

# **THE PARISH OF ST MARY, WINGFIELD**



**AGENDA**  
**for the Meeting of Parishioners**  
**and**  
**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**on Sunday, 24 March 2019**  
**in St Mary's Church at 11am**  
**with the**

**MINUTES**  
**of the Meetings of 29 April 2018**  
**and the**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT**  
**FOR THE YEAR 2018**

# THE PARISH OF ST MARY, WINGFIELD

## Agendas for the Meetings to be held in St Mary's Church on Sunday, 24 March 2019 at 11am

### MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

Opening Prayers

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on 29 April 2018
3. Matters Arising
4. Appointment of Churchwardens

### ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the APCM held on 29 April 2018
3. Matters arising
4. Electoral Roll Report
5. Annual Reports and Accounts
  - a. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2018
  - b. Churchwardens' Report on fabric, goods and ornaments
  - c. Deanery Synod Report
6. Elections and appointments
  - a. PCC members
  - b. Sidespersons
  - c. Independent Examiner of the accounts
7. Rector's Report: 'The Year Ahead'
8. Any other business and questions

### Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on Sunday, 29 April 2018 at 11am at St Mary's Church

**Present:** Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis, Pat Brewer, Jacqui Brown, Michael Copland-Griffiths, Ken Fuller, Wendy Hutchings, Monica Hynes, Cecilia Hynes-Higman, Harold McDonald, Sue Phillips, Bob & Carol Marquiss and Mike Stillwell

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Jan Dando, Kiloran Howard and David Robinson
- 2. Minutes of the Meeting of Parishioners held on 5 April 2017:** these were agreed as a true record and signed by the Rector.
- 3. Matters arising:** there were none.
- 4. Appointment of Churchwardens:**

David Robinson, proposed by Mike Stillwell, seconded by Jacqui Browne. David was therefore declared appointed for the coming year.

Joanna thanked David very much (in his absence) for his very committed and compassionate work over yet another year, as both sole churchwarden and PCC Secretary.

## **Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Sunday, 29 April 2018 at 11.05am at St Mary's Church**

**Present:** Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis, Pat Brewer, Jacqui Brown, Michael Copland-Griffiths, Ken Fuller, Wendy Hutchings, Monica Hynes, Cecilia Hynes-Higman, Harold McDonald, Sue Phillips, Bob & Carol Marquiss and Mike Stillwell

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Jan Dando, Kiloran Howard and David Robinson
- 2. Minutes of the APCM held on 5 April 2017:** these were agreed as a true record and signed by the Rector.
- 3. Matters arising:** there were none.
- 4. Electoral Roll Report:** this was given by Mike Stillwell. There were now 52 members on the Roll (so one less than the previous year). Of these, 39 were resident in Wingfield, and 13 were not. Mike Stillwell kindly agreed to stand as Electoral Roll Officer again.

**5. Annual Reports and Accounts** (circulated in advance of the meeting)

**a) Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2017**

These had been completed by Jacqui Browne and once again Independently Examined by Jon Trimby. They had been circulated to church members along with Jacqui's detailed written report. She pointed out that we had achieved a surplus of £4,387 which was up by £2000 on the previous year, and so the 'books balanced' comfortably. In response to a question from Ken, Jacqui acknowledged that there was some asbestos contained in the roof behind the organ (where the old organ pump was housed). Joanna thanked Jacqui very much for her work over the year and everyone concurred. She responded that it was a team effort, and so we were all very grateful for Mike's 'on the ground' contribution as well.

**b) Churchwarden's Report on fabric, goods and ornaments**

In David's absence, Joanna referred members to his written report following a good and stable year, and highlighted in particular his (and our) thanks to so many who faithfully supported St Mary's, from Jan and her opening and closing team, Bob and Marjorie and their churchyard team, Wendy and her flower-arranging team, to Jacqui and her financial team, and so many others...

And she also took the opportunity to thank David and flag up the enormous contribution which he makes to the smooth and happy life from which so many others benefit at St Mary's.

