

SAINT MARY WITH ST LEONARD, BROOMFIELD ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting takes place on Sunday 28th April 2019.

The meeting will take place following the 10.30am service.
The Vestry Meeting (for the election of Wardens) will be followed by the APCM.

The formal business will be followed by Lunch and the opportunity to share time together.

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Whereas every effort has been made to include all the activities in the life of St. Mary's Church within this Annual Review, there may be some omissions. We apologise for these and they are in no way deliberate. However, we hope that you will agree that this review gives a flavour of the many diverse groups that are active within the parish to promote our worship of God and to proclaim the Good News in the wider community.

Carol Knott
(PCC Secretary)

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✠ St. Mary with St. Leonard
Church Green, Broomfield, Chelmsford

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31 December 2018

1. Administrative Information

St. Mary with St. Leonard is part of the Diocese of Chelmsford, within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, 10 Butlers Close, Chelmsford, CM1 7BE.

As from the 23rd May 2017 St. Mary's PCC became a charity in its own right under the title "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St. Mary with St. Leonard, Broomfield" and with the charity number of 1173143.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2018 are:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Rev'd. Carolyn Tibbott	(Chair)
<i>Associate Priest:</i>	Rev'd. Anne Harvey	
<i>Curates:</i>	Rev'd. Julie Hardy Rev'd. Diana Garfield	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Peter Baker Margaret Powell Michael Jones	(Vice Chair) (Assistant Warden)
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod:</i>	Ros Mercer Derek Girdler Kathy Rouse	(Until April 2018) NCMMP Representative; (Hon. Secretary until April 2018)
<i>Other PCC members:</i>	Vic Barker Sue Browning Rachel Butterworth Sarah Clark David Ellingford Susan Garwood Lis Hardy Mike Harvey Carol Knott Alun Powell Jill Readings Trudy Stevens Jim Tibbott	(Until April 2018) (Hon. Secretary from July 2018) (Hon. Treasurer) (From April 2018) (Minutes Secretary from April 2018)

2. Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

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 may stand for election to the PCC. St. Mary with St. Leonard's Church gained independent Charity Status in 2017 resulting in all PCC members becoming Trustees.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish, including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC has a Standing Committee to progress decisions agreed by the PCC; and two groups responsible for reporting back to the PCC and referring to it for any decisions that need to be approved:

- The Churchyard Group: a small group which focuses on land issues, fencing, costing and legal issues concerning the churchyard extension composed of Peter Baker, Jim Tibbott, Sue Garwood and Mike Harvey; and
- The Funding Group: a small group to focus on fund raising and applying for grants for repairs to the organ and spire composed of: Alun Powell, Sue Browning, Rachel Butterworth and Trudy Stevens. The organ will be fully re-leathered and cleaned in the Summer of 2020 and will require over £30,000. The tower will be re-shingled with woodpecker-proof hardwood shingle and the weather vane will be repaired and replaced at the same time and this work will be in the region of £100,000.

Reports from both groups are included later in this Annual Review.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 78%, an increase of 7% on 2017. The Standing Committee also met on six occasions. A quiet time of approximately 10 minutes of reflection on a Bible passage was introduced at the beginning of PCC meetings in September 2017 and this is being continued.

During 2018 the majority of PCC time was spent on discussing how we serve the community; ensuring that the finances progress; ensuring compliance with new regulations and guidance from the Diocese; discussing and agreeing to repairs and maintenance of the Church building and grounds, including work required following the quinquennial inspection carried out in February 2018; and the churchyard extension project: permission has been granted by the Council for the change of use so we can continue with our plans to erect fencing along the boundary, begin to plant the hedgerow and start work on the areas which used to be our neighbour's gardens. One idea is to have a more natural area for burial of ashes, different from the formal areas near to the church, a place without a physical boundary where we may use biodegradable caskets and no plaques.

3. Aims and purposes

St. Mary with St. Leonard's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev'd Carolyn Tibbott, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's Church; St. Leonard's Hall attached to the Church; and Broomfield Churchyard.

4. 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's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and contributes to discussions on how our services, groups and activities can involve and meet the needs of the diverse groups of people that live within our parish.

In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer, learning about the gospel, developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus;
- 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's and its associated buildings and land.

The following reports collectively demonstrate that St. Mary's is a vibrant, ever evolving church, and welcoming to people of all ages, both within the church building and out in the community.

5. Achievements and Performance

Worship and prayer

St Mary's offers a range of services each week and over the course of the year, which the PCC hope our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. We have the regular services on a Sunday: early morning service at 8am for Holy Communion; and then a 10.30am service which includes Holy Eucharist, apart from one Sunday a month which is a Family Service. If any member of the congregation wishes to speak to a member of the clergy for personal prayer, this is offered in the Lady Chapel immediately following the 10.30am service. We still offer Evening Prayer on a Sunday at 5.30pm which is becoming ever more unusual in the majority of churches.

The electoral roll numbers have remained fairly constant for 2018, with 161 names on the electoral roll at the end of the year compared to 162 at the close of 2017. The average Sunday attendance during 2018 is estimated to have been 88 adults (over 16) and 4 children (under 16).

The worshipping community also includes those who only attend monthly or mid-week services. We have a variety of worship during the week for people who cannot get to the Sunday services: Morning Prayer is held on most weekday mornings during term time at 8.40am in the Lady Chapel; the Mid-week Eucharist is held on or around the second Wednesday of each month, this is followed by the Parish coffee morning; and anyone is invited to join the NCMMP prayers at 12noon on a Thursday held at a nearby church on a weekly cycle that is noted each week in St Mary's notice sheet and via a weekly news update circulated by email to PCC members.

For young families, we have 'Thanksgiving on a Thursday' during term time where those with little children can feel comfortable joining in with worship whilst the children play; on alternate Tuesdays Edward Bear offers gentle worship to parents, carers and their little children, with story, puppets, singing, craft and friendship; and on the other Tuesday Pray & Play offers time and space for children to play and adults to reflect on life and God and their membership has increased by a couple this year.

We have two bible classes, one held in-house and the other in St Leonard's Committee Room, both on Wednesdays, to which anyone is welcome.

The Pastoral team hold monthly services in the local residential Care Homes and the Ministry Team also lead acts of worship at assemblies in schools, usually once a month.

The total number of people attending at Easter was 146, a slight increase on 2017. Though the total attendance for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was 456, a decrease of 58 on 2017, the number attending for special services during Advent i.e. Carol services and School services was 559, an increase of 29 people on Advent services in 2017. The secondary school took part in a major project for Remembrance Weekend this year so did not attend for a Christmas Service.

We want our church to be open to our community for private prayer and thanks to a rota of parishioners the church is open on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Ecumenical relationships

St Mary's is one of 11 churches in the North Chelmsford Mission & Ministry Partnership (NCMMP). The aim of the MMP is to enable churches within the unit to work together and support one another and there are a number of networking groups. It is through this collaborative working that we have been able to resource a new ministry on the newly built Beaulieu and Channels estates and we have a stake in the new Community Centre in Beaulieu Heath. More about the NCMMP is contained in the North Chelmsford Mission & Ministry report included later in this Annual Review.

St Mary's also has a Covenant with Broomfield Methodist Church with whom it shares some ministry and meets about three times a year to plan our work together; and the Lutheran church hold some worship at St. Mary's.

