF	400
Karis Kids	350
Totals	£5,800

Published Accounts

Copies of the financial accounts are on the notice boards in the porch and the church room. If you would like your own copy, they can be found on the church font or by contacting Michael Coleman (881886) who will also be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

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 2nd 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.

Of the other relatively minor items noted for attention in due course, the temporary softwood nosings on the steps from Main Road were replaced with hardwood nosings in 2016.

Planning Permission has been obtained for the re-vitalisation of the entrance to the graveyard at the corner of Main Road and Church Lane. The required works should hopefully be carried out in 2017. There is also an ongoing project to replace the fencing around the Church.

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 July. We continue to have great support from non-parishioners who have loved ones buried in our churchyard and join parishioners for a three-hour working session and then enjoying a communal ploughman's lunch. Throughout the year, a rota of people who can operate strimmers 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 late November with a 'strimmer-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
Churchyard Officer*

5.5 Church Room

The first full year of the newly extended and refurbished church room has seen it put to good and varied use. In addition to the after-church coffee sessions, the weekly Toddlers and Art Groups and monthly Luncheon Club have made a welcome return to the facility and the regular users now include the Littleton Players and the Winchester Group WI Choir. The Tuesday Prayer Group have also migrated from the church to the more comfortable environment of the church room. And the Benefice administrators have been enjoying their greatly improved working environment too.

As well as the regular users, we have been delighted to see the room being used by the benefice Messy Church group and privileged to provide a venue for a variety of individual users, including birthday parties for people from one to 95! Everyone who visits the room comments on what a comfortable and well-equipped facility we now have and it is a particular joy to be able to offer it to users free of charge.

Barbara Kingston

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Simon Kingston
Churchwarden
On behalf of the PCC

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

Date: 2017

Date: 2017