**c) Deanery Synod Report**

In David's absence, Joanna reported on what had been a good and varied year, and referred church members to the detailed written report.

**6. Elections and appointments**

**a) PCC members**

There were no nominations for new PCC members. But Joanna said that Kiloran was resigning from the PCC, as she was increasingly unable to manage the meetings.

**b) Sidespersons**

These were confirmed as: Emma Grant, Bob & Carol Marquiss, Sue Phillips and Mike & Su Stillwell according to availability (with David Robinson as an 'understudy'), and the Rota would be organised by Sally, the benefice administrator.

### **c) Independent Examiner of the accounts**

Jon Trimby had agreed to continue as Independent Examiner: proposed by Jacqui Browne, seconded by Michael Copland-Griffiths, and agreed by all.

### **7. Rector's Report: 'The Year Ahead'**

Joanna began by commenting on the written Annual Report, which gave a remarkably clear and vivid account of our life as a church family in 2017 and showed just how much had been achieved for a small village church, and how far we had travelled! And this was of course due to our team of (all too often) unsung heroes who, like all those who cleaned and polished, and those who cared for and visited others, and guarded keys and wisdom... just quietly 'got on with it' behind the scenes. And so she offered a big 2017 thank you to them all individually, not forgetting those outside the parish: so Ali, who was such a great support and inspiration to us all, and Sally and Aylene who kept us all in order, again, behind the scenes.

And then, before moving on to 'the year ahead', she remembered before God and each one gathered there, Bernard Pendle, who had died on 3 March (less than 2 months ago) at the age of 74, far too young and after having struggled for many years with pretty relentless illness. She thanked God for him and for the many blessings which he had offered us all over so many years, some of which we had heard about at his amazing funeral. And she commented on how good it was now to have Marcus Sealy in the village and that they had been able to spend time together. *May he rest in peace and rise in glory.*

As to the year ahead, as ever, we were tossing around ideas as to how best to move forward as a church family. Joanna said how we longed to serve our community, of all ages, in the best possible way, always being open to new initiatives and ideas, communicating those ideas well and, above all, serving God and worshipping him in the beauty of holiness. But that we should always remember that it took an acorn for an oak tree to grow, and that some small, new initiatives had started at Holy Trinity and at Westwood in the past year. She then outlined the Church's 'Five Marks of Mission', which provided a useful framework: *TELL - TEACH - TEND - TRANSFORM - TREASURE.*

#### **1. TELL - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom**

This was our core mission and so our core task as a PCC, for everything else flowed from it. Our worship needed always to be of the very best that we could muster, open to growth, and sensitive to the needs of those we served (of all ages) *today*.

#### **2. TEACH - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers**

During the last year, we had had the joy of 7 Baptisms. But this was an area where we could, and should, do more.

#### **3. TEND - To respond to human need by loving service**

This was something we were good at, and it was the responsibility of us all. And how great to be known as a church who 'tends'.

#### **4. TRANSFORM - To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation**

This was the subject of Joanna's Rector's Letter in the May *Parish News*. We lived in a very unjust world and a world longing for the transforming love of Christ. So we had supported Christian Aid, the Kadugli Diocese in Sudan (where there was a *massive* need for the promotion of peace and reconciliation), the Alabare Project in Salisbury, the Jerusalem & Middle East Churches Association, and the Children's Society. This was a serious responsibility for any church. *How* could we seek to transform? Money, yes. But there was also prayer, action, and simply the spreading of awareness.

5. TREASURE - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

Holy Trinity were now the proud holders of a Church Times Green Church Buildings Award, a Fair Trade Church Certificate and an Eco-Church Silver Award! This was the result of a lot of hard work, but showed a real commitment to 'treasure' the integrity of God's amazing creation. So we had an amazing churchyard at St Mary's, and plenty of people who clearly 'treasured' God's creation in so many different ways. So maybe there was something here for us at Wingfield to look at too?

Joanna ended with a prayer by Thomas Merton, which applies to each of us individually, but also to us as a church...

