

Deanery Synod

Great Budworth Deanery Synod met three times this year, in April, September and November, at St Mary Magdalene, Appleton; St Matthew's, Stretton (actually on St Matthew's Day) and Christ Church, Barnton. There was also an open evening in January when Bishop Keith answered questions as part of his visitation to the Deanery.

Topics covered have been GAP, church attendance, an explanation of the Diocesan Mission statement given by the new Diocesan Missioner, Lyn Weston, as well as possible Church Renewal and reform.

There have been reports from Diocesan Synod while the Deanery Quiet evening at Great Budworth and Deanery Evensong at Arley have taken place again as has the Ride and Stride event.

Our present parish representatives (up for re-election this year) are: The Rector, Ian Bunday, Heather Warren and Jill Wasey. From our parish, Revd Keith Hine also attends as the representative of Retired Clergy.

Visitors are always welcome to attend Deanery Synod meetings.



Churches Together

We continue to meet once every two months throughout the year, with the venue changing regularly from church to church.

Our combined activities include the Prayer Breakfast in January followed by Prayer Week. We also organise the collection week for Christian Aid in the Spring and are pleased to announce that the amount collected increases annually.

Churches Together also provides a religious assembly in the four primary schools in Lymm. Two members of St Mary's participate in the visiting rota.

On Easter Sunday there is a United Service at the Dam and we all take part in the Dickensian Day in December. Various other activities are held throughout the year.

Mark Instone from The Baptist Church stepped down from the chair in November, after holding the post for some time, and agreeing to help us out until we found a new Chairperson. Father Elder, from St Winefride's kindly agreed to take the post, and we wish him well for the duration of his service.

Our meetings are lively and interesting as we work towards Christian Unity in our village.

St Mary's 2016 Annual report

April 2017



The Church's year in words and pictures

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The Parish Church of Lymm

Rector's welcome

Welcome to the annual St Mary's Newsletter. We hope it will give you a taste of the wide variety of activities that make up your Parish Church of Lymm.

Our central purpose is always our worship of God and our seeking to live out our faith in everyday life in the service of others and the wider community. We place an emphasis on being an inclusive church for all, regardless of gender, sexuality, race or disability.

Why not call in to have a look round the church, come to one of our social events, or experience some of our worship? The congregation of St Mary's would love to meet you !

Keith Maudsley , Rector



On 26 February 2017 the congregation wished Keith Maudsley well in his retirement following his last service with us

ST MARY'S Parochial Church Council Secretary's Annual Report



The Parochial Church Council meets regularly, usually six meetings throughout the year, plus any Standing Committee meetings if needed to make decisions on urgent matters. Since the Rector announced his retirement at the November 2016 meeting, the PCC has engaged with the Diocese regarding a replacement incumbent. When a parish is vacant there is a legal process to follow, and the Designated Officer for the Appointments sends a letter and information pack to the PCC Secretary which explains the process and

asks for certain information to be returned. The process starts with a Special Meeting of the PCC. A Parish Fact Sheet has to be prepared together with a Parish Profile, which provides further details about the parish. These documents are an extremely important part of the selection process and are designed to give an overview of our parish in order to help us find the right incumbent.

Carol Roberts
PCC Secretary

Finance report

For the year 2016, St Mary's made a surplus of just under £2,000. This compares to a small surplus for 2015 of just under £1,200. The surplus this year is almost entirely due to a profit made by the Church Hall of over £13,000 compared with £10,500 during 2015. Many thanks are due to those individuals who put in a lot of work which enables the Church Hall, a very old building, to be kept safe, warm and secure and without which the Church would be in severe difficulties. As is obvious, the Church's finances are still very tight.

For the coming year, there will be many challenges and difficulties to overcome. For 2017, the Parish Share will increase by 2.5% which although is the same as last year, is still well over the rate of inflation. The Church building needs a significant amount to be spent on it, particularly on the crumbling masonry at the back of the Church.

A successful Stewardship Renewal campaign this year is important so that these challenges can be met and the Church continues to move forward.

