

St. Barnabas Church Waunarlwydd

(Discovering the love of God in Jesus Christ)



Parish Report 2017

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The principal function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

Welcome to the report of yet another busy year as a Christian family here in The Lord's meadow of Waunarlwydd. The following reports reflect only a small glimpse of the overall activity and commitment, the worship and loving care of a dedicated family wanting to see more of those in our wider community discover the love of God in Jesus Christ. As we seek to be refreshed and renewed in our mission to transform lives and communities in the name of Jesus Christ as part of the Llwchwr Ministry Area in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon, this continues to entail that significant and often painful move from simply maintaining things as they have been to reaching out with the good news of the gospel in ways that are creative and relevant - not just in words, but in serving others through lives in which God is making a difference!

May we be encouraged that God, by his amazing grace, continuously works in and through his people here, as we seek to deepen our relationship with him and with one another.:

Ian - Vicar

www.saintbarnabaschurch.org.uk



This continues to encapsulate what we're about, why we're here, and what we hope people will experience when they worship at St Bs...an encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus Christ and the vibrant life of God who is Trinity. We pray our diocesan prayer for mission at every service - and most of us even manage to say it now without needing to sneak a look at the notices!

**Father, we hold before you our family in the Diocese of Swansea and Brecon and we open our hearts and minds to your Spirit:
Bless us as we gather in your name;
guide us as we grow into the likeness of your Son;
lead us by your Spirit to go out and make disciples of others.
God of our journeying, be our way and our truth and our life;
our beginning and our end.
We pray through Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

The prayer reminds us of our purpose for being here in this lovely community: our mission to make Jesus known - to help people discover the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Bishop John always begins his 'Ad Clerum' (his weekly letter to the diocesan clergy) by reminding us of the role of the PCC:

The principal function of the PCC is "promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical."

Come and see...

Come see a man who told me everything I ever did (John 4:29)

When I was an undergraduate student in Sheffield in the dark distant mediaeval past there was a singer-songwriter called Andrew Gold. One of his 'records' was entitled 'What's wrong with this picture'. At first glance everything on the vinyl album cover (remember those?) seemed in order - just a room scene with him and his guitars - but as you looked a little closer it just didn't make sense - like the pictures of M.C. Escher the graphic artist who plays with our perceptions with his impossible constructions and illusions that don't make any sense if you look at them closely



Well there are some highly unusual things going on in the account of Jesus and the woman at the well (to name just one of Jesus' encounters). To anyone looking on at the time there are things here that just wouldn't have made sense.

For a start, having made a bit of a reputation as a holy man, what on earth is Jesus doing on his own with a woman, and a Samaritan at that? Many devout Jewish men wouldn't have allowed themselves to *be* in such a situation. And if they couldn't avoid it for some reason, they certainly wouldn't have taken the initiative to strike up a conversation.

It just wasn't done. The risks would have been considered too high: the risk of impurity, of gossip or of being drawn into immorality.

And yet here is Jesus alone and conversing with a strange woman.

St Barnabas Parish Report 2011

When the disciples came back later from shopping John tells us they were "astonished."

And then of course the woman is one of those dreaded Samaritans. It's ironic that the organization famous for helping people in extreme distress is named after the people whom first century Jews regarded as the worst kind of outcasts (even though we know it's because of the 'Good' Samaritan). Why the racial hatred? Well, as good old Tom

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(Wright) explains in his *John for Everyone* commentary ever since some of the Jewish exiles had returned from Babylon to find that their ancient land was occupied by a group who claimed to be the true children of Abraham, there'd been no love lost between them (to put it mildly). There were times when it had broken out into actual bloodshed and murder - but mostly it was simply a matter of not mixing - avoiding each other at all costs. Jews wouldn't have *anything* to do with Samaritans: they certainly wouldn't share eating or drinking vessels with them - very much like the Apartheid regime in South Africa, or the black-white divide in the southern states of the USA before the release of Mandela and the American civil rights movement. Maybe even like some churches.

And yet Jesus asks this Samaritan woman for a drink (are you getting how outrageous, and wonderful, this is?)

And on top of all *that*, this woman is clearly of quite 'questionable character'. How would Jesus have known that? Well the normal time for women to visit Jacob's Well (apparently it's still there) - situated a little distance from the town - would be at a cooler time of the day, maybe first thing in the morning or late in the afternoon. *This* woman comes during the heat of the day ("mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun"). Why? Because she's knows she's not likely to meet anyone - especially those who would have been aware of her shady past and current lifestyle (and Jesus presently shows her he's well aware of all

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Part 1:

Chapters 1-10 (2002:41). London: SPCK

that stuff too). *And yet here he is, engaging her in conversation* - a conversation with a playful, double-meaning, teasing tone to it.

These different levels of meaning are typical of John's reporting of Jesus' conversations with people. Remember Nicodemus who took Jesus literally when he was talking metaphorically about being born from above. Well here Jesus tells the Samaritan woman about 'living water'. Of course he's not referring to the ordinary H2O, corporation hair oil, Adam's ale - he's referring to the new life he's offering to anyone and everyone - no matter what race they belong to, where they're from, or indeed how bad they've been. Not only will you never be thirsty again, Jesus says, it'll become like a spring bubbling up inside you - refreshing you with the new life which is coming into the world with Jesus - the whole new state of affairs God is bringing about by his Spirit.

What's the woman's reaction?

- Well, like Nicodemus - and the disciples very often - she hasn't a clue what Jesus is saying
- But there's clearly something going on inside her because she wants to know more - she's *intrigued*...

But she's in for real shock - like everyone who starts to take Jesus seriously. He has living water/new life to offer all right - but when you start to drink it, it's going to change every area of your life. Because if we want to take Jesus up on his offer of living water, then we're going to have to get rid of the stale, foetid, mouldy, stagnant stuff we've been trying to live off all this time. (In the Samaritan woman's case the smelly, unhealthy, impure stuff to do with her relationships).

Jesus saw (and sees) straight to the heart of what's really going on for every one of us - and the woman's reaction to what Jesus tells her is a classic example of what every pastor or counsellor or even good friend knows only too well. Put your finger on the sore spot and people immediately begin diverting the conversation by talking about something else - especially (when it comes to vicars) throwing out some obscure religious question. I'm sure you've heard things like this too: 'Well we used to go to church, but then my aunt said we should go with her - and

then I didn't like the minister's wife and now we've stopped going altogether...'

Of course like the kinds of conversations I've mentioned that are part and parcel of parish church life, they're *all* diversions if we're absolutely honest - and as far as they blame what goes on in churches, they're all pretty irrelevant, because as we've been learning together, both as a parish and a ministry area - the kingdom of God and the institutional church are definitely not the same thing.

Going back to what's wrong with this picture Jane Williams thinks that both the woman at the well - and indeed the Israelites in their history with Yahweh are very often unwilling to perceive what's right there in front of them. Lots of the stories about Moses leading the children of Israel in the desert are all about their dithering. The very simplicity of the appeal to trust God and his goodness seems to always present us with enormous problems.