*My Lord God,  
I have no idea where I am going.  
I do not see the road ahead of me.  
I cannot know for certain where it will end.  
nor do I really know myself,  
and the fact that I think I am following your will  
does not mean that I am actually doing so.  
But I believe that the desire to please you  
does in fact please you.  
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.  
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.  
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road,  
though I may know nothing about it.  
Therefore will I trust you always though  
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.  
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,  
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

### **8. Any other business and questions**

- Jacqui raised the possibility of an 'eco churchyard' and the wildlife which could be encouraged (eg green woodpeckers) and the balance between a 'wild' and a 'tidy' churchyard was discussed. Ken pointed out that there were 73 different lichens present!
- With the frail and elderly in mind, Ken asked about the possibility of a rail up the chancel step, and sitting for the gospel. It was agreed to look into the former, and that anyone was always totally welcome to sit for the gospel, but that people should be free to stand if they wished.
- Ken also thought that more concerts would be a good idea, and that this would boost income.
- Michael C-G commented on how good it was to see the school using the church.

The meeting closed at 11.50am following The Grace.

**THE PARISH OF ST MARY, WINGFIELD  
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2018**

**Administrative information**

The parish is part of the Benefice of Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity, Westwood and Wingfield, within the Bradford Group Ministry, in the Deanery of Bradford, in the Diocese of Salisbury, within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:

The Vicarage, 18A Woolley Street, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1AF

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempt from registration with the Charity Commission and the PCC members are its Trustees.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2018 until the date this Report was approved are:

*Rector:*

The Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis                      Chair

*Churchwarden:*

David Robinson                                              Vice-Chair, also Secretary

*Representative on the Deanery Synod:*

David Robinson

*Elected members:*

Jacqui Browne                                              Treasurer & Planned Giving Officer

Michael Copland-Griffiths

Emma Grant

Kiloran Howard                                              (until APCM)

Bob Marquiss

Mike Stillwell

**Structure, governance and management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

**Aim and purposes**

Wingfield PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Joanna Abecassis, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the church buildings and contents, together with the care and maintenance of the churchyard.

**Objectives and Activities**

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Mary. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- worship and prayer, learning about the gospel, and developing their christian faith
- provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish
- missionary and outreach work

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary.

## REVIEW OF THE YEAR 2018

### **Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church and the Churchyard**

2018 has been, thankfully, an uneventful year for St Mary's Church. No major repairs have been necessary other than some tidying up of smaller issues to which our attention was drawn in the Quinquennial Inspection of 2016. There still remains one major issue to resolve, being the font base which, although secured by the addition of a metal band, should be further repaired at some point before the next inspection.

However, we have been made aware that some work will be necessary to the organ next year where issues relating to the pneumatic pedal action have been reported.

I should like to record the sad passing of Bernard Pendle, our organist here for many years and indeed the choirmaster in earlier years. He was a keen organist and took great interest in the instrument in the church as well as the music of the church. He was the driving force behind the Christmas Candlelight Concert, now a permanent feature of our Christmas festivities. Through this he did much to ensure our link with the Mead Primary School in the village was maintained.

The opening of the church on a daily basis continues to be much appreciated by all who visit and sign the visitors' book. The arrangements for this continue to be supported by the many volunteers led by Jan Dando.

We must record our thanks again to Bob Coulthard and his band of volunteers who have continued restorative work around the church yard. Their work enhances the beauty of the churchyard which is often referred to by many of the visitors.

We must also record our thanks to Wingfield Parish Council for its continuing donation towards the cost of regular grass cutting and strimming in the churchyard undertaken by the new contractor. This has been a great improvement over previous years.

This was the second year of holding the Fête at the Poplars Pub and with much better weather it was again hugely successful. We are most grateful to Bernie and Carol Camish and all their family for hosting it there. And to Kate Hatfield for her organisational skills and all villagers who have helped. However, it has become clear that the moment has arrived where a break from the Fête is required and so it will not take place in 2019. Other fund raising ideas are to be pursued.