The Chelmsford Diocese have set up a Youth Synod and we are delighted that two of the young people who attend our church and were confirmed last year have agreed to represent the churches in this area on it. They will meet 3 times a year and the Youth Synod will give young people a chance to discuss topics coming up at the Chelmsford Diocesan Synod and have their voice heard.

Mission and evangelism

Our aim as a Christian Church in this community is to make Christ's love known to everyone. We enable this through teaching, worship, bible study and discipleship groups; through baptisms; services and groups for parents with babies and young children; and through groups that give opportunities for fellowship for young and older people alike.

Fellowship groups that regularly meet at St Mary's are: St Mary's Ladies Group which meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm and the Film & Lunch Club on the first Monday in the month, which continue to be well supported; Beetle Drives; Lunch & Laughter on the 3rd Monday in the month; and a Men's Group. The meetings are listed in the Round Tower magazine and on the church website. Reports on their activities are contained later in this Annual Review.

Two Lent courses were offered in 2018. Lent Course 1 – Christ and the Chocolatier: this course was jointly led by Rev'd Anne Harvey and Trudy Stevens, an original innovative and lively Lent course inspired by the film *Chocolat*. The course ran on Wednesday evenings for 6 sessions. The first session involved watching the film together, followed by 5 sessions watching selected film extracts with discussion, meditation, scripture reading and prayer. Film-based Lent courses have been offered for the last 3 years and have proved easy to engage with, thought provoking and meaningful. Lent Course 2 – Pools of Stillness: This was a five week course held on Wednesday afternoons in the Lady Chapel with Rev'd Diana Garfield, exploring contemplative prayer and learning something about some of its most celebrated exponents.

A SHAPE course was held in September on a Tuesday evening for five weeks, led by Rev'd Julie Hardy. It sought to help Christian people understand themselves before God, to comprehend what vocation is and how they can share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others; a way of helping us as a church to discern a vision for the future.

St Mary's is addressing children, families and youth needs and this work is still evolving. The Children's film club, Fun Faith, met during our main morning service until Easter 2018. So few children were attending that we decided not to run this anymore but to set up a child-friendly area at the front of the church so that children can play while attending church with their family. This year we

re-started 'Sunday Specials', an afternoon family service on the second Sunday of the month in the hall. It is aimed at 5-11 year olds and includes afternoon tea and craft with light touch theology, led by a member of the ministry team. Rev'd Julie is also involved in a Splash group at the local Primary School: a craft club based on Bible stories.

Little Lambs has maintained a constant membership; it runs in the hall every Thursday morning and is suitable for babies and toddlers with their parents, grandparents or carers, for play and friendship. The Puppet Crew meets on Wednesday evenings at 7pm and performs at Sunday Specials and other selected services - the group stopped in April as members moved on, however new members kindly stepped forward and we are delighted the Puppet Crew re-formed in October 2018.

It is a joy to have children in church worshipping with us and we will seek to find other ways to teach our children the Christian Faith.

St Mary's has joined with the NCMMP for regular youth-focused provision (aimed at 11-17 year olds), led by members of the Clergy, with Rev'd Julie from St. Mary's:

- The Light Group is a group for 9-14 year olds who would like to find out more about the Christian Faith, it meets once a month; and
- The Bridge Group is a group for 11-18 year olds to meet together from different churches with games, a talk and space for prayer and reflection as well as great music.

This year our Curate, Rev'd Julie, also started 'Pints of View' in the local pub on a Wednesday evening. The aim is to be a visible presence in the community, building up relationships by going each week and being with people. She is stepping out in faith, prepared to listen to and chat with anyone about anything.

Other groups that use the church facilities are: U3A Hand bell ringing group; Friends of Broomfield Hospital; Soroptimists' meeting; Epilepsy Action Group; and a Children's Art Group which runs on Monday afternoons in St. Leonard's Hall.

Review of the year

In terms of variety of services and social events, 2018 was again a very busy year. March saw the licensing of Rev'd Dan Pierce at Beaulieu and Channels; and in September Rev'd Diana Garfield was Ordained Priest by Bishop John in Gt Waltham Church and the following day Rev'd Diana presided over her first Eucharist which was followed by a celebratory lunch in St. Leonard's Hall. In February, at a parish Eucharist service we admitted some of our older children to Communion. An exciting time for children and their families as they began to take responsibility for their faith.

At Easter, on Maundy Thursday a Seder meal and Eucharist was held, joining in with the meal and the ritual that Jesus and his friends would have followed, within a Christian setting, enhancing the power and impact of Easter. Donations for Easter bunnies and baskets raised £50 for the Church Spire Fund.

For many years the APCM was held on a Saturday evening in April, with cheese and wine after, but in recent times numbers attending had been dropping, so the APCM in 2018 was held after a shortened service on a Sunday Morning, 22nd of April. As people were already in church it was hoped they would choose to stay for the meeting, which was followed by lunch in St. Leonard's Hall. 46 people attended the APCM in 2018, an increase of 9 compared to the previous year.

St. Mary's, together with the Methodist Church, took part in 'Thy Kingdom Come' an international prayer initiative inviting Christians around the world to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. It began on Ascension Day, 10th May, with an early morning praise and prayer service at St. Mary's followed by a simple Parish breakfast together.

During the 10 day period people volunteered to go out in pairs to “prayer walk” to pray for the residents of our parish. The aim was to lift our neighbours up to Christ for his blessing in the hope that more people may come to know Christ’s love. On Pentecost Sunday, 20th May, this wave of prayer was celebrated with a family service at St. Mary’s, followed by a Pentecost Picnic.

During Christian Aid week in May, 23 volunteers delivered and collected envelopes in our house-to-house movement around Broomfield and we were able to send £2,097.07 to the charity. When combined with the Prayer Walking, this has offered a powerful witness of St. Mary’s caring for communities within and outside of our parish.

In June Rev’d Anne led a Retreat Day at Otley Hall for 28 participants – time and space to draw breath and reflect. A Songs of Praise on the Green was held in June and was followed by a BBQ.

September was another busy month. St. Mary’s was open on the weekend of the 6-9th September for the Heritage Open Days. As well as being a place of worship, our church is also a building for the community to come together and a place for people to find rest and peace. 22 people signed the visitors book and those who visited had an opportunity to make a gift towards the life and work of the church, the organ and the spire funds. The gift weekend raised a total of £2,490. The church was open for further Heritage Open Days on 13th-16th September. Inside the church was a display remembering the centenary since the end of the First World War; and there were geology talks and walks around the outside of the church and of the stonework and monuments inside the church. The Pet Service this year was held on Sunday 9th September on the Green.

On 16th September the sun shone for our Confirmation Service, conducted by Bishop John Perumbalath, where 12 people: 8 from St Mary’s, 2 from Gt Waltham and 2 from Gt Leighs, were confirmed, making their commitment to the Christian Faith. The month concluded with Rev’d Diana’s Priesting and celebration lunch.

The Harvest Festival service took place in October and gifts of food were shared around the community with any surplus being donated to the Food Bank.

At the Patronal Festival Family Service in October, 32 beautifully decorated shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child along with three bags full of 276 hats knitted by Vera Wilsher, were taken up for a blessing. 3 more boxes given later made the total 35.