Thankfully, as the Apostle Paul points out, God's mercy - his patient, loving kindness and goodness - is all around us - long before we even bother to take a look. As Jane Williams says: "the hard part is not that we have to deserve it, because we don't. The hard part is that we just have to accept it...Did (this woman) allow the generous waves of God's grace to overwhelm her, or did she sit down in the desert and moan about being thirsty?"

We know that Jesus' mission is really about bringing heaven to earth. So all we are and all we do as his family in Waunarlwydd are, by his grace, signposts to the Source of Living Water - certainly not ends in themselves. In my role as Ministry Area leader I hear people complain that there's no time for spiritual things while we're busy keeping the church going? It makes me wonder then what *are* we about? John is telling us to look to Jesus - to listen to him - to let him bring us new life - living water - a new reign and rule in our lives that frees us from the heavy weights we carry around. And as for people and faces that don't fit, and doing stuff that might appear different, even outrageous, if Jesus gets the chance to encounter those who really need him...let's continue! Come and see...!

As Julie has described in her report, there are so many things that have happened recently that give us cause for thanksgiving. God continues to bless us in so many ways. If we, as we, continue to fix our eyes on Jesus we can be part of God's grand plan to bless all the peoples of the earth.

So thank you - everybody - for all your amazing hard work, generosity and faithfulness. There are way too many individuals to mention by name, but all your contributions are so important because we're in this together. However, I shall pay due tribute to Julie our curate without whom much that has happened this past year, clearly wouldn't have - 'nuff said' (but we're very grateful J.)!

On a personal note thank you for your love, support and prayers for us as a family. Although I've managed to cut down on some of the travelling and committee work, recently taking on the Ministry Area leadership following Martin Cox's departure back to the St David's diocese means things still feel a mite 'full-on' (as they say these days). I continue as Honorary Canon and the Bishop's Officer for Formation (and Diocesan Director of Ordinands), but am hugely helped by being part of a team - as Julie and I are with parish duties. Again heartfelt thanks.

So my prayer always for you, the saints in Waunarwlydd, is that God the Father, through Jesus the Son and by the Holy Spirit continues to encourage you and build up your confidence to harness your gifts as we gather, grow and go out together to serve our community in love. It continues to be such a privilege and joy serving you in this place.

With love in Our Risen Lord Jesus,

Yours ~ Ian (for Sue Joel, Renée - and Phoebe)

Curate

'Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you, I have called you by name, you are mine' (Isaiah 43.1).

Each one of us is called by God and called by name, known and precious. Something we always need to keep firmly in mind and particularly during this time of change in which we find ourselves and in which we all have our part to play.

Yes, things are continuing to change, slowly but with gathering momentum. But more of that later...

The past year at St Bs has been another year of highs and lows, celebrations and sadness...but with an underlying sense of goodness. A year in which the Holy Spirit has been able to work in us enabling a continued coming together in co-operation and fellowship, with an increase in our team of volunteers and those prepared to help out. Small things happening that often go unnoticed, but are an answer to prayer.

We are very blessed that Barry and Sue Letson, having moved from Crickhowell where Barry was Rector, have made St Bs their home and offered their support in so many ways.

Our prayer group continues to meet albeit in small numbers and now on a Thursday evening in the vicarage rather than on a Tuesday evening in the church - everyone is very welcome, even if you are unable to commit on a regular basis. Our Bible Study on a Friday afternoon has grown - there are now 10 of us when everyone is able to be there. Again, a warm welcome awaits anyone who is able to join us - come along and see whether you enjoy it before committing yourself?

Thank you to all of you who have contributed in any way to events that have brought us together - our lovely Thanksgiving lunch, the Big

Breakfasts, the Côr Waunarlwydd concerts, the coffee mornings etc. As well as bringing us together, these events are such a good way of reaching out to the community at large.

Our children's ministry continues to be our main focus of reaching out. Seeds are being sown and prayers are being prayed about how we can best be God's agents in watering and nurturing those seeds, enabling them to take root.

'Butterflies at St Bs' is nearing its first anniversary and is proving popular and positive. Our babies are wonderful and we have met some pretty special mums, dads and grandparents too. Our volunteers are very committed, reliable and prepared to go the extra mile - thank you to you all. There can never be too many volunteers though so please come and be part of the rota if you are able.

As an offshoot of Butterflies, we were able throw a children's party - we didn't get organised enough to have it before Christmas - but the twelfth night timing was a great success and I have lovely memories of the children gathered in front of Paul Cornish, heads thrown back in laughter - wonderful!

The Open the Book team are still going into the school every Thursday afternoon but now visit four classes rather than two...so we don't appear to be outstaying our welcome - but won't become complacent...we all enjoy it too much.

The Family Service on the first Sunday of each month is now into its fifth year! We are still praying for more actual children to attend and ways to improve what we offer, but those who are always there must be children are heart because they do seem to enjoy what is always a fairly chaotic service but one that seeks to worship and give thanks to God albeit in a more informal way. We usually perform an Open the Book

story, giving the team an added opportunity to dress up and God's word to be preached in a different way.

When I was writing last year, we were still excited about how well the 2015 Christmas Experience had gone, how well it had been received and how many volunteers had been involved. For 2016, because we wanted to keep things 'fresh' it was decided to offer something different, so we invited the children - in four groups, rather than a class at a time - to a performance of the Christmas story. I believe most of you were able to come along to see it and I think you will agree that the appearance of a *real* baby - our very own Billy - playing the part of baby Jesus had a huge impact. It helped us understand that this familiar story was real, it actually happened - Jesus was a real baby. The children couldn't get over it, the adults were moved to tears and those involved in the performance were touched by a sense of wonder. Thank you Siân for lending Billy to us and Sue for bringing him if Siân couldn't. We're already praying for inspiration for Christmas 2017.

Meanwhile, there is the Easter Experience! During weeks commencing 20 and 27 March the 10 classes from Waunarlwydd Primary are visiting St. Bs and, using the same method we did for the Christmas Experience in 2015, we hope we will help them understand what Christians believe about Easter. We are also delighted that Ysgol Login Fach accepted our invitation to take part and the four junior classes will visit during week commencing 3 April. We hope this visit will be the first of many more. Thanks to the help of a very generous donation, we will be able to give each of the children who will be visiting an Easter egg, together with a poster depicting the Easter story which they can colour in.

The family 'messy church' service on the third Sunday of each month didn't really take off so we have gone back to the drawing board and plan to change it to the last Sunday of each month, which will hopefully be easier to remember, to offer things that will appeal to slightly older children as well and to advertise 'Buzz at St Bs' as we have decided to

call it, on a wider scale. We are very grateful to Sue Letson who has offered us the benefit of her years of experience in children's ministry and agreed to be the one who will 'head up' this endeavour.