David Critchley
Treasurer to the PCC



MOTHERS' UNION

Christian care
for families



Your Mother's Union Branch meets every third Tuesday of the month throughout the year and has a full and varied programme. During 2016 the Society celebrated its 140th year. Our theme for the year was 'A Celebration of Faith'. In March our Rector lead us in a Quiet Afternoon when we looked at pictures called 'Seeing and Believing- Praying with Paintings of the Life of Christ' put together by Christopher Herbert. Our February meeting was on marriage and 'weddings to remember' as part of our celebration of marriage week. Sue Walton gave us a very interesting talk on the Orkney Islands and Karin Higham showed us her excellent work on Embroidery. We also participated in the Christmas Tree Festival publicising our Society and Branch by providing a tree with handmade decorations on the theme 'A Christmas Story'. In June we visited our Prayer Partners at Little Budworth at which our MU Chaplain Canon Chris Humphries led our prayers and singing with his guitar and Derek gave us a talk on the 'Family History of the Mothers' Union'. We also had an annual dinner, a joint social with the CWF and held our Wave of Prayer service in May, praying for the work of our Mothers' Union Link Diocese and for its work across the world. In November we held a prayer vigil in the Lady Chapel as part of a global moment against gender-based violence. Throughout the year we shared ideas, stories, poems and prayers and in the summer raised money on Transport Day for the work of the Mothers' Union Away from it All Holidays and for its work overseas.

During the last year Church Women's Fellowship has enjoyed a full and varied programme of speakers, events and outings.

In June, Elizabeth France gave an informative and interesting talk on bell ringing. We learned about its history and about the complicated manoeuvres resulting in the wonderful peals that we hear at St Mary's. In October we had a lovely talk by Bill and Joan Garrett about their life in Cyprus and working in the church there. In February we welcomed Revd Michael Burgess who entertained us with anecdotes and musical interludes about life as a parish priest.

Some of our most memorable evenings were when we brought along memories and memorabilia around a theme such as "My favourite Things", "Wedding Day" and "Fashion – what we wore in our Youth". We also had an evening of book reviews and made a book mark to take home.

Our annual dinner was held at Statham Lodge in March. A quiz on cakes and bakes was followed by tea and cakes to sample in April and in May we visited St Margaret's Church in Dunham Massey. Our strawberry and cream social in July following the AGM was also enjoyed by all. We continue to support St Rocco's Hospice by each member contributing one pound each meeting which is then collected up and sent off to help the hospice in their valuable work.

St Mary's Church, Little Budworth, Cheshire

FAIR
TRADE
Increase in
Fairtrade
purchases in
2016

St Mary's is a Fairtrade Church:

Large Increase in Fairtrade purchases in 2016

In 2016 we sold **£1,822.57p** worth of Fairtrade goods in church from our various Fairtrade stalls and 'promotions' throughout the year. This is almost a £300 increase on the **£1,535.04p** that we raised in 2015. This tremendous increase is partly due to the increase of the price of fairly traded goods but also to the increased support for the stall during the Christmas Tree festival.

Many committed volunteers collect, set up and return the 'Sale or Return' stall to the 'Fair4All' co-operative based in Warrington Market, and the responsibility for ensuring the stalls are available at St Mary's is a lot easier as a result of their hard work. We are very pleased that Clare and Simon Fathers have agreed to coordinate the stalls in future which means that St Mary's continues its commitment to being a Fair Trade church into 2017 and beyond.

The Fair4All co-operative in Warrington celebrates its 15th anniversary in September 2017 and St Mary's has been a Fairtrade church for all of that time. The Youth Club led the way in their commitment to Fair Trade and got the whole church involved.

The Fairtrade Foundation has also begun to support gold miners in Africa promoting this as an exciting development, seeking to bring the benefits of Fairtrade to an industry crying out for fairness. Josephine Aguttu from Tiira Small Scale Miners Association, a pilot group working towards Fairtrade certification in Uganda says, 'The middlemen fear that when we are organised, it won't be so easy to exploit us – that's why we were so excited when we heard about Fairtrade. Before Fairtrade, we were just dying in silence.'

At St Mary's we aim to use Fairtrade tea, coffee, sugar and biscuits weekly after the 10.00a.m. service and at all our social events.