This year saw the Centenary of the end of the First World War. The young people from Chelmer Valley High and those attending the new Art Group which runs at St. Mary’s, produced an Art Exhibition in response to the ‘Thank You’ campaign of the Royal British Legion which sought to inspire a new generation of people to remember the sacrifice members of their communities made in the First World War. Over the course of 2 weeks more than 600 young people visited the church, saw the poppy displays and were able to read and hear details of the people of Broomfield who gave their lives in World War 1. Over 500 children now have a copy of St. John’s gospel.

Our bellringers also participated in ‘Ringings Remembers’ an initiative by the Big Ideas Company to recruit 1,400 new ringers nationally to participate in ringing the bells on 11th November, both for the Remembrance Sunday service and later in the day in unison with churches across the country; and to enable churches to continue ringing the bells for Sunday services into the future.

The Remembrance service was very well attended and we are profoundly grateful to all those who knitted the poppies (600 in all from members of the congregation, Orchard Springs WI and Broomfield U3A) which adorned the lych gate, entrance door and inside the church; and to those who created the displays and helped to welcome and talk to people who visited. Thanks also to the Royal British

Legion and the RASC for their help and support. The whole Remembrance event was an excellent outreach into the community. Our Remembrance events concluded with a wonderful Remembrance concert on 25th November. Thank you to our musical director Jill and to the Anglia Singers who brought a new dimension to our Remembrance event.

Three evenings of reflections were held on Tuesdays throughout Advent. A quiet hour of led prayer and reflection to prepare for the coming of the child Christ into the world. On 15th December several members of our Clergy and congregation attended a Christmas Torchlight Procession through the parish in conjunction with Broomfield Methodist Church. On 22nd December a Blue Christmas contemplative service of remembrance, light and hope for those experiencing loss was held. On Sunday 23rd we held our Traditional Carol Service. On Christmas Eve there were again two Crib services, as they have proved so popular, plus Midnight-Mass; these and the Family service on Christmas Day all had large congregations.

A number of social events were held during the year. In February, Rev'd Julie organised a bowling event for families. The March quiz night raised £424.40; and the May Fayre, including 'Broomfield's Got Talent', raised over £2,900. This was a lovely village event enjoyed by all despite the rain. A big thank you to all who ran stalls and everyone who donated items for the raffle or to sell; and the local businesses who generously donated raffle prizes, food and cash. Particular thanks go to Rachel Butterworth, Sarah Clark and Sue Browning for organising the event. The importance of the community spirit and teamwork generated cannot be underestimated.

In June Rev'd Anne opened her garden and paddocks to raise funds for St. Mary's from the sale of refreshments, honey, eggs, corn to feed the chickens, and alpaca poo for our gardens. The afternoon concluded with evening prayer in the garden.

On Saturday 16th June a parish family day out to Frinton-on-Sea was organised by Rev'd Julie. Ours was the only beach hut open on the promenade. Paul wrote a large message in the sand, 'St Mary's Broomfield, Jesus loves you' which many dog walkers, joggers and visitors saw. It was a relaxed and fun day, playing with the dogs, making sandcastles and swimming, which we hope to do again.

On 8th September Alun Powell participated in 'Ride & Stride for Churches' and raised £300 of which St. Mary's and Friends of Essex Churches received half each. The September quiz night raised in excess of £400.

The first of a series of six 'People and Stone' talks took place in October 2018. The talks are being held at St Mary's, with guest speakers, over the course of a year and will cover different aspects of the evolution of St. Mary's. Funds raised will go towards the restoration of the Spire. The October talk was about the Church Building "The Ancient Newness of Broomfield Church" given by Neil Wiffen from the Essex Records Office. This was a great success with 47 tickets sold and with the raffle, refreshments and donations, made £385. Further talks are planned for February 2019 on Church People – "Stories in Monuments"; and in April 2019 on Church Material – "A deep History in Walls". It is hoped that Southend Museum will come and talk about Saxon Princes; there will be a talk on Broomfield artists, including Rosemary Rutherford; and a talk on the historians who are buried here.

The pantomime trip on 2nd December was enjoyed by all who attended and Rachel Butterworth is happy to organise this again next year. 13 members of St. Mary's attended the Cathedral Advent Service. We had to make the difficult decision not to run our Christmas Fayre and Santa event this year. There are so many new initiatives and events running during December in and around the village that we decided to save our energies for the Christmas worship.

Fund raising initiatives such as 'tubes for the organ'; sales of alpaca poo for our gardens; and the sale of church calendars and diaries, continues. St Mary's is registered with 'Easyfundraising', which generates free donations from online shopping - so far 30 members of the congregation have signed up and together have raised nearly £900 since we started.

St. Mary's continues to support various Charities and collections at services have been for the Royal British Legion; The Children's Society; Christian Aid; and Operation Christmas Child. This year, in conjunction with Churches Together in Chelmsford we also supported the Angel Tree Project – St Mary's collected 33 toys, 2 gift cards and £210 in cash for this charity which aims to provide a gift to children who have a parent in prison. The 2018 Collection from St. Mary's Children's Society box holders totalled £598, with potentially another £68 in Gift Aid. Donations from our giant Christmas card, to send Christmas greetings to other members of St. Mary's, went to Mercy Ships: a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships to some of the poorest countries in the world delivering vital free healthcare to people in desperate need.

As a PCC we are very pleased that we are able to support all the Clergy. We thank all the Ministry team for their hard work and dedication in providing worship which inspires and guides us all on our Christian journey; and the pastoral team who continue to support people in their own homes and in care homes in our community.

The PCC is very grateful to all the committed volunteers who work tirelessly in the background on Church cleaning; Church sitting; making coffee and tea; washing the holy linen; counting money; and for maintaining the website and writing the pew sheets. Without the dedication of the volunteers, St. Mary's Church would not be able to function as it does.

It is estimated that over 1,000 man hours of work go into the maintenance of the Churchyard and car park every year. This is a very significant voluntary commitment by the members of the Working Party who continue to maintain it to a high standard. Our Churchyard is at least as old in places as the Church Building and has been a refuge for people, plants and animals for generations. We thank David Marcus and all the working party, which consists of members of the congregation and the wider Community; plus Peter Baker, our tree officer, for all their hard work.

It has not been possible to mention all groups and involved people individually in this report, but as a PCC we extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who tirelessly devote time and effort into running the groups and thank all who are mentioned in the following reports. We would particularly like to thank our Church Wardens and Treasurer for all their hard work. We thank Rev'd. Tibbott for all her support and guidance through what has again been a very industrious and at times taxing but successful year.

Kathy Rouse stepped down as Hon. Secretary to the PCC in April 2018 after a number of years. We thank her for her dedicated service during that time. Trudy Stevens kindly took on the role of Minutes Secretary from April 2018 and I personally would like to thank them both for the support they continue to provide to me as incoming Hon. Secretary.

Carol Knott
Hon. Secretary

Financial review

Summary

The Parish finances were in overall surplus in 2018 – by £9,679.35 with both the general and restricted accounts recording a positive figure. This was a very good result boosted by bequests totalling £8,500 and a number of large donations.

We continue to be extremely grateful to all our parishioners who are supporting the church in Broomfield financially. Cost pressures remain strong, however, not least from our Family Purse which will rise appreciably in 2019 and we need to ensure that our income rises to match those cost increases.