Although our focus continues to be on children's ministry we try to ensure that those who are finding it difficult to make it to church are being visited regularly and reassured that they are still part of the family. Thank you to those individuals and Mothers' Union who, through their ministry, become the face of St Barnabas to many in the community and walk alongside those who are going through the inevitable bad times. We visit the nursing homes in the village once a month to share Holy Communion and it would be lovely to visit more often to build up relationships of trust with the residents and we will continue to pray that God will provide the people who will be able to build up a lay visiting team to enable this to happen. An implementation plan has been drawn up by the Ministry Area Chapter, outlining proposals for the way forward and one of the priorities in the plan being offered to the Ministry Area Council is the provision of training for Pastoral Lay Visitors as well as Lay Worship Leaders and we hope to take advantage of this training - both to refresh those who have already been on the course and to equip those who feel that they are called to serve God in this way.

Which brings me to the changes that are afoot...

In my report last year I explained how St Bs fitted into the scheme of Ministry Areas and about the four new Deaneries which were being formed in the Diocese - Brecon, Swansea, Powys and Gower (we are part of the Gower Deanery).

During the past year, quite significant changes have taken place within our Ministry Area - Gorseinon, Gowerton, Loughor, Penllergaer, Pontarddulais and Waunarlwydd.

- Rev. Martin Cox, vicar of St Catherine's, Gorseinon, who was the M.A. Leader has moved away (and is now serving in Narberth in the St David's Diocese). Ian has, therefore, had to take on this role - supposedly on a temporary basis - but don't hold your breath!
- St John's, Gowerton and St David's, Penllergaer are both in an interregnum.
- Rev. Dr. John Gillibrand has taken up the reins in Pontarddulais - I hope many of you took the opportunity of meeting him during the M.A. Praise and Worship service held at St Bs at the end of February.

Currently, therefore, our Ministry Area has four full-time stipendiary clerics, one part-time non-stipendiary cleric and a licensed Reader - which means we are still in a very healthy position especially when compared to other Ministry Areas in both our Deanery and the wider Diocese. In addition, we are being supported by a team of retired clergy who are giving generously of their time. Subsequently most of the Sunday and mid-week Eucharist services are continuing for the time being, but as you are all aware it isn't simply about covering services, it's about having somebody you know and trust to turn to for advice; somebody who can be relied upon for pastoral matters - for baptisms, weddings and funerals - somebody you can call your own. Our extended family in both St John's and St David's need to know that as well as sharing Ian, we are there for them too - that they are welcome at St Bs and that they can rely on us to support them in their endeavours.

Although they are without a vicar, St. Catherine's is blessed by Rev. Dr. Adrian Morgan, their curate who is meeting the challenge head on and initiating some inspiring outreach which is being really blessed.

We need to keep Ian firmly in our prayers as he takes on the lead role in the Ministry Area and support him as well as learning to share him. I would also very much appreciate your prayer to uphold me as I too will be venturing out from St Bs to lead worship in other parts of the Ministry Area (you are probably thinking that they are the ones who need your prayers!) I do hope that they are as patient and understanding and catch me like you do! Sue Letson and Antony Bidder have received a Bishop's licence to administer the sacrament which is proving a real blessing.

At the time of writing the Implementation Plan that has been drafted by Chapter has been presented to the Ministry Area Council and has received unanimous approval. Now begins the work of tying it down to allocating space, people and time. So rather than viewing the situation through a negative lens we can celebrate that we are no longer subject to having decisions made for us but are in a position of being able to shape the future for ourselves - not as individuals and not with one or two people having to carry the whole burden - but together as part of one family, rooted in prayer, encouraging and supporting one another.

So finally, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your prayers, support and encouragement and for making St Bs what it is - a place of warmth and welcome, initiative and inspiration seeking to help our community discover the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Julie

Churchwardens

When I find myself in times of trouble...

*"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace.
In the world you will have tribulation.
But take heart; I have overcome the world."* — **John 16:33**

Since our last report there have been many dramatic changes all around the world. The impact of these changes will trickle down upon us at St Barnabas in ways which we don't yet understand. Most people are worried and concerned that these changes will have a negative effect as we are about to go through a period of great uncertainty.

After the crucifixion, the disciples must also have faced huge uncertainty - what on earth was going to happen?

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From the 3rd day, when Jesus reappeared to them, the disciples knew what they had to do: spread the word. This led to the church we know today.

And today, we know something that the disciples didn't know on that Good Friday all those years ago - we know that during uncertain times Jesus is with us no matter what.

For the people of Waunarlwydd, St Barnabas offers a sanctuary where we can benefit from that certainty in many ways.

Whilst this report is pretty much 'preaching to the converted' make sure your friends and neighbours know about our services and activities, know that they will be made very welcome and know that they won't be getting any hard sell.

We must begin by thanking the many people who help in all aspects of providing worship at St Barnabas - there is a lot of hard work which goes into making things happen and it goes on quietly and without any fuss. As wardens we cannot thank the individuals involved enough and pass on the thanks of the congregation as well.

Assuming you are reading this in church, take a moment to look around you and think about what you are seeing - a sturdy, well maintained building with well-tended grounds. As you entered the building, did you notice not only its physical warmth, but that of its welcome? You would have been given the relevant service booklet, hymn book, readings and Pews News before making your way to your seat.

Once settled, you look around the church and take in the regularly changing window decorations, the beautiful flowers, the gleaming brass, the changing colours of the altar and pulpit linen - the church is clean and tidy and a wonderful environment within which to praise God. And there's always a welcome cuppa and a biscuit after each service!

We continue to be blessed in having a fantastic Worship Team led by Ian. The Diocese and Ministry Area continues to place demands on Ian but he continues to lead us spiritually at St Barnabas with unending enthusiasm and dedication. Please remember that Ian along with Sue, Joel and Renée need our prayers and support.

Julie, as always, has been a tower of strength for St Barnabas - without her many things we take for granted just wouldn't happen. Pray for Julie and support her whenever you can

We are very fortunate to now have 2 retired clergy couples able to share our worship and taking over the reins when Ian/Julie have been covering elsewhere. Thanks to Barry & Sue Letson (who have recently moved here) along with Douglas & Pat Davies for assisting at services and prayers.

Unfortunately Phyllis has not been well recently, but she, Chris and Antony (who has been recently licenced as a Lay Eucharistic Assistant) complete the Worship Team and we thank them for their ongoing dedication.

Where would we be without our fantastic music? Thanks to Maureen our hymn singing has that extra hwyl - and Ian's guitar can make the hairs on the back of our necks stand up!

There are also those who assist in other ways such as reading, helping at Butterflies, Messy Church, Open The Book, Fairtrade and other activities - we owe you our grateful thanks.

The PCC meets on a regular basis, to discuss, to plan and to act. Bills are paid, our finances are managed, activities/events are discussed and planned.