2016 has been another busy year for our team. We have now completed 11 years giving this service and have only missed 4 days in that time. This is much appreciated and we have been pleased to offer a quiet area where people, several with problems or grieving, can meditate, pray and feel at peace in a beautiful setting. A quick look at our visitors book reveal reactions such as "Pleased to find the church open", "fabulous", "beautiful", "excellent bell ringing", "beautiful glass windows" "lovely Easter garden", "peaceful but vibrant church", "warm welcome". One couple visited on the 58th anniversary of their wedding at St Mary's to give thanks. As well as visitors from all over England, we welcomed visitors from France, Isle of Wight, Australia, Ireland, United States, Germany and Scotland, some to visit family graves. We are a small team, if you are interested in joining us to give a warm welcome, it would be appreciated. It is a good way of giving service to our church, please contact Heather.

Church Watch

Churchwardens Jacky Carroll and Jill Wasey review the year



St Mary's has had a steady year overall, with smooth running provided as usual by a dedicated team of people working hard, mostly behind the scenes, and we are pleased to once again have the opportunity of thanking everyone for their contribution.

Notable features of the year have included:

- **Community Christmas Tree Festival.** This has had a very successful second year, building strongly on our first year's experience, with more trees, more people, lots more school involvement, and probably more cakes. This event is giving the church new and interesting opportunities for community outreach and involvement, and outline plans are already in place for a further repeat in 2017. A very wide cross-section of the congregation was involved in the preparation and running of the weekend, but our particular thanks are due to the organising committee, led by Sue Walton and Carol Roberts.

• Rector's announcement of his retirement at the November PCC meeting.

Keith Maudsley has been our Rector for over 19 years, and his departure will leave a huge gap for the congregation. We wish him and his family, Maggie and Chris, all the best for the future. This of course leaves us as a "Parish with a Vacancy" for most of 2017, with the responsibility and opportunity of choosing our next Rector. During this period, the church will run as far as possible, "as usual", with the help of our strong and experienced ministry team.

Our achievements and commitment over the past year show that we have the resources we need to genuinely treat the year ahead as an opportunity.

Your help and support is hugely appreciated.



WARDENS
LEAD
SEARCH
FOR NEW
INCUMBENT

... Farewell to
Keith
Maudsley

The Big Cleans

Flowers

Twice a year many members of the congregation, young and old alike, meet to give our Church building a good clean. We do this every spring, in preparation for the Easter festival and again in the autumn to prepare to welcome many from the local community to our annual Service of Remembrance. The Big Cleaners enjoy plenty of laughter and cups of tea as they work hard to blow away the cobwebs and give everything a good polish.

Our verger Sue Walton makes sure we have beautiful flowers in church. A team of willing helpers assists in decorating the church for Easter, Christmas and Harvest. At Easter many donate money for the Easter lilies in memory of a loved one whose name is included in the scroll of remembrance over Easter.

Resources

Safer access to the cenotaph installed

Resources Committee has met three times during this year to deal with issues of finance and fabric. Overall 2016 has been a steady year in terms of fabric concerns. There are however still a number of outstanding areas of work, notably on areas of masonry on the south wall, and the vestry chimney, which will need to be completed before our next five yearly report, due in 2018.

We are pleased to be able to report that the railing running down the wall to the

cenotaph has now been completed, with the help of a grant from the War Memorial Trust and a donation from Lymm Parish Council. This will improve access to the memorial both for the Remembrance Service, and at other times.

Work to be carried out in the next year will include repairs to one of the pinnacles on the tower, damaged by lightning strike. Fortunately, this is largely covered by our insurance, and we may also need work to the plasterwork on the nave ceiling.

Maintenance on the church hall this year has included improvements to the lighting and gas fires, as well as painting and other routine matters. The hall continues to be an important resource and we are as ever, very grateful to the team who help us to run it.



Music, Worship and , Spirituality

The centre of our worshipping life is the Parish Communion, which brings together the best of traditional and contemporary Anglicanism. Music (led by our able choir and organist) and drama (we have a small drama group) play an important part.