Unrestricted funds

Income

Planned giving raised £40,761.60 in 2018, down on 2017's £42,415.34. This was the fourth consecutive year that planned giving has dropped. We continue to be affected by a net loss in the number of regular givers. Loose collections at services rose from £5,696.42 in 2017 to £6,054.11 last year. Net fee income also strengthened rising from £10,852.34 in 2017 to £11,827.64 in 2018. Money raising for the general fund amounted to £5,827.15 compared with £6,756.08 in 2017. Overall in 2018 there were 23 distinct schemes which raised varying amounts of money.

Donations to the general fund amounted to £9,026.61 in 2018, compared with £9,330.80 the previous year. Bequests added a further £8,500 to general fund income and investment income totalled £332.00.

Tax recovered on planned giving and donations brought in a further £10,469.86 meaning that overall unrestricted income amounted to £96,850.86.

Expenditure

The major item of expenditure as usual was the Parish Share which amounted to £65,481.60 compared with £63,762.12 in 2017. The utilities bill came to £3,626.59, marginally below 2017's figure of £3,791.71. Gas accounted for £2,021.42, down from £2,438.57 in 2017; electricity for £1,253.28, up from £937.33; and water for £351.89, slightly below the 2017 figure of £385.81. The cost of insuring the building and hall amounted to £3,296.07, slightly higher than the previous year's £3,163.86.

Spending on the churchyard amounted to £3,690.84, well above the previous year's £937.35. The higher expenditure included the purchase of new equipment (£544.97); work on a number of trees (£2,340.00); and payment to the Diocesan Registry to cover the legal fees for a contested faculty application for the tree work (£374.12). Repairs to and maintenance of the building amounted to £1,895.59, well below the previous year's expenditure of £5,645.70 which had included substantial bills for repairs to the main boiler and replacement of the hall boiler. Other church running costs amounted to £9,853.60.

In total, expenditure out of the general fund amounted to £90,727.27 leaving a surplus of £6,123.59

Restricted funds

Income

Donations, gift aid and fundraising for the organ fund amounted to £3,408.88 taking the total in the organ fund to £14,783.88. Donations, gift aid and fundraising for the spire fund amounted to £3,913.59 leaving the Fund with £9,088.02. Money raised for charitable donations amounted to £4,852.49. In total, income into the restricted funds totalled £12,174.96.

Expenditure

Payments to charities amounted to £4,825.34. The other major expenditure out of restricted funds was for work carried out on the new churchyard extension scheme. This totalled £3,644.00. Payments on behalf of the NCMMP amounted to £149.86. Overall, expenditure totalled £8,619.20 leaving the restricted funds in surplus by £3,555.76.

Outlook

In 2018 we were blessed with a strong level of giving. Voluntary giving amounted to just short of £20,000. Although this was similar to 2017, the make-up was different in that the 2017 total included a £10,000 donation in support of the church extension while in 2018 we received bequests totalling £8,500. In short however, we have over the last few years become dependent on large gifts from individuals and without these gifts the parish would have been in deficit. These gifts, needless to say while exceedingly generous, cannot be expected to be repeated every year.

Cost pressures, meanwhile, continue to increase. Ideally our income should be more heavily weighted towards planned giving which is much more predictable. I urge, therefore, every church member to look at his or her giving and, if possible, to help us become less reliant on the generosity of a few people.

Alun Powell
Honorary Treasurer

Parochial Church Council of St. Mary with St. Leonard, Broomfield

Financial Statements for the Year ended 31 December 2018

Receipts and Payments Account

	Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2018 £	Total 2017 £
RECEIPTS					
Voluntary receipts					
Planned giving		40,761.60		40,761.60	42,415.34
Collections at services		6,054.11	118.49	6,172.60	5,696.42
All other voluntary giving	4a	17,526.61	1,941.75	19,468.36	19,973.23
Gift Aid recovered		10,469.86	2,000.00	12,469.86	12,462.87
Activities for generating funds	4b	5,827.15	3,262.23	9,089.38	9,864.58
Investment income	4c	332.00		332.00	207.51
Church activities	4d	15,879.53		15,879.53	15,059.65
Charitable income			4,852.49	4,852.49	5,194.39
Deanery Synod NCMMP					530.00
Total receipts		96,850.86	12,174.96	109,025.82	111,403.99
PAYMENTS					
Church activities					
Diocesan parish contribution		65,481.60		65,481.60	63,762.12
Clergy and staffing costs		2,094.48		2,094.48	3,555.24
Church running expenses	4e	22,362.69	3,644.00	26,006.69	24,176.03
Charitable giving	4f	100.00	4,825.34	4,925.34	5,240.21
Costs of generating funds		688.50		688.50	1,614.00
Deanery Synod NCMMP			149.86	149.86	174.22
Total payments		90,727.27	8,619.20	99,346.47	98,521.82
Excess of receipts over payments		6,123.59	3,555.76	9,679.35	12,882.17
Cash at bank and in hand at 1 January		57,194.95	39,782.41	96,977.36	84,095.19
Cash at bank and in hand at 31 December		63,318.54	43,338.17	106,656.71	96,977.36

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Bank current account	48,621.12		48,621.12	39,826.55
CCLA deposits	14,020.53	43,338.17	57,358.70	57,075.08
Other cash and deposits	676.89		676.89	75.73
	63,318.54	43,338.17	106,656.71	96,977.36
Investment assets				
Tithe Chancel Fund		6,591.33	6,591.33	6,482.02
J Gyne Foundation		1,437.22	1,437.22	1,459.10
		8,028.55	8,028.55	7,941.12
Total monetary assets	63,318.54	51,366.72	114,685.26	104,918.48

Notes:

- (1) The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the receipts and payments basis.
- (2) The income from the J Gyne Foundation is for ordinary church purposes. Income from the Tithe Chancel Fund is undistributed and is added to the capital sum.
- (3) The movements in restricted funds during the year were:

	Balance b/fwd	Receipts	Payments	Balance c/fwd
Organ Fund	11,375.00	3,408.88		14,783.88
Spire Fund	5,174.43	3,913.59		9,088.02
Stained Glass Window Fund	12,500.00			12,500.00
Churchyard Extension Fund	10,000.00		3,644.00	6,356.00
Cremated Remains Area Fund	24.74			24.74
Sound System Fund	58.37			58.37
Charity Fund	57.68	4,852.49	4,825.34	84.83
Deanery Fund	200.41			200.41
North Chelmsford MMP	391.78		149.86	241.92
	39,782.41	12,174.96	8,619.20	43,338.17