Thanks to all the people above we feel that St Barnabas is slowly becoming stronger, we are growing, we are reaching out to many members of the community who have not come across St Barnabas before.

Help us grow St Barnabas even further. We really do need your prayers and support!

The support you can give St. Barnabas can be divided into 3 parts - Spiritual, Practical and Financial.

Spiritual - the most important. We need to grow our congregation to share God's message. In particular we need more young families and those of the 'lost generation', those under the age of 50, who have grown up not attending church and not understanding the love, fellowship and support offered. Each and every one of us needs to lead by example to demonstrate and publicise the love St Barnabas offers.

Practical – Help is always needed in many ways. For example, volunteers to assist with our ministry to children, cleaning the church and hall, maintaining the graveyard, fundraising, home/hospital visits, giving lifts, helping out at services etc. If you feel you can help the development of St. Barnabas in any way (new ideas welcome!) let us know. Please don't wait to be asked. This is your church too!

Financial – as you read the Treasurers Report within this booklet, you should be aware that thanks to a huge amount of work by our Treasurer, Chris, our income was slightly above our expenditure. We cannot be complacent as our costs (heating, maintenance, parish share etc.) inevitably rise and what we have left over doesn't allow us to carry out as much of the mission work of the church as we would like to. Please consider an increase in your giving so that we can spend less time worrying about how we can pay our bills and more time growing our church.

It would also make life easier for both you and the PCC if you were to set up a monthly standing order via your bank. Chris (our Treasurer) will be able to give you details and account numbers. Please ask.

Antony Bidder – Vicar's Churchwarden
John Campbell – People's Churchwarden

Mothers' Union

Mothers' Union Theme: 'A Celebration of Faith'

Dear Friends,

This year was very special, as we celebrated 140 years of our organisation and our faith has brought us this far. We have seen so many changes in our world since Mary Sumner first chose to put her vision, of helping young mothers' and children, into action. Over 4 million members worldwide later, there are still many in need. However, we are constantly trying to meet those needs by educating, supporting projects and tackling social problems in our society.

Our year began with a social gathering for lunch at the village Grill House in January. Our Annual General Meeting was held on the 19th of January at St. Barnabas Church Hall. Reports were read and accounts accepted.

Speakers

Lesley Abbott spoke about Dementia. It was a very interesting and moving experience. We took part in a quiz, which raised our awareness of the world, as a person with Dementia, might see it.

Gloria Hughes spoke to us about her role with the local Food Bank and of the people who so desperately need their help. We donated several boxes of food for her to take to the Food Bank.

Sue Thomas from the R.N.I.B. spoke about Visual Impairment and the prevention of falling and what to do in the event of such an accident. It was an invaluable lesson to us all to realize what *not* to do in our homes.

Judy Thomas, Branch Leader of St. Johns M.U. Gowerton gave a wonderful talk on her beautiful collection of crosses. Judy gave us an historical and personal account of each one and the talk was very

interesting and we were privileged that she shared some very precious memories with us.

Mandy Harvey who once worked with the night shelter talked about homelessness and the stigma attached and how easily this can happen to anyone, at any time. It was an excellent talk and Mandy spoke about her new role with Cinnamon Network who helps introduce new projects into communities.

Mrs. Ruby Hayden our A.F.I.A. Co-ordinator was ill and unable to be with us but she will be with us in April 2017. The speaker from Trading Standards was also unable to be with us but thanks to Reverend Barry Letson who stepped in with a quiz and saved the day.

Publications: Our Families First subscribers increased. Thanks for that, as the income from this magazine helps to fund projects. This magazine is filled with topical interesting articles. We recycle these at the back of the church and in the Parent and Toddler Group. Anyone can subscribe to this magazine so if you're interested please let me know. There are also a selection of leaflets available i.e. Marriage, Baptismal and children information. Mothers' Union News still brings us news from all over the Diocese.

Celebrations

We attended all the anniversaries of our sister branches. St. Catherine's, Gorseinon 80th, St. Hillary's, Killay 90th, Bishopston 110th and St. Mary's, Swansea 125th. We received a warm welcome, a precious time of worship and excellent hospitality followed by fruitful fellowship.

The 125th celebrations at St. Mary's Branch coincided with a flower festival to celebrate 140 years of the Mothers' Union, on the 11th of August.

We thank Yvonne Williams, who created a stunning, beautiful, floral display, of yellow, white and green. The theme for our window was Baptism and the colour yellow represented the light when the heavens opened and the acknowledgment that Jesus is the light of the world. The white depicted purity after the cleansing of Baptism when all our sins are washed away, and the green was for spiritual growth. The inscription on the window was from Mathew 3:16,17 (from the NRSV).

We were also asked to provide a tapestry depicting our Branch or area, to be part of a Diocesan banner celebrating the 140th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. Thankfully Mrs. Chris Hedley took up this challenge and she lovingly stitched Waunarlyydd as the Lord's Meadow. The banner hangs in St. Mary's Swansea if anyone would like to call and see it. It has an explanatory booklet to accompany it. Well done Chris!

We supported the Church calendar as always and marked National Marriage Week with a display in the church. On the 9th February we hosted a Shrove Tuesday Lunch for our church. We held a service on 19th of February for the Mothers' Union Worldwide Wave of Prayer and lit candles and prayed for our Link diocese and the projects that they are involved in. We also remembered all who were unable to be with us, especially our indoor members.

We have attended Council Meetings at Brecon on 25th May and 13th October. Chris Thomas has kindly provided transport and the meetings have been well worth attending. Our Deanery meetings have been held at St Hillary's, Killay with Sally Freedman our Deanery Leader as Chairperson and Pat Stratton as Secretary.

There were two Retreats at Nicholston House and we attended both. The first was taken by Reverend Canon George Bennett on the 4th May

and the second by the Reverend Ian Drew-Jones, on the 16th November. Both days were tranquil, refreshing days spent in God's presence and amongst friends.

Services Attended

A Commissioning Service at Brecon on the 4th May.

Our Deanery Festival at St. Catherine's Gorseinon on the 5th June. The Reverend Canon Peter Brooks was the speaker.

The Monthly Eucharist at St. Mary's Swansea on the 2nd September. We were very grateful for Ian officiating that day and representing the Branch. This was the day of our dear friend Jackie Dent's funeral. Jackie was a great Deanery Leader who had worked all her life helping others and will be greatly missed.

The Quiet Hour in St. John's Gowerton on the 5th September.

Projects

This year our main project was the 'Butterflies at St Bs' parent and toddler group. The sale of our Prayer Book and a coffee morning were donated to help to buy new things for the group. A few of our members are on the rota of helpers and it has been great to see the children, mums, dads, grandmothers and grandfathers getting to know each other, bonding and sharing information in order to help and support each other. A party was given for the children of the parish by the Butterflies at the beginning of the year and it was a sheer delight to hear the roars of laughter thanks to Mr. Paul Cornish, who gave them great entertainment followed by plenty of goodies to eat.