Special all-age services through the year (such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest, Christingle) aim to ensure our worship is accessible to all. The candlelit Christmas Carol Service continues to be a highlight for many. Lay participation is a key element at every level - reading lessons, leading prayers, the work done by our baptism visiting team.



Choir Notes

Tower Report

We continue to meet every Thursday at 6.30pm for just over an hour. We have continued to sing one anthem per month and very few have been repeated over the past 3-4 years. I am always pleased when after an anthem a member of the congregation says 'I liked that anthem'. Looking back over the year we have not repeated a composer, so variety is certainly on the agenda. One particular moment stands out: the marking of Keith's 40th Year of Priesting service. We sang 'O Nata Lux' by Tallis. This is a 5 part anthem of some difficulty requiring more voices than we normally have and I am most grateful we could call on some extra help. In the same vein for his final service on 26 February Keith requested an anthem that is equally difficult 'Quicumque Christum Quaeritis' by Victoria.

I continue to ask for hymn choices. If you want something please ask for it. So a message to the choir 'Thank you once again for tirelessly putting in the hours to practise well-known items and learning new ones. Thank you Chris Clark for playing the keyboard and covering for me when I am away.'

Roy Sutton— Director of Music

During the year our band has remained stable and we have continued to improve our ringing. We rang for all Sunday services and on Christmas Eve. We were also pleased to ring for seven weddings, including that of our ringing master, Ian Daniels, and joined in a national 'ringing moment' on 8 September.

The 'ringing moment' was part of the 2016 Heritage Open Days weekend, when we were challenged to ensure that 500 towers were open to visitors. We welcomed visitors to the tower and provided an exhibition about bells and bell-ringing.

We had number of visitors including a group from Oxfordshire and a band from South Northamptonshire, who rang a half muffled quarter peal of St Clement's Triples during Remembrance weekend.

The highlight of our year was the replacement of the heavy metal clappers on our two heaviest bells with wooden clappers. Those bells are now easier for us to 'ring up' and so ringing the heavier bells will be more frequent.

Follow us on Facebook: St Mary's Lymm bell tower and ringers; or come to see us on any Thursday evening.



The Bookworms, who meet six times in the year, are an enthusiastic and friendly group of people of all ages who enjoy reading. In 2016 the choice of books was very varied, illustrating the lives of people living in difficult and changing times:

- 'To the Bright Edge of the World' by Eowyn Ivey tells of the life of an explorer and his wife in Alaska in the late 19th Century
- 'The Tea Planters Wife' by Dinah Jeffries is set in colonial Ceylon
- 'The Nightingale' by Kristin Hannah describes the choices two sisters had to make in France during WWII
- 'My Brilliant Friend' by Elena Ferrante is about growing up in 50's in Naples
- 'The Secret Life of Bees' by Sue Monk Kidd described life in South Carolina in the 60's
- 'Sweet Caress' by William Boyd followed the life of a photographer through defining moments of the 20th Century
- 'The Tent, the Bucket and Me' by Emma Kennedy brought back many memories of camping holidays in the 70s
- 'The Children Act' by Ian McEwan brought us up to date with the repercussions of decisions made by a family High Court Judge.

The meetings are informal and friendly and the discussions can be lively. If you enjoy reading why not join the Bookworms.



Rector's 40th Anniversary of Priesting, with special anthem sung by our usual choir and some visiting choristers

Social Events

The Community Christmas Tree Festival continues to grow. Over the weekend Friday 2nd – Sunday 4th December the church played host to over 30 decorated and illuminated Christmas Trees provided by 27 local organisations, on the theme 'Christmas Stories'. Once again we were impressed by their artistic skills and imagination. Interest continues to grow with more people and organisations wishing to be involved.

This year we were particularly pleased to welcome children from Cherry Tree, Statham and Ravenbank Primary Schools, local pre-school groups and nurseries. Statham and Ravenbank brought choirs who provided some seasonal music. In all well over 100 children visited the church on Friday. There was also a special meeting of Praise and Play and on Saturday the children returned for a Godly Play session followed by a picnic tea. Sunday opened

with a Christingle service which was followed by a Christmas Singalong.