4. Further Analysis of Receipt and Payments Accounts

Note	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2018	Total 2017
	£	£	£	£
Receipts				
a) All other voluntary giving				
Donations	9,026.61	1,941.75	10,968.36	19,973.23
Legacies	8,500.00		8,500.00	-
	<u>17,526.61</u>	<u>1,941.75</u>	<u>19,468.36</u>	<u>19,973.23</u>
b) Activities for generating funds				
Parish Magazine - advertising	955.00		955.00	950.00
May Fayre	2,921.50		2,921.50	2,730.56
Christmas	0.00		0.00	937.85
Other	1,950.65	3,262.23	5,212.88	5,246.17
	<u>5,827.15</u>	<u>3,262.23</u>	<u>9,089.38</u>	<u>9,864.58</u>
c) Investment income				
Dividends				
Interest	332.00		332.00	207.51
	<u>332.00</u>		<u>332.00</u>	<u>207.51</u>
d) Church activities				
Fees for weddings, funerals etc	11,827.84		11,827.84	10,852.34
Parish Magazine - sales	1,146.83		1,146.83	1,094.79
Other	2,904.86		2,904.86	3,112.52
	<u>15,879.53</u>		<u>15,879.53</u>	<u>15,059.65</u>
Payments				
e) Church running expenses				
Music	2,890.00		2,890.00	2,365.68
Cost of services (utilities)	3,626.59		3,626.59	3,791.71
Cost of services (insurance)	3,296.07		3,296.07	3,163.86
Printing & stationery	36.00		36.00	123.96
Church building running expenses	4,409.96		4,409.96	4,025.41
Parish Magazine - printing costs	1,440.64		1,440.64	1,578.36
Church repairs & maintenance	1,895.59		1,895.59	5,645.70
Churchyard	3,690.84	3,644.00	7,334.84	937.35
Other	1,077.00		1,077.00	2,544.00
	<u>22,362.69</u>	<u>3,644.00</u>	<u>26,006.69</u>	<u>24,176.03</u>
f) Charitable giving				
Children's Society		1,053.74	1,053.74	660.00
Christian Aid		2,097.07	2,097.07	2,824.52
Little Haven		400.00	400.00	400.00
RBL Poppy Appeal		398.38	398.38	422.88
SNUG				113.70
Angel Trees		210.00	210.00	
Mercy Ships		155.48	155.48	
Isabelle				625.00
Lifewords	100.00		100.00	
CHESS		170.00	170.00	160.97
Friends of Essex Churches		305.00	305.00	
Expenses		35.67	35.67	33.14
	<u>100.00</u>	<u>4,825.34</u>	<u>4,925.34</u>	<u>5,240.21</u>

Approved by the PCC on 3rd April 2019

Signed



Rev'd. C A Tibbott
PCC Chairman



Mrs C Knott
PCC Secretary

*Independent examiner's report to the Trustees of the Parochial Church Council
of St. Mary with St. Leonard, Broomfield*

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2018, which are set out on pages 11 to 16.

Respective Responsibilities of the Trustees and Examiner

The Church's Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for the year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts (under section 145 of the 2011 Act);
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act); and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement.

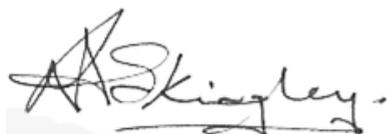
My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, 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 no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 s.130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts, which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act 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.

(Signed)



Mr R A Skingley
10 Willow Close, Broomfield

26th March 2019

VICAR'S REPORT

2018 began on a high note for us as we were able to admit five children to Communion before Confirmation at a Sunday morning service. It is always a joy to encourage any person of any age in their faith journey. These youngsters have been a member of this church family for most of their lives so it was a really poignant moment as they received their first communion amongst us. In the wake of their enthusiasm to know more about the Christian faith and having enjoyed the course we ran for them, we are now running a monthly Youth discussion group for them and any others who may wish to join us which they decided they wanted to call the 'Light Group' as they were seeking to follow Jesus the Light of the World.

This was for me a glimmer of hope in the difficult area of children's ministry here at St. Mary's for although we have a flourishing Parent and Baby group in Little Lambs, we are finding it ever more difficult to provide meaningful ministry to children and young parents. During the summer term Louise Baines, Rachel and Allie gave me notice that they no longer wished to lead Edward Bear, my grateful thanks to them for their ministry at Edward Bear. For the time being the ministry team have continued to run Edward Bear. This came at the same time as the closure of Puppet Crew and the demise of Fun Faith. Of course, we are resurrection people. I believe it is important for us to spend time discerning when groups we run need to close or change. If we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our actions and our work, then we will be aligned to God's will for this parish. So we did not despair.

Throughout the year we have continued to develop the 'Light Group', we have begun 'Sunday Specials' on a Sunday afternoon once a month with worship and teaching particularly aimed at young families. We have continued to work with Broomfield Primary School and Rev'd. Julie has set up the 'Splash Club' meeting after school to share stories of our faith with children who enjoy craft activities with members of our congregation. We also had a wonderful opportunity through our connection with Chelmer Valley High School to engage with them in producing an Art Exhibition over the Remembrance Sunday weekend. The hall, link and church were filled with art work of all descriptions. My thanks to Alun Powell, Roger Cole, Malcolm Taylor and Peter Baker for helping to set up some information in church about people from this village who fought and died in the great war. As it happened the School asked if they could bring all their pupils through the church to see the exhibition and we were able to accommodate over 200 young people who not only saw the exhibition, but also met Alun, Roger, Peter and other members of our congregation who kindly gave their time to talk to the children. The school were delighted with the effort we made to accommodate them and are looking forward to working with us again in the future. In the process, the Royal British Legion were also encouraged to see that this generation of children had really taken on board what it meant to serve in the Armed Forces and to appreciate a little more the sacrifices some people had made for our freedom. Bringing generations together and bridging gaps seems like a good and effective ministry to me.

The North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership (NCMMP) also continues to flourish. In July 2018 Rev'd. Jane Anderson resigned from her post at St. Augustine. This left three vacancies in the NCMMP (Boreham and Pleshey being the others). During 2018 the Ministry Team here at Broomfield managed to cover all Eucharist services at the three churches when required. We have also covered weddings, baptisms and funerals for these three churches between us. Rev'd. Dan Pierce was welcomed to St. Francis Community Church on the Beaulieu and Channels Estates on 11th March, which was Mothering Sunday ~ and it poured with rain all afternoon. However, there was a good turn out from Broomfield Church and Dan was originally licensed to all eleven churches in the NCMMP including Broomfield. The BMO was finally granted over the summer so now Rev'd. Dan enjoys Incumbent status as the Pioneer Minister of the new Church which is based in the Community Centre on Beaulieu.

Another major piece of work which impacts on all churches was the introduction of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) in May 2018. The Diocese were clear that all churches would have to embrace GDPR, sent out judicious instructions and laid on training days which Rev'd. Anne and Rev'd. Julie were able to attend. In response to this, Rev'd. Anne gave a presentation to the July PCC covering all aspects of GDPR which affected our working practices here. There is still work to be done, however, the overall message was 'do not panic'! We need to be showing that we are working towards being GDPR compliant, which we are. Our website manager has signed a Data Processing Agreement in line with the requirements. We are completing a data audit about the information we hold on people and why. We have changed some of our forms (baptism and bereavement) to ensure people are asked whether they mind being contacted by the church in the future. We are still working towards being GDPR compliant, but this will take time.

In 2018 there were 16 baptisms held here in the church, 10 were infant and there were 6 children baptised. We conducted 6 wedding services here last year. Members of the ministry team officiated at 47 funerals of which 18 were held in church, all the others were conducted at the Crematorium. We continue to conduct many interment of ashes services in the churchyard and much ministry time is consumed caring for the churchyard and advising people on appropriate memorials.