We also gave a special day to a final year student and by working in conjunction with her school we enabled her to attend the Prom, which

due to her circumstances would not have been possible. She had an amazing time and is doing well at college. Thank you for your generosity.

Comfort boxes have been given to several people who have been ill.

When we had a speaker from the Food Bank our members collected several boxes of food for her to take back with her.

We donated to Fresher Week Mugs for the last time as the Trustees feel that this project may have run its course.

The Baptism cards and Anniversary of Baptism cards have continued. Mrs. Chris Hedley has done this for many years and we are grateful for her commitment.

We continue to supply Baptismal, Confirmation and Marriage candles. We were very touched to receive a thank you letter and a photograph from Victoria and Simon of their wedding day. It has been an honour to see how they have grown in so many ways over the past few years. In our meetings we pray for all who are preparing for marriage. Some couples we know personally and some request us to pray for them when they visit the Wedding Fayre at the Brangwyn Hall. They fill in hearts which are distributed between the branches of our Diocese and we regularly pray for them.

Easter eggs were collected for Val Newton to take out to the children that she takes on holiday in June. These children have very little and Val makes sure that they are well fed, have new clothes and have great fun during this great escape from such hard times. The whole congregation is very supportive of this.

A donation was given from the Branch for "Make a Mothers' Day". This gift was to help a member in a potentially deprived community to identify its needs and put their faith into action. The 'Inspired' programme enables members to reach out and spark a change. This gift went to Britain or Ireland.

The bouquet of flowers for Mothering Sunday was gratefully received by Mrs. Kathy Davies who had been unable to attend church for a while due to illness.

We combined our Big Summer Appeal with our Strawberry Tea and the proceeds were sent to Mary Sumner House, to be used for Mothers' Union Projects. We also sent our Project Box money in May to support the same.

The items on our harvest window were given to Hope House.

We had a very exciting November when Mrs. Ruth Roberts, our Diocesan President, visited St. Barnabas on her 'Dash around the Diocese'. By this point she was getting a little battle-fatigued. However, she still found the time to enrol two new members and present a long service certificate. We are thrilled to welcome Mrs. Gwen Lovell and Mrs. Hazel James into the Branch and congratulations to Mrs. Dulcie Powell who has been a member of St. Barnabas Mothers' Union for sixty years. We had a celebration cake and after Ruth's talk were able to give her sponsorship money for her 'Dash'. It was a lovely afternoon. I would like to thank Dulcie for all her good work and faithful commitment to the Mothers' Union and for being such an inspiration to us all.

What a finale to 2016! I am referring to the school children visiting church to experience 'The Gift'. It certainly was an experience for all of us who took part. Baby Billy was so special and well behaved. The children were amazed but they could especially relate to Jesus as a baby.

At our last meeting in December our members and guests also witnessed the Nativity play in the church and retired to the hall for Carol singing with Ian providing guitar music and we followed with a tea. It was so special to have our sister Diocesan Members from Loughor with us to enjoy good food and fellowship

Thanks to every member because without you our good deeds would not have been possible. We have prayed that we would grow in numbers and our prayers have been answered. We are blessed to also welcome Rev.

Barry and Mrs. Sue Letson into our Branch and Mrs. Maria Gomez who has recently joined us. Currently our membership is 22 Branch, 4 Indoor members and 1 diocesan member. Mrs. Chris Thomas continued as secretary, Mrs. Debbie Williams as treasurer and Mrs. Liz Meredith as marketing representative/banner bearer. Mrs Elaine Jones does the raffle/ table top sale with Mrs Glenys Phillips. Bless you for all your continued support and all members for their generosity. I sincerely give thanks for our clergy and all who work endlessly to make St. Barnabas a welcoming safe haven.

It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to our dear friend and Branch member, Mrs Doris Craig, who had struggled throughout this year. Doris will be remembered for her intellect, kindness, commitment, generosity and love for humanity. It was a great privilege for me when I was asked to sponsor her and accompany her on her journey through to Confirmation. Our church family has suffered great loss and we remember Mrs. Mary Bidder who accomplished so much for our church, Cor Plant Waunarlyydd, Sisterhood, Senior Citizens and was a great support to the late Ms Lil Taylor. The loss of baby Christopher Bagley was devastating and resounded throughout our village and beyond, as we all shared in the sorrow of the Watts and Bagley families. Sadly Mrs. Jan Watts has also recently lost her mum. The untimely loss of Tina's husband Malcolm meant that he was not able to be at their son's wedding but I am sure that he was and is still looking over them. Please remember to pray for all who are grieving, that they may find comfort and hope for the future.

We look forward to the challenges of 2017 when our theme will be "*Faith in Action*". We will be supporting our Diocesan Project which is Faith in Families and our branch project will be A.F.I.A. We will also be exploring ways of bringing together the lonely in our parish.

We would love to see more of our congregation at our meetings and our fund- raising events. We welcome visitors who might just want to listen to a specific speaker, mums with babies, gentlemen - anyone and everyone is welcome, with no pressure. I would like to remind you that we are a charity and the monies raised are not kept in our Branch but used for Mothers' Union Projects both home and abroad.

Please be our eyes and our ears in our community to enable us to identify any needs that we may be of assistance, so please bring them to our attention.

Love and Best Wishes
Margaret (Holland) Branch Leader.

*All this day, O Lord,
Let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen.*

Written in 1876 by our founder, Mary Sumner.

Ladies Guild

Is it just me or does time seem to be flying by? The older I get the quicker it goes as does my memory come to that!!! I almost wrote about last years trip if I hadn't run it past the girls on Wednesday. My years months and days are merging.

Anyway off we go. We helped out at the stall in the Carnival last year and what fun it was - lots of people stopping for a chat and we all had a lovely day. It's such a nice event and a chance to catch up with people you haven't seen in years as it always fetches people back to the village again. I talked all day not a bit like me. Ha ha ha...

Back all the way in August a few of the girls went to see Anton in the Brangwyn Hall a good time was had by all and they had a fabulous time. Anton was very entertaining I missed it due to my bestie's sons wedding but that is a whole other story not to be aired here!!!!

We also went to see Sister Act in the Grand - bit of a late booking - but we managed with the seats we had it was a good evening and all who went enjoyed. Just for once we didn't have anyone sitting in our seats either.

As we are now a small number in Guild we take turns as you know in hosting, but every now and again we spend an evening out having a meal. One such evening was spent at the Railway in Penclawdd. It was a lovely evening and the sun was shining through the window. The food was absolutely lovely - even Mary found something she could eat!! We have been to the Harvester in Gowerton a few times too as its pretty local it's an easy option. It's good to get out to support one another and have a chinwag and a laugh. At Christmas we again let the other halves come along and enjoyed a lovely evening: good food, good company and it was nice for the men to see how we rock and roll in Guild. It's nice to take them out now and again and they insist on paying. Win-win ha ha!