Finally, our Church of St Mary could not survive without the support of the many other volunteers – and not necessarily members of the congregation - who work tirelessly to keep our church looking beautiful and welcoming. They include;

- Wendy Hutchings and her team of flower arrangers, always so beautifully supplied and arranged, particularly for the big occasions.
- The team who clean the church.
- Key holders Ken and Wendy Fuller.
- The team of regular and volunteer sidesmen.
- The team for distributing the bi-monthly newsletter around the village and outlying farms and houses.
- The team that organises events during the year, notably the Fête.
- Our organists, David Hillier and Muriel Freeborn.

David Robinson  
Churchwarden

## **Deanery Synod Report**

*Synod met three times in 2018:*

21 February @ St James, Trowbridge

14 June @ St Michael & All Angels, Melksham

17 October @ Holy Trinity Church, Bradford on Avon

### *Speakers throughout 2018*

At the February meeting, Emma Heath of the Christian charity 'Recovery Two' spoke.

This charity was established to reach those suffering from the effects of addiction. Emma spoke from her own first hand personal experience of addiction. Emma explained how the charity helps people with courses and practical support. Literature was available for those attending the meeting to take away with them.

At the June meeting, Sarah Keen who is the Programme Manager for 'Renewing Hope in Rural Ministry' spoke. The National Church is fully supportive of this mission. In the Diocese of Salisbury 90% of parishes and 50% of the population is rural. Rural Churches have a unique dynamic and are deeply rooted in the wider community. Sarah's PowerPoint was emailed to all Synod members.

At the October meeting, the Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum, spoke in his capacity as working for M4M – Ministry for Mission. Alan's PowerPoint was emailed to all Synod members as it contained really key and interesting information, and shared exciting developments and activities taking place across the Diocese.

### *Clergy comings and goings*

Revd Shona Hoad moved to a different Diocese

Father Oliver Learmont welcomed to North Bradley, Steeple Ashton and Southwick

Revd Alastair Wood welcomed to Upper Studley

### *Deanery Share*

David Robinson the Deanery Treasurer was pleased to report that the 2018 share had been paid in full.

### *Elections*

In June 2018, elections were held for the Diocesan Synod and Board of Finance. There were four lay and one clergy members who were nominated and appointed.

### *Sudan*

Dave Lewis provided regular updates either in person at Synod meetings or via reports sent on email to representatives. These were very informative and up to date on matters of concern, funding, health care and education provision. A significant project for the year was to fund raise for the Peace Primary School, which is now being built. There have been a number of events and collections across the Deanery to help with this wonderful project.

### *Lay Worship Leaders*

In 2018 sixteen lay people from across the Deanery completed a ten-session course to become Lay Worship Leaders. Revd Rob Thomas, Revd Ann Keating and Revd John Rees led the course with one session being led by Ben Jarvis, which was about "including music in worship". A commissioning service took place on 30 September 2018 at Christ Church, Bradford on Avon.

### *Lay Pastoral Assistants*

In 2018, four lay people from the Deanery completed a Lay Pastoral Assistants course and were licensed for this role on 9 January 2019 at St. Katharine's Church, Holt.

### *Eco Church*

A number of churches have been successful in gaining awards for being an Eco Church and a very successful "Greener Bradford on Avon" event took place on 8 September 2018 at Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon with various stands, stalls and speakers. Congratulations to everyone.

### *Synod meetings*

Synod is open to all those who wish to attend. Meeting dates and locations are arranged well in advance and every effort is made to meet on different days of the week. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared.

Meeting dates and locations for 2019

13 February @ St Barnabas, Beanacre

11 June @ Holy Trinity, Trowbridge

17 October @ St Michael & All Angels, Hilperton

Dawn Farmer, Deanery Secretary

### **Treasurer's Report**

We achieved a surplus this year of £900 (£4,387 prior year). Total receipts remained relatively unchanged year on year. Due to some large gifts, donations were up by £1,485, however fees were down by £992. The Fête net income was very good at £4,448, a marginal increase over the previous year of £208. Following the PCC decision not to hold the Fête in 2019, the loss of this significant amount of income will be noticed in the 2019 accounts.