As I said last year, the Ministry Team here in Broomfield is always changing. Rev'd. Anne continues in her role as Associate Priest taking responsibility for bereavement care in the parish, she is the main minister who serves Ayletts Care Home. Anne also led a retreat in June and is busy planning our Parish trip to Oberammergau in 2020. Rev'd Julie is now in her third year here as a curate, she has had her final report written, has handed in her ministry portfolio and has met with Bishop John. We have all appreciated Rev'd Julie's ministry amongst us, and although there are no immediate plans for her to move, she will be looking for a First Post of Responsibility this year and I am sure you will pray for her and her family during this time of discernment. Rev'd. Diana was ordained Priest in September, the service was beautiful, but it was the first time she presided at the Eucharist that we all felt so moved. St. Mary's Broomfield has been such an important part of Rev'd. Diana's faith journey and to think that she was Baptised here and is now serving here as a priest was truly humbling. I am continuing to study for an MA in Christian Spirituality and Liturgy, the whole process was held up when a module was cancelled in the Spring last year and then again at the end of last year when pressure of work meant that I could not complete a module. However, I am back on track now and during the Extended Study Leave which I am taking between May and August this year I plan to write a dissertation in order to complete the MA. I remain very grateful to the PCC for supporting me in this ongoing education and the Ministry team for being so gracious in ensuring that all services will be covered during my planned sabbatical. My time as NCMMP co-chair continued throughout 2018 and in October 2018 I was asked by Bishop John to become the Vocations Adviser for North Chelmsford Deanery, which position I was delighted to accept.

Other ministry news is that Sue Howlett was licensed as a Pioneer Minister to St. Anne's in Colchester on 23rd of April 2018 and there was a good number of people from Broomfield who attended. Philip Howlett was ordained Priest on the same day as Diana, but in Saffron Walden. Julie and I made a mad dash after the reception for Diana's Priesting and managed to make it just in time, robing as we ran along Saffron Walden High Street and joining the back of the queue of robed clergy just as the Bishop was praying for those to be ordained. Needless to say it was a spirit led service, Philip was really pleased to see us and we wouldn't have missed it for the world. Philip will continue as an SSM at Notley and Raine for the duration of his training.

Bishop John Perambulath was appointed as our Area Bishop in the Spring and he was Consecrated Bishop in July. We were delighted that he was able to conduct a confirmation service here at St. Mary's in September, where eight members of our congregation were confirmed along with several others from churches within the Mission and Ministry Partnership. In November we heard that Fr.

Tom Page had stood down as our Area Dean. We still await news of the appointment of a new Area Dean. In the meantime, Rev. Tim Ball who is Area Dean for South Chelmsford is providing cover and we are grateful to him for his ministry.

So this church family continues to be blessed by the support and encouragement we give one another through good times and in bad or sad ones. We have a strong Ministry Team and an enthusiastic understanding of vocation... that each one of us is called to serve God in some way through our membership of this particular church. This offers the potential for a robust understanding of ourselves as the body of Christ. Yet we must not be complacent. We are to continue to discern our own vocations, we are to continue to seek to serve and minister to the people of Broomfield. We have to be fully aware of the light of Christ and where it is leading us.

The scripture I want to give you this year is from Luke 6: 20-26

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation.

Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry.

Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep.

Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.”

Jesus’ teaching took all that people thought they knew and turned it upside down. In the same way, as His disciples today, we need to be prepared to contemplate our lives, we need to change in response to Jesus’ teaching. We need to teach the Christian Faith by our words and our actions. We are required to challenge injustice and stand alongside those who are broken. We continue to thrive as a church because we are not afraid to judge ourselves according to the teaching of our Lord and encourage others to allow themselves to be loved, just as they are, by a God who is longing to bring them into His church, to see them nurtured in order that they flourish.

2018 was a challenging year at times, yet with the promise of growth, but we need to embrace some changes and work hard together in order that we truly serve God’s Kingdom here in Broomfield into 2019 and beyond.

*with every blessing
Carolyn*

THE CHURCH WARDEN'S FABRIC REPORT

Buildings:

On a wintry day at the end of February 2018 the Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by the church architect. Following the inspection a general report only was issued as required by the Inspection of Churches Measure 1955. The report is based on the findings made from the ground or other places which can easily be reached, to comply with the Diocesan Scheme under the above mentioned measure. The following items are listed to be acted on:

Priority A: Removal of vegetation from the shoulder of the return wall facing east between the nave and chancel.

Priority B: Decorate ventilated louvre detail in the corner of the north wall to the north aisle. A full survey to assess the tower pointing. Check the flint work and repointing for stability on top of the east facing wall of the north aisle.

Priority C: Replace broken and slipped tiles. Re-shingle the spire. Repointing – high level on west wall to north aisle, tower repointing, brick coping on east wall boundary. Rotting timber on lych gate to be replaced.

Priority A: urgent works. Priority B: works to be carried out during the next twelve months.

Priority C: works to be carried out during the quinquennial period.

Work Carried Out During the Year:

The fire extinguishers were serviced during March. One extinguisher was replaced. During September the electrical appliances in the church and St Leonard's Hall were all checked and found to be in good order. The first annual service of the new hall boiler was carried out in November, all was found in order.

At the Ladies Group Christmas evening in December a new crib scene was presented to the church. This replaced the former crib figures which were showing signs of wear and tear due to age. The scene consists of: The Stable, Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the manger, a shepherd with a sheep, two cattle, two sheep and three Magi. The complete set is in olive wood and came from Bethlehem.

Grounds:

The Diocesan tree officer attended during February to offer advice concerning the churchyard extension.

A grave headstone was knocked over by the grave digger at the beginning of September. No damage was suffered by the headstone and it was back in place the following day. The same day gusty winds brought down a large branch from the top of the cedar tree in front of the church. It fell across the south facing churchyard wall and damaged the coping stone and removed stones from the wall. A couple of weeks later the Diocesan tree officer attended concerning the cedar and suggested the tree should be inspected, particularly the top branches of the tree.

During September the long awaited War Graves Commission notice was fixed on to the fence next to the churchyard gate on Church Green. This notice indicates there are war graves in the churchyard.

The following month, on receipt of the appropriate faculty, four thuja trees T69, T71, T76 & T77 were felled. Two of the thujas were stunting the growth of an oak tree and the other two were removed as a result of future plans for the churchyard extension. The six limes in front of the church, trees T33, were also felled as they were beginning to become a health and safety hazard. One was diseased and the option of pollarding would have entailed continuing future expense. In the quinquennial report health and safety is mentioned, stating that overall responsibility for health and safety of the church and churchyard lies with the incumbent and PCC.

A 24 hour PIR Floodlight on to the car park was put in place in November.

Once again we must mention how fortunate we are in having a dedicated Churchyard Working Party which works in the churchyard each Tuesday morning maintaining it looking neat and tidy. Our grateful thanks go to all those involved.

Our grateful thanks also to those who quietly go about keeping the church and hall clean, the laundering of the church linen, and those who are on the Church Sitting list to welcome visitors on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.

Peter, Margaret and Michael

THE CHURCHYARD EXTENSION WORKING GROUP REPORT

The churchyard extension working group was set up in September 2017 following a decision to reclaim land to the north of the current churchyard. This land had previously been let to the local farmer and also to the residents of 6 houses in Jubilee Avenue. The group were set the task of implementing a plan to enable this land to become an extension of the current churchyard, which will soon run out of burial space. The new land is naturally split into 2 areas by the existing tarmac footpath. A decision was made to use the smaller area to the east of the footpath as an extension of the current burial area and also within this space to create a new, and less formal area for burial of ashes. This area will be bordered by a metal fence similar in style to that which borders the current churchyard. The larger area to the west of the footpath will eventually be needed as burial space, but in the meantime the intention is to create a wildflower meadow. In addition, plans were put in place for the removal of 2 conifer trees at the northern boundary of the current churchyard, near the footpath gate, to create space for a water collection structure for the use of parishioners tending graves. A notice board will also be erected near the footpath to inform the public that this is church land and must be respected as such.