This year the Rev Julie Wagstaff came along too and we were more than pleased she felt she could join us. You can always come along Jul'.

We haven't managed many trips this year but we did manage a trip to St. Brides Spa in Saundersfoot for afternoon tea. As always we set off early morning in the pouring rain. Just 5 of us managed to go, so we took my vehicle. We got there in record time parked the car and got out in the rain to find a place for brekkie. We found a decent little cafe that did a lovely vegetarian breakfast. Mary was delighted. Reasonably priced, we spent a good while sheltering from the rain whilst they took their medication. As we were in a quiet corner, it wasn't the problem it had been that time in Worcester (if you remember). Mary spent a fortune in a cosy little shop on a lovely pink mac that you might have seen her wearing. I almost bought a mirror that had a magnified side but found it too scary looking at the craters in my face and the stray hairs that you can't see normally, so I didn't bother. We wandered through the rain around the small quaint little shops hiding from the rain and trying to keep dry 'til it was time for our special tea. We sat outside the sandwich shop in a lull from the rain looking up at the spa. Good job we had the car as the road is very steep. We sat and chatted, went into the designer store for a wander, then back to the car. Off up to the spa we were shown to our table overlooking the bay. It had cleared up and the view was amazing. The staff were outstanding and explained all about the menu. Wow - the tea was well worth it. We had a selection of tiny sandwiches which Jan and I polished off in record time. There were scones, pastries and little tarts and enough tea to sink a ship. Von M and Von W couldn't finish theirs so they boxed it up for them. Mary had the veggie option and thoroughly enjoyed. We took the scenic route back and we had had a lovely day.

Not exactly a trip, but it is quite an excursion over the common to Tinks!!!! When the hot tub was finished she invited us over to christen the said tub. There is something quite invigorating about sitting in a tub of hot water bubbling out in the open under the stars to make you feel quite humble. Lucky no one could see us hot-footing it across Tinks' patio

to get back into the house to change. It's amazing how fast you can run when its freezing cold.

I read a quote recently that I would like to share with you. "I don't have time to beat myself up over my fallible nature. Instead I use my energy to learn from my past and let it inform my future. It's time to own all of our glory, mistakes, mess and light and be gentle to ourselves. Let's be kind to our spirits and celebrate the truth of our hearts." (So) let's be kind and gentle to ourselves and remember it can be just one step at a time. Act on feelings that will use our energy to do positive building rather than negative.

We as a Guild support one another and try to help each other through life's trials and tribulations, but we also are there to celebrate the good times. Live, laugh, love, cry - all go hand-in-hand. I thank every one of my friends in Guild for the love and support they have shown to me over the past year. My thanks goes to Von M for all the hard work she does with the finances in Guild - no mean feat I can tell you. Thanks also to Mary, Sue, Von W, Von M, Tinks and Jan for hosting Guild evenings.

Very tired now so I'm signing off. Next year I'm going to do this report early. Yeah right!!!!

Sue xxxx.

Safeguarding

Just a quick update on Safeguarding. As I said in last year's report, we at St.Barnabas want to ensure that all our congregation are as safe and secure as possible. The new Safeguarding policy helps us to ensure we do this to the best of our ability. Each member of the P.C.C. has been required to read and sign that s/he understands the new policy. Julie and I went to a meeting at the beginning of this year to hear more about the new policy, and there is another meeting in May. If anyone is interested in attending this meeting, please contact myself Ian or Julie and we will give you details of time, date and venue.

The Safeguarding policy is available on line. Or if you wish to view it in the old fashioned format please contact me as I have a copy. I have also put some information on the notice board in the church hall, regarding useful telephone numbers and info on safety, cold calling etc.

Safeguarding is something we should all be concerned with. So please if you have any queries or concerns or if you need some advice that I can help with or signpost you to someone who can help, please contact me. My telephone number is on the notice board.

Best wishes

Mary (Taylor)

Fabric

In April 2016 a gas feed was laid into the kitchen enabling us to "commission" our large gas hob and oven, ideal for the "Barney's Big Breakfast" Saturday mornings we ran later in the year and which are now quite firmly a part of our fundraising cycle...! We also had several well-attended "work parties" throughout the year to assist not only in keeping the pathways around the churchyard clear, but also helping sort out the "clutter" in the attic and office and, by popular demand, removing the 2 sprawling "bushes" by the side entrance to the church, allowing us space to recreate the former children's garden or to erect our gazebo for social events over the summer months... My grateful thanks to all those who participated, and especially to John Evans for his help in rebuilding and fitting the missing manhole cover and for re-erecting the framework for the St Barnabas signboard in the church grounds...

The church Quinquennial Inspection was completed in November 2016 and whilst the fabric of the entire building remains sound, remedial work like stonework repointing and repairs to the nave windows and entrance gates will need to be addressed... The church would also benefit enormously from redecoration both inside and out... The PCC hopes to target these areas in the near future...

Can I make a plea to all communicants and to those in the wider community to please support our fund-raising activities in whatever form they take, so that all can share and participate in the growth of our mission and ministry here at St Barnabas...?

Antony (Bidder)

Traidcraft

St Barnabas continues as a 'fairtrade church', affirmed back in 2015 when the Church in Wales became the first Fair Trade Province of the Anglican Communion after two thirds of churches committed to using fairly sourced and funded tea, coffee and other products. We at St Barnabas proudly continue as one of those churches with a number of years behind us being part of this now.

So we use only Traidcraft and fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar in the kitchen. Despite not being able to be so directly involved, Barbara and Roger (Harris), two of our parishioners, run a regular stall every 2 to 3 weeks after the 10 o'clock service, so please make the most of this and treat yourself to some lovely items. The chocolate is always a favourite and I know some will be looking forward to Lent being over! It is also important to buy fairtrade items in the supermarkets, local shops, Marks and Spencer, etc. as it will increase demand and they are now becoming the norm amongst the range available. The fairtrade "Real Easter Egg" will be available again this Easter and the range of flavours has increased.

As a church, it is our Christian duty and joy to love and serve our fellow human beings around the globe - and it is by buying fairtrade (tea, coffee, clothes, cards, jewellery, Easter eggs, footballs...) that we are making a huge difference to people in poor countries. They can then afford to send their children to school (yes, despite their poverty they have to pay to go to school and buy their books); we are boosting the self-esteem of women by increasing their income; the more Divine chocolate bars we buy, the higher the value of the shares that the producers hold. The more we push the big supermarkets and shopping chains to sell fairtrade products the better - it's our buying that they take note of and sell accordingly. Thank you for continuing to support this very worthy cause.

Jaki (Truscott)

Music

"When I feel the touch of Your hand upon my life, it causes me to sing a song, that I love You Lord" (Mission Praise No 753)

We recognise that music feeds the soul in all walks of life.

So this is one of our hopes.....to meet you on your journey of Christian discipleship and enhance your worship experience week by week.