Our total expenses were up by £3,617 on last year. This rise was principally due to an increase in our Deanery Share by £1,720 to £14,772 and churchyard maintenance costs up by £775 to £1,400. However, the appearance of our churchyard has significantly improved this year and has been appreciated and complemented by our many visitors.

Our unrestricted reserves now stand at £16,702 and our restricted reserves amount to £9,620.

As ever, our thanks and gratitude are due to all those who have supported St Mary's both in our activities and financially over the past year.

Jacqui Browne  
Treasurer

**General (Unrestricted) Fund Receipts & Payments Account**

	2018 £	2018 £	2017 £	2017 £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>Voluntary Receipts</b>				
<b>Regular Giving</b>				
Parish giving Scheme	520		10	
Planned giving	11,234		12,232	
Collections	1,230		860	
Tax recovered (note 4)	3,657	16,641	3,441	16,543
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Other Voluntary Receipts</b>				
Donations - general	1,162		177	
Legacy	500		-	
Collections - outside giving	257	1,919	116	293
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Receipts from Activities for Generating Funds</b>				
Fete	4,728		4,340	
Concert with Monkton Combe	-	4,728	-	4,340
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Receipts from Church activities</b>				
Fees	794		1,786	
Harvest supper	-		481	
Parish Council grant	-		300	
Candlelight Concert	-			
Other	200	994	412	2,979
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Receipts from Investments</b>				
Bank & CBF Deposit interest		11		8
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>24,293</b>		<b>24,163</b>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>Church Activities</b>				
Outside Giving (note 5)	757		816	
Deanery Share	14,772		13,052	
Church running expenses (note 6)	2,961		2,483	
Insurance	1,925		1,832	
Buildings maintenance	888		163	
Churchyard	1,400		625	
Organists	410		290	
Expenses - Fete	280		100	
Expenses - Harvest Supper	-		415	
	<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>	
<b>Total Payments</b>		<b>23,393</b>		<b>19,776</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>900</b>		<b>4,387</b>
<b>Bank Accounts</b>				
At 1 January	Deposit	1,951		1,950
	Current a/c	13,851		9,465
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
			15,802	11,415
Surplus / (Deficit)			900	4,387
At 31 December	Deposit	1,952		1,951
	Current a/c	14,750		13,851
		<u>          </u>		<u>          </u>
		<b>16,702</b>		<b>15,802</b>

**Other Accounts  
Restricted Funds**

	Caillard Trust (Note 8) £	Graveyard Fund Capital £	Churchyard (Note 9) £	Total £
Balance at 1 January 2018	2,464	4,230	2,858	9,552
Donations	-	-	-	-
Expenditure	-	-	-	-
Capital depreciation	-	74	-	74
Investment income	-	-	141	141
Bank interest	-	-	1	1
Transferred to Current Account	-	-	-	-
Balance at 31 December 2018	2,464	4,156	3,000	9,620

**Statement of Assets at 31 December**

		2018 £	2017 £
<b>Unrestricted Funds</b>	Bank balances	16,702	15,802
<b>Restricted Funds</b>	Bank balances	3,000	2,997
	Investments	6,620	6,694
	Total assets	26,322	25,493

**Notes to the Accounts**

**1. Basis of preparation**

The accounts have been prepared on the simplified method of reporting which discloses the cash transactions of the PCC during the year by means of a receipts & payments account rather than using the accruals concept of accounting.

**2. Funds**

Unrestricted funds are available for the PCC to use as it sees fit for the purposes of the church. Restricted funds, which arise from bequests, special appeals or fund raising, may be used only for the purpose specified for the use of such funds

**3. Income**

Income is the amount received by the PCC and is shown gross of any related costs which are disclosed under payments

**4. Tax recovered**

Tax recovered relates to giving in the fiscal year 2017/18 and no accrual is made for the potential tax recovery on giving subsequent to 5 April 2018. This will be disclosed in next year's accounts.