Progress to-date is as follows: The wildflower meadow has been planted (though will take some years to reach maturity) and the area has been fenced (post and rail). The 2 conifer trees have been felled and a water collection structure will shortly be installed.

Next steps: The plan is to plant hedging and some trees inside the newly erected fence around the larger area, to give a more natural look to the area. This could be done by parishioners as a group activity. The smaller area to the east of the footpath needs to be cleared and made ready for use as burial ground. The existing metal fencing at the northern boundary of the existing churchyard needs to be removed and new fencing erected to form the boundary of the smaller area. The whole area will be consecrated at a special service in the Spring /Summer of 2019.

The project will eventually provide a burial area that will be of sufficient size to meet the needs of the local community for several decades. It will also give those who prefer a cremation to have the choice of the current area or a less formal one for their loved one's remains.

Mike Harvey

FUNDING GROUP APPLYING FOR GRANTS FOR THE ORGAN AND SPIRE REPORT

This small bid group has met regularly throughout the year with the remit of raising monies for the spire and organ restoration, and latterly the churchyard extension. A number of initiatives have been identified as well as potential funders for grant applications.

One of the schemes to boost the spire fund, has been the development of the *People and Stone* series of talks and tours relating to the history of our beautiful church. These have proved popular, drawing in both outsiders and church members; we have also been asked to present on the history and geology of the church to interested groups, with a light lunch provision. Our grateful thanks go to Ros and Ian Mercer and to Neil Wiffen of the Essex Research Office and to the external speakers who have agreed to give of their time and expertise for these endeavours. The talks will be written up and published to ensure the research undertaken is not lost.

Rachel Butterworth meanwhile has been busy with a bingo session (to be repeated later in the year) and we are hoping to run an auction of talents. Malcolm Taylor kindly offered to use his walk along the Way of St James to obtain sponsorship money. With other events we expect the spire fund to pass £15,000 by the end of the year. Our end bill on the tower is expected to be above £80,000 and we are in liaison with the parish architect to obtain plans of work and likely costs; as grant bodies normally match funding, our ultimate target is to raise £40,000. Initial work on applying for grants is taking place; but as applications can only be made once estimates have been received. We are testing the water with a request to a local charity, Tom Amos, for funding for the necessary reports.

The organ fund is in better shape and we are close to reaching matched funding levels thanks to the concerts run by Jill Parkin; the tubes for pipes scheme; and various donations. We expect to have obtained three estimates by end April at which stage a grant application will be ready for submission. Our thanks are given to all those who have helped with the various fund raising initiatives.

The Bid Group: Alun Powell, Rachel Butterworth, Sue Browning, Trudy Stevens

ELECTORAL ROLL

The electoral roll numbers have remained fairly constant for 2018 with 161 names on the electoral roll at the end of the year compared to 162 at the close of 2017.

Sadly, 3 longstanding members of the congregation died during 2018 and others moved away, but new members have joined the roll.

During 2019 the complete electoral roll will be revised in accordance with the Church of England Representation Rules and each member on the roll will need to re-apply to be placed on the new roll. This process will take place before the 2019 APCM.

*Kathy Rouse
(Electoral Roll Officer)*

NCMMP

St. Mary with St. Leonard Church is a member of the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership (NCMMP) which also includes: St Mary's - Great Leighs; St John's - Little Leighs; St. John the Evangelist - Ford End; The Chignals with Mashbury; St Mary with St Lawrence - Great Waltham; St Martin's - Little Waltham; St Augustine's – Springfield; All Saints – Springfield; Holy Trinity – Pleshey; St Andrew's – Boreham; and St. Francis – Beaulieu.

The NCMMP council, consisting of both Clergy and Lay members, met 3 times during 2018 to discuss many issues. The priority was the financial position of the NCMMP and resolution of the parish share for 2019/20. A large amount of work took place in small subgroups which resulted in a successful agreement on parish share contributions. An application to the Diocese for a grant to help the collective churches meet their parish share commitments was agreed in full.

Many of the people holding roles within each Church in the NCMMP have met with their counterparts in other Churches and formed network groups to provide support and share information. These include the children and youth group; the safeguarding group; and the treasurer's group. Many fruitful meetings have taken place.

On 11th October a Networking day took place at Mashbury Village hall. Not all Churches were represented but, for those representatives who were there, it proved to be a day of discussion with constructive suggestions to aid development and progression of the NCMMP.

Currently the discussions are focussing on deployment of Clergy and covering those Churches going through a vacancy. The work of the NCMMP is still at an early stage and there are many areas of mission and ministry to address.

*Kathy Rouse
Lay NCMMP Representative for the PCC*

DEANERY SYNOD

The Chelmsford North Deanery Synod meets 3 times a year to receive information about the churches in the Deanery and the proceedings of the Diocesan Synod and the General Synod and to discuss issues of mutual concern. Each session focusses on a particular theme that is discussed between members or is addressed by people with specific roles within the area. The Synods during the past year have been addressed by particular people. They are a good way of obtaining a wider view of the Church and meeting with people from other churches. The emphasis is on the sharing of resources which is now being implemented via Mission and Ministry Partnerships (MMPs).

The Synod elects members of the Diocesan Synod who in turn elect members of General Synod. I did not seek re-election to the Diocesan Synod for a further term. Broomfield Parish members of Deanery Synod are myself (Ros Mercer) and Kathy Rouse. Derek Girdler stepped down at the 2018 APCM so there is now a vacancy.

The Synod met on Monday 26th February 2018 at St Andrews, Melbourne, when it was addressed by the Dean of Chelmsford, Nicholas Henshaw on the theme Chelmsford Cathedral, its Parish, Deanery, Diocesan and National role in the light of Transforming Presence.

On Wednesday 20th June 2018 it met at St John's Church, Ford End where a report of the Diocesan Synod was received and was addressed by Rev'd Dan Pierce on his role in the Beaulieu Housing Development Area.

On Monday 26th November at Chelmsford Cathedral, Synod was addressed by the new Bishop of Bradwell, Rt. Rev'd John Perumbalath, who set out his empowering vision for the Church in the Bradwell Area.

Alongside the Synod, the Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee is engaged with producing a new / revised Deanery Plan looking at clergy deployment, progress of MMPs etc within the Deanery. I am an elected member of this committee.

Rev'd Tom Page stepped down as Rural Dean at the end of the year. As yet a successor has not been appointed.

Rev'd. Carolyn Tibbott, Rev'd. Julie Hardy, Kathy Rouse, Ros Mercer

WORSHIP & MINISTRY

ASSOCIATE PRIEST'S REPORT

At Epiphany I was reminded of the anniversary of my induction as Associate Priest in this parish. Bishop John Wraw gave me particular responsibility for retreats and pilgrimage and for bereavement care and I endeavour to live up to his commission. In June we enjoyed a quiet day at Otley Hall in Suffolk, with 28 participants enjoying the sunshine and the peace and quiet of the gardens there. Plans for our parish pilgrimage to the Oberammagau passion play in June 2020 continue: 26 are already booked in and there are still spaces for late registrations. At present we are all just sending in our paced payments but before the pilgrimage begins we shall be meeting as a group to get to know one another and learn more about all that we shall witness.