Many hymns, old and new, are words taken directly from Scripture. Sometimes, reading the words has a powerful message in itself as God speaks to us in varied ways.

Our choice of hymns, mostly based on the set readings, draws us into worship and adoration of our awesome God.

A 'Songs of Praise' service was held in late summer with some good strong participation from the community and we hope to repeat it in 2017.

So let us:

'Sing to God new songs of worship.....

Show (y)our joy to God the King.

(Mission Praise 600)

Maureen

Treasurer

In everything give thanks: 1 Thess. 5:18

Last month, the PCC was delighted to host a Thanksgiving Lunch in joyful recognition of God's generosity to us all and also of your generosity to his church here in Waunarlyydd during 2016. We wanted to recognise what can be achieved when we follow God's call to share all that he gives us with others and to celebrate how we are all working together to establish God's kingdom of equality and justice. So, a huge thank you to those who work tirelessly both financially and in love and service in showing God's love here in Waunarlyydd and beyond. It is both a privilege and a great joy to work alongside each and every one of you and to call you friends and family.

As I look at the accounts for last year, I am filled with joy and optimism. Income was greater than 2015 to the tune of approximately £7000, with overall increases in planned and unplanned giving, along with a greater number of fees for weddings and funerals alongside gas and electricity refunds. Overall expenditure was £1000 less than 2015. Our finances are looking healthy.

The number of Standing Orders has increased by 100% which has enabled us to plan and budget effectively.

Income/Expenditure figures = +1.2% for 2016, compared to -0.5% last year.

Because of committed support we were able to:

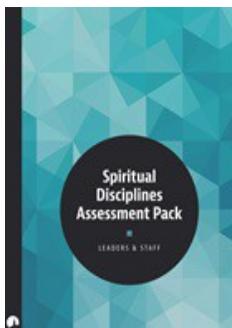
- Pay the parish share in full, before the end of the year
- Start up the "Butterflies at St Bs" playgroup which is a thriving, flourishing group

- Extend the "Open the Book", classes at Waunarlwydd Primary
- Provide Easter and Christmas experiences that are exciting, challenging and rewarding to pupils and staff at the two local primary schools
- Increase mission support from 3% of our income to 8%
- Install storage facilities in the hall
- Undertake renovations in the kitchen to improve facilities and storage

Looking ahead, we can plan for the continued growth of God's kingdom in this village of Waunarlwydd with confidence.

I want to share with you all an article, which certainly made me think about my own giving:

'The Spiritual Discipline of Giving: when we give generously, we get a glimpse of the abundance of God' written by Keri Wyatt Kent.



Finally, my 16-year-old neighbour Katie is done with chemo and has a clean medical report. I stopped by to talk to her mum today. She's been my friend since the kids were in nursery. We were both teary eyed, standing on the very edge of a journey that still progresses one day at a time, sharing a heart-felt hug.

Katie's mum thanked me for what I'd given them during these tough months—meals, just stopping by to talk, a bag of cakes now and then. To me, these were small things. I wish I could have given more—but giving in a small way brought me joy.

Jesus gave everything on the cross. We are about to celebrate Easter, where we remember the gift that he gave, which opened the door to the best gift—eternal life.

What could be more loving than giving? To say you love but not show it is not love at all. I would also argue that there is little that is more transforming than generosity. When we serve or give in quiet, through behind-the-scenes sorts of ways, we demonstrate a powerful love, and we tap into that love ourselves.

Author and activist Shane Claiborne offers this challenging observation in 'The Irresistible Revolution': "If you ask most people what Christians believe, they can tell you, 'Christians believe that Jesus is God's Son and that Jesus rose from the dead.' But if you ask the average person how Christians live, they are struck silent. We have not shown the world another way of doing life. Christians pretty much live like everybody else, they just sprinkle in a little Jesus along the way."

What if we could show the world another way of doing life? What if we consistently practiced the spiritual discipline of giving? Not just so that others can see it, but so that we are transformed. If we choose, for example, to live on less than we make, so that we can give away money, stuff, food, and so on to people in need, it will not only show people a way to live, and help some folks, it will change our hearts. To live a life of generosity is to declare that you will do more than just "sprinkle in a little Jesus."

Giving is a spiritual discipline that is often, unfortunately, associated with obligation. And for many, the discipline of giving is also wrought with fear—if I give away some of my very limited resources, how I will

ever have enough? Giving changes your perspective. You realize how much you have. When we give, we get a glimpse of the abundance of God. When we hoard out of fear, we live in a mindset of scarcity that robs us of intimacy with God.

In today's economic climate, giving is a spiritual discipline that will have a radical impact on the world. People around us will see our love in tangible ways. We can give money, time, stuff—we all have something to offer, even when we think we have very little. We can give the gift of time, which is a rare and beautiful gift.

Now, the problem, of course, is that Jesus said that we should not brag about our giving or do it in a showy way just to impress others ([Matt. 6:1-4](#)). But our decision to give instead of purchasing the latest gadget or the trendiest clothes results in satisfaction that nothing else can touch. Giving is much more than dropping a cheque in the offering plate. If we bring a meal or a loaf of bread to a friend going through a difficult time, we find we are fed.

The key to the discipline of giving, which will transform us and the world around us, is to see all that we have—time, talents, and treasures—as valuables on loan from the Creator. We are stewards of these resources, and our assignment is to invest them in a way that maximizes the return—not for ourselves but for the benefit of the kingdom.

As a follow on from this, God needs YOU to share your time, talents and treasures here at his church in Waunarlwydd. There is so much more we need to do within this community to show another way of doing life. We have lots of ideas and suggestions how to move forward. We **ARE** moving forward! Can you **FEEL** it? Can you **SEE** it? Come and be part of it!

Can YOU help?

Will YOU help?

A Thanksgiving Prayer

Heavenly Father:

We thank you for food and remember the hungry.

We thank you for health and remember the sick.

We thank you for friends and remember the friendless.

We thank you for freedom and remember the enslaved.

May these remembrances stir us to service,
that your gifts to us may be used for others. Amen.