During the weekend refreshments were served and there was a Craft and Produce Stall and Children's Craft Table. In all over 1,000 people visited

The annual sponsored **Historic Cheshire Churches Ride and Stride** was well supported with church members of all ages visiting a number of local churches.

The Pudding Club is still very popular having built up a regular clientele. Although there was only one meeting this year it was as successful as ever.



In September the **Harvest Lunch** was held at the Lymm Hotel. This is becoming a regular on the social calendar.



The organising committees would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way over the year. It is because of your support that these events are so successful,

Christmas
Tree
Festival
grows in
popularity

GROWING IN FAITH

School age
and pre-school
children are
welcomed into
worship at
St Mary's



Praise and play

Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10.00am and Praise and Play at 10.30am every Friday in term time. Both groups are well attended.

In Sunday School we welcome children of all ages to join us for our activities. We are happy for parents with babies and very small children to be with us—it's amazing how soon they join in.

We plan our lessons around a theme each term exploring both Old Testament and New Testament stories. Some lessons are Godly Play stories which allow the children to make their own response to each story.

We enjoy games, wordsearches, puzzles as well as craft activities which children are very proud to show everyone.

This year we thought very hard about what each part of the Lord's Prayer means. Our Godly Play sessions helped us to think about several parables using some lovely new pieces donated by the Hyland family. The Presentation service was All About Sheep, with the children enacting the Parable of the Good Shepherd.

The three Sunday School leaders are hoping to begin to recruit some fresh leadership talent in the near future to help take this rewarding and important work forward.

Children's Presentation Service 2016



We're still having fun at Praise and Play but our numbers are fewer than this time last year. Something called 'school' took several away from us in July and our present challenge is to try and grow the membership a little without overflowing the Fellowship Room. Happily the group we have is very helpful and supportive to us and to each other and some parents whose children had to leave still keep in touch in various ways. We also have some who come to Sunday School and those who come to Special Services.

This year we've looked round our church in detail and spent several weeks on 'Creation', then how to care for the things God made. We had the Christmas story and various other Bible stories as well as tales of the Saints at the appropriate times. We were again asked to participate in 'Art in the Garden', the 'Christmas Tree Festival' and 'Harvest Festival' and we made our contribution to church decoration when required.



Jill and Chris would like to thank Jacky and the ladies from church for their continuing assistance with our regular term time sessions. It is very much appreciated.

Baptism ministry

This year we have had thirteen Baptisms booked at St Mary's Church, with our visitors doing their magnificent work throughout quite a busy year. My thanks go out to Derek & Pauline Buckthorpe, Chris Scott, Vanessa Lees, and Ian Bunday who have all done a wonderful job in visiting the families who brought their children for Baptism.

The July baptisms saw an extremely busy service as there were four families bringing their children for Baptisms but those four families brought seven children. Their ages ranged from three months to seven years. There were seven boys and six girls.

My thanks go also to Vanessa and Jill who have helped with the administration.

Welcome to Bill Garrett



We are delighted this year to welcome Bill Garrett to our ministry team as Lay Reader.

Bill has transferred to Lymm from his ministry in Cyprus.

Welcome indeed to Bill and his wife Joan!

The PCC continues to adopt and implement the Safeguarding guidelines of the Church of England and the Diocese of Chester.

Full details of the above can be found on the Diocesan website: Diocese of Chester Safeguarding and Vulnerability Policy & Procedures: 'Safe in our care'.

As Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator I attended a half day Safeguarding Training course in January.

All individuals whose roles within St. Mary's require a DBS check hold a current certificate. These will be renewable every five years.

Role descriptions for Sunday School and Praise & Play leaders have been produced and all leaders have received and signed a copy.

All documentation regarding Church Hall bookings has been reviewed and implemented to come in line with the safeguarding policy.

My telephone number, along with those of 'Childline', 'Family Lives', and Warrington Children's and Adult Services are displayed in both the church and church hall.

Our annual Parish Safeguarding Audit, as required by the Diocese, has been completed and presented to the PCC at their March 2017 meeting.

Chris Scott.

Safeguarding