**5. Outside giving**

The amount disclosed under Payments represents donations to charitable causes funded from special collections and Grants by the PCC.

**6. Church running expenses**

	2018 £	2017 £
Heat & light	1,080	742
Benefice costs	1,800	1,700
Other	81	41
Total	2,961	2,483

**7. Investments**

Investments in restricted funds are shown at valuation at year end.

**8. Caillard Trust (restricted fund)**

The church is a beneficiary of the net annual income of the Sir VP Caillard Trust - Wingfield. The trustees are The Rector & Churchwardens. The capital is invested in the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund. Interest is Paid direct to the Church bank account.

**9. Churchyard (restricted fund)**

Income is received on 258 units CBF Church of England Income Units held by Graveyard Fund - Capital.

## Independent examiner's report to the PCC of St Mary, Wingfield

This report on the financial statements of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2018 set out on pages 1 & 2 is in respect of an examination carried out in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 ("the Regulations") and section 43 of the Charities Act 1993 ("the Act").

### Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

As members of the PCC you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements. You consider that the audit requirement of the Regulations and section 43(2) of the Act do not apply. It is my responsibility to issue this report on those financial statements in accordance with the terms of the Regulations.

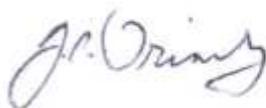
### Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 43(7)(b) of the Act and to be found in the Church Guidance, 2006 edition, issued by the Finance Division of the Archbishop's Council. That examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts with those records. It also includes considering any unusual items or disclosures in the financial statements and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

### Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- (1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
  - to prepare financial statements which accord with the accounting records and comply with the requirements of the Act and the Regulations have not been met; or
- (2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Mr J Trimby  
270 Trowbridge Road  
Bradford-on-Avon  
Wiltshire  
BA15 1EY

6th March 2019

## Rector's Report

We have enjoyed another good year at St Mary's, doubtless often touching lives in a way in which we are not aware. Rural Ministry is changing – broadening – and in many ways the church is poised to play a more and more important role in the local community as other public services continue to recede. Our network of deeply rooted personal relationships and our commitment to be salt and light, to love and to serve, is a powerful asset. As, of course, is the rather more traditional aspect of our historic church building and churchyard – both, in their own way, strikingly beautiful.

As David and Jacqui have already reported, we enjoyed another very successful Fête at The Poplars, thanks to a large team of incredibly dedicated and hard-working volunteers, under the very able leadership of Kate Hatfield. And the fine summer weather helped too! But, as they have also said, we have decided to 'end on a high' and take a break from the Fête for now. We also had a bit of a 'variation on a theme' for Harvest Festival in 2018 as it was the occasion for our celebration of the magnificent 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Harold McDonald!

And so, in a beautifully decorated Church, and after a good Harvest Family Service where Harold read the Lesson, we adjourned to the West end for the birthday party (one of several for Harold!). And then a few weeks later Harold's niece, Christine Moore, gave us a very enjoyable Birthday Concert on a Saturday afternoon, on cello and piano, and also provided interval refreshments.

But tradition continued for our Carol Singing a few days before Christmas at (ie inside!) the Poplars, with thanks to Bernie and Carol Camish for their warm hospitality. And a really good and festive time was had by all, whilst collecting for the Children's Society. And this of course followed the usual amazing Wingfield Candlelit Carol Concert, a week later this year, which, as ever, was very much a team effort but with especial thanks due to David and Fiona Robinson, and to Marcus Sealy at the organ – and was considered by many to be the best ever! We are so fortunate to have such a gifted and committed group of people who work incredibly hard to make these events the happy occasions and the success that they undoubtedly are – and, of course, for the warm and enthusiastic support of our local community.

### **Worship**

This has faithfully continued week by week according to our usual pattern. And the ministry of David Robinson and Mike Stillwell has once again been greatly appreciated at Morning Prayer and Family Service respectively. And Remembrance Sunday 2018, on the centenary



of the end of the First World War, was a particularly moving occasion, not least witnessing Harold's powerful contribution, shortly after his own 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. The photo was taken at a special lunch-party he attended afterwards.