Wishing you all every blessing in the name of Our Lord and Saviour,
Jesus Christ.....Amen

Thank you, Christine

Accounts 2017 – Receipts

GENERAL FUND AS AT 31/12/2015	1248.05
DIRECT GIVING - PLANNED	3444.00
DIRECT GIVING UNPLANNED	4473.50
GIFT AID	15401.23
GIFT DAY	0.00
HMRC	4483.22
RENTS	614.38
DONATIONS	2179.30
FUNDRAISING	1060.00
200 CLUB	1005.00
QUIZ	0.00
SOCIAL EVENTS	384.50
SALES	67.11
WEDDING/FUNERAL FEES	2305.00
BAPTISM/WEDDING COLLECTIONS	154.90
RESTORATION APPEAL	0.00
CHARITIES	1067.59
CHURCHYARD	1330.00
BANK INTEREST	10.50
GRANTS	0.00
CHURCH IN WALES LOAN	0.00
REFUNDS	1038.90
GRAVEYARD ACCOUNT @31/12/15	2162.24
RESTORATION APPEAL ACCOUNT AS AT 31/12/2015	798.71

TOTAL RECEIPTS

43228.13

Accounts 2017 – Expenditure

PARISH SHARE	23300.2
VICAR'S EXPENSES	162.00
WATER RATES	276.71
ELECTRICITY/GAS	1460.00
INSURANCE	876.52
REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE	1717.62
ALTAR REQUISITES	278.41
ORGANIST	460.00
PRINTING/STATIONERY	381.30
BOOKS	21.50
JUNIOR/MESSY CHURCH	481.74
200 CLUB	450.00
GRAVEYARD MAINTENANCE	0.00
REPAYMENT OF LOAN	0.00
Butterflies	182.78
RESTORATION WORK	0.00
SOCIAL EVENTS	330.94
CHARITIES	1950.26
SUNDRIES	514.17
CHURCH/GRAVEYARD ACCOUNT@31/12/16	3502.34
RESTORATION ACCOUNT @ 30/12/16	799.11
GENERAL FUND @ 31/12/16	6052.53
UNCASHED CHEQUES @ 31/12/15	50.00
SUB-TOTAL	43248.13
UNCASHED CHEQUES @31/12/16(MINUS)	20.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	43228.13

General Fund/Graveyard Account/ Restoration Appeal

Receipts and Payments for the period ending 31/12/16

Receipts	2015	2016
VOLUNTARY INCOME		
Planned Giving	17364.30	18845.23
loose collection	2500.51	4628.40
Donations	2096.70	2179.30
For mission	825.45	1067.59
Tax refunds	4731.42	4483.22
Legacy gifts received	0.00	0.00
Grants	350.00	0.00
GENERATED INCOME		
Money raising	2732.83	3130.99
Fees	999.50	3635.00
INVESTMENT INCOME		
	6.84	10.50
OTHER INCOME		
	592.07	1038.90
Total Current Account Income	32199.62	39019.13
PAYMENTS		
SUPPORT FOR MINISTRY-Parish Share	25322.84	23300.20
Parochial expenses of clerics	178.20	162.00
Other	0.00	
PARISH ACTIVITIES		
Maintenance of Services	680.75	759.91
General Parish Expenses	627.44	895.47
CHURCH PROPERTY		
Maintenance of Church	4752.04	4330.85
Maintenance of other property		
Exceptional expenditure		
GRANTS & OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT		
Mission - Parish	257.92	664.52
Mission - Home/World	826.12	1950.26
OTHER RESOURCES EXPENDED		
Capital payments	402.92	0.00
Cost of Money Raising	717.16	780.94
TOTAL PAYMENT	33765.39	32844.15
BANK BALANCES @1/1/2016		
uncashed cheques 31/12/2015(minus)	-77.24	50.00
uncashed cheques 31/12/2016	50.00	20.00
BANK BALANCES @ 31/12/2016	4209.00	10353.98

Churchyard Account (Restricted Funds)

	2015	2016
BANK ACCOUNT	AS AT 31/12/15	AS AT 31/12/16
Balance	1466.30	2162.24
RECEIPTS		
Graveyard/garden of Remembrance	689.50	1330.00
Transfer from General Fund	1800.00	
Interest	6.44	10.10
TOTAL INCOME	3962.24	3502.34
PAYMENTS		
Grounds	0.00	0.00
Capital Expenditure	0.00	0.00
Transfer to General fund	1800.00	
TOTAL PAYMENTS	1800.00	0.00
BANK BALANCE @31/12/15	2162.24	3502.34

RESTORATION APPEAL ACCOUNT(Restricted Funds)

	AS AT 31/12/15	AS AT 31/12/16
BANK ACCOUNT	798.31	798.71
RECEIPTS		
Capital Income		
Transfer from General Fund		
Interest	0.40	0.40
TOTAL RECEIPTS	798.71	799.11
PAYMENTS		
Maintenance of property	0.00	0.00
Transfer to General Fund	0.00	0.00
Capital Expenditure	0.00	0.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS	0.00	0.00
BANK BALANCE	AS AT 31/12/15	AS AT 31/12/16
	798.71	799.11

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	As at period ending	31/12/15	31/12/16
BANK ACCOUNT BALANCES			
Current Account (General Fund)		1248.05	6052.53
Restoration Appeal(Building Fund)		798.71	799.11
Church Graveyard Account		2162.01	3502.34
TOTAL BANK ACCOUNT BALANCE		4208.77	10353.98
 CURRENT DEBTORS			
 CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Church in Wales(Loan)		0.00	0.00
Parish Share		1000.00	0.00
	TOTAL LIABILITIES	1000.00	0.00
 FIXED ASSETS			
Hall furniture/kitchen equipment/television sound system/ Replacement Value		6600.00	6600.00
Garden equipment/ lawnmower/strimmer Replacement Value		1100.00	1100.00

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE CHURCH BUILDING/HALL, CHURCH CONTENTS AND THE GRAVEYARD ARE HELD IN TRUST BY THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY OF THE CHURCH IN WALES

Budget/Actual/2016/2017

RECEIPTS	Budget	Actual	Budget
	2016	2016	2017
VOLUN TARY INCOME			
Planned giving	16500.00	17553.00	17000.00
Unplanned (Loose)	2500.00	4059.00	4000.00
Donations	500.00	1822.00	500.00
For mission	1000.00	956.00	1000.00
Tax refunds	4500.00	4483.00	5000.00
Legacy gifts	0.00	0.00	0.00
Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00
GENERATED INCOME			
Fund rising	4000.00	2668.00	4000.00
Fees	1000.00	2145.00	1500.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	0.00	0.30	0
OTHER INCOME	0.00	1039.00	0.00
TOTAL	30000.00	34725.30	33000.00
PAYMENTS			
SUPPORT FOR MINISTRY			
Parish share	24000.00	23300.00	23213.00
Parochial expenses of Clerics	1200.00	162.00	1200.00
Other	100.00	0.00	0.00
PARISH ACTIVITIES			
Maintenance of Services	800.00	780.00	800.00
General Parish Expenses	700.00	895.00	1000.00
CHURCH PROPERTY			
Maintenance of Church	5000.00	3921.00	5000.00
Maintenance of other property	1000.00	0.00	1000.00
Exceptional Expenditure	0.00	0.00	0.00
GRANTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT			
Mission Parish	500.00	950.00	1000.00
Mission home/World	1000.00	1815.00	1500
OTHER RESOURCES EXPENDED			
Capital payments	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cost of Money Raising	1000.00	750.00	1000.00
TOTAL	35300.00	32573.00	35713.00

"Thanks very much to Dave (Jones) for kindly & skilfully (and very patiently!) compiling, typesetting and printing this report"