And we are indebted to David Hillier and to Muriel Freeborn (another youngster at 91!) as our regular organists - both from Bradford on Avon, and to Marcus Sealy who has kindly played for us on occasion.

But of course we continued to miss both the music and presence of Bernard Pendle at the organ which he had played for so many years, and to which he gave such care.

We also had some good special services bringing in more members of the community on Mothering Sunday, at Easter, Harvest and on Christmas Day – and for the Carol Service on the Sunday before Christmas. We do all enjoy and appreciate worshipping together in a much fuller church, and welcome our visitors of all ages on these occasions.

The monthly Home Communion at the Fuller's (+ coffee and chocolate biscuits, of course) has continued to thrive and grow, as the fellowship and friendship has deepened. The group represents an important part of our regular acts of worship, with usually about 10 present. It is greatly appreciated and looked forward to as a priority by all those who attend.

Here are the 2018 statistics (2017 in brackets):

- Church attendance on a 'normal' Sunday (adults): 13 (13)
- Marriages: 0 (0)
- Baptisms: 6 (7)
- Funerals: 2 (1) + 0 (0) at the Crematorium
- Easter Day: 25 (29) communicants with 32 (36) attending
- Christmas Day: 78 (61) attending

### **The PCC**

The PCC met four times in 2018 (apart from the short meeting after the APCM) at Church Farm, and a good discussion is held each time. Once again, we are very grateful for all the support we have received and to have been able to pay our Diocesan Parish Share in full. We have considered a wide range of ideas, actions and proposals and both 'worship' and 'mission and the community' (not to mention Churchwarden and Treasurer Reports, Safeguarding and Health & Safety) are on every Agenda, as we toss around ideas for the future as well as discussing and deciding upon all the current issues to hand. And yet again David has excelled himself with his amazing hard work, dedication and support as sole churchwarden and PCC Secretary – multi-tasking effortlessly between admin, caring for the fabric and churchyard, caring for people *and* stepping in to lead Morning Prayer now and again. So thank you, David!

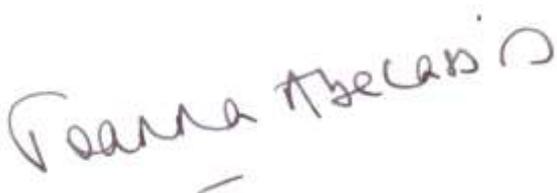
### **Church family**

It has been good to welcome some new people into the church this year, as we gradually become acclimatised to today's pattern of folk coming and going as and when. And then of course we all enjoyed the wonderful extended celebrations for Harold's centenary in October, and it is such a privilege and a joy to have his presence amongst us. But then it has been a sad year too as we lost Bernard Pendle, such a faithful pillar of St Mary's, in March; but were able to bid him farewell in some style (and great numbers) with Ali taking the service and Marcus playing the organ. And then in September there was the death of Pat Pethers, and in December, that of Jack Gray. All three were a great loss to the village and so it was good to be able to offer the spiritual context and support which only we at the Parish Church can do.

### **The Mead School, children and young people**

It has been good to see some of our younger members growing up, and to welcome young Fergus Furnell to join the rest of his family as a baptised member of God's Church in June. And then, through attendance at The Mead School, to baptise four members of the Cox family in October. We are so fortunate in having such an 'outstanding' and happy Primary School in the village, and to see the strength of the connection growing. It is a privilege to be asked to take Assemblies at the school and so to come to know the children at least 'by sight' – and then to host them in church for other services and plays. And it was special to hear their music teacher, Sandra Dixon, say at the Carol Concert just how thrilled they were to come! And they certainly sung wonderfully, and with great joy – and we loved having them.

So thank you one and all for another great year, 2018!



The Revd Canon Joanna Abecassis  
Chair, Wingfield PCC  
11 March 2019