We have a team of bereavement support workers in place and are endeavouring with their help to make the support we offer to bereaved families more bespoke to individual needs: I am grateful to these willing volunteers.

Each Lent, with the help and hospitality of Trudy Stevens, I have led a study group based around a film and this year has been no exception. The course The Mystery of Everything, based around the film about Stephen Hawking's life, has appeal at many levels and these courses have proved popular year on year.

What I offer to the mission and ministry of St Mary's Broomfield can seem quite limited: maintaining a "day job" alongside 2 days a week in church related work can be difficult to juggle perhaps more so since the ministry team are called upon to support local parishes in interregnum. All of which means that I may seem more absent than present at St Mary's. But this is the great benefit to team work both

within each parish, lay and ordained, and between parishes. Combining our gifts and sharing generously of our time and energy is surely what God asks of us. It is a joy to serve God in this way and in this place and I am always thankful for the prayerful support I receive.

Rev'd Anne Harvey

THE CURATES' REPORT

I am so fortunate to work with a great team of clergy, Carolyn, Anne and Diana, who are so supportive and we all work so well together; as well as all the people who make up our church family.

This year has been a year of consolidating and developing my ministry. I have been leading services at more of the MMP churches, which I enjoy doing, helping me to see all their slightly different ways of leading worship, as well as working with people I'm not familiar with – good practice for my future ministry.

Children have featured a lot in my training this year - going into Broomfield Primary School and leading assemblies – making the Christian festivals relevant to the children, helping them to understand more of God's story. Once again, I had the opportunity to go to Broomfield Library and read the Christmas Story – taking all Carolyn's lovely Nativity characters for the children to place in a special stable under a table - this is a gentle form of outreach to local adults and children. I have also attended a week long placement at Bishop's School, a Church of England school, helping me to have a greater understanding of RE in church schools as opposed to state schools.

It has also been a time of trying out new things such as, leading Weddings, Pints of View in the pub, the Splash group at the Primary School – which is a craft club based on Bible stories (my thanks go to Cynthia, Jo and Karen for their help), the Blue Christmas service, a placement at the Hospice, to name a few. Who can forget the dance routine Carolyn and I performed at Broomfield's Got Talent?! Life as a curate is certainly varied, covering all ages and circumstances.

Thank you all for helping me this year, in whatever way, and I look forwards to working with you in the year ahead – discovering what Christ has in store for us!

Rev'd Julie Hardy

This second year of my curacy has so far been exciting and challenging. It was wonderful to be ordained priest by Bishop John in Gt Waltham Church on September 29th and it has been an enormous privilege and joy to preside at the eucharist here at St Mary's. I am very grateful for all the support and good wishes I have had from Rev'ds Carolyn, Anne and Julie, and all our lovely congregations.

Some highlights of the past year for me were – washing feet at the Maundy Thursday Seder meal; the Ascension Day breakfast with our Methodist friends; the Pet Service on the Green; my pre-ordination retreat at Pleshey; and preaching at the Remembrance Sunday Service and the Village Carol Service.

Alongside these highlights have been the day to day pleasures of sharing conversations with so many different people, both inside and outside the church. Ordained life is sometimes hard and exhausting, but it is also endlessly joyful and rewarding. I thank God for the many blessings we share here at St Mary's.

Rev'd Diana Garfield

Servers

We are a team of five Servers who regularly have the honour of serving the Clergy at the Altar, for the 8am and 10.30am Sunday services and at the Wednesday monthly service.

We started 2018 with 4 Servers but during the year another member of the congregation joined us. Four of the Servers belong to the Chelmsford Chapter of Servers (CCofS) an organisation that enables us to learn more about the ministry of serving, whilst networking with servers from other churches throughout Essex. We have attended meetings of the CCofS at various churches throughout the year and always find it an illuminating and fulfilling event, both spiritually and socially when worshipping and meeting with our fellow Servers.

One of the highlights of the year was a special meeting held at Westminster Abbey when two of us had the privilege of joining with other Servers and celebrating the Eucharist in the quiet of a small chapel leading off of the main Abbey.

As Servers we find our role a rewarding, humbling experience when we are supporting the Clergy and serving at the Altar. We would welcome other members of the congregation who would like to train and join our small team. Please speak with Rev'd. Tibbott if you are interested.

Sue Browning, Margaret Clarke, Margaret Ginn, Jennifer Salisbury, Kathy Rouse.

BIBLE READING ROTA

Many thanks to all of you who read the Word of the Lord each week at the morning and evening services and also to those who read at other times in the Church year.

The readings are set out in the Church of England Common Worship Lectionary, which runs from Advent 2018 to the eve of Advent 2019. Speaking and hearing the Bible read is an important part of each service. Col.3:16. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly".

The majority of the rotas are sent out by email every other month, but should you require a paper copy please ask Rev'd Julie or myself. Holiday dates, should you know them, would be useful to me when compiling the rotas, especially over the Summer season. Thank you.

Val Vicary

INTERCESSORS

Thank you to our team of Intercessors, who week after week prepare prayers which reflect all the thoughts, cries, concerns of all the people - they are greatly appreciated by everyone. Thanks also go to the children who have also written and read out prayers at the Family Services.

I would like to encourage you to think about leading the Intercessions; if you feel this could be you – there is some guidance available on how to do this - please have a word with me or any of the clergy team.

Rev'd. Julie Hardy

INTERCESSIONS GROUP

The Intercessions Group was instigated by the Reverend David Ritson. Although we are small in number, we have been meeting regularly for a number of years to pray for those whose names are on the prayer board, in the Altar Book and on our website. We are so pleased that Rev'd. Diana Garfield has joined us.

We thank Joan Vine for keeping us informed about the prayer requests on the website, and Alun Powell who kindly prints new prayer lists twice a year. We would appreciate updates about family or friends of members of the congregation who are not known to us, as we constantly review all the requests for prayer.

Mavis Tebby

THE PASTORAL CARE AND VISITING TEAM

The Pastoral team continue our monthly services in the local residential Care Homes – Ayletts and Madelayne Court. The Guide Care Home behind the hospital closed during the autumn so we now have only 2 venues. Our visits are much appreciated by residents and staff, and are an important part of the outreach and mission of our parish church.

There has been a need for a good deal of hospital and home visiting this year as several of our older members have been poorly and needed support. Sadly, bereavement visiting has also been keeping us busy.

We would be very glad to welcome some new members to the team. Please speak to me if you feel called to this rewarding ministry.

Rev'd Diana Garfield

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP (1)

We continue to meet weekly at 2A Hearsall Avenue by kind invitation of Ros & Ian Mercer, where we are always welcomed with a cup of tea or coffee. The meetings start at 10am and finish promptly at 11am. A big thank you to Ros and Ian for their continued support.

During the summer months we have studied a very interesting book called '52 Reflections on Faith' by Stephen Need. It is a very refreshing book and we are led simply by seeing the gospels from a different direction. Stephen introduces us to subjects from poetry, art, literature and music as a different starting point each week. It really has been a delightful book for Mavis and I to use.

We will be following the York Course for Lent called 'Daring to see God now'.

We are a regular group of around 12 and new members are always welcome to join us. I would like to thank Mavis for her guidance and support as we continue to share the leadership of the group.

Christine Watson

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY GROUP (2)

Our small but enthusiastic group continues to meet in the Committee room at 1.45pm each Wednesday. Over the past year we have studied Hebrews, Tobit (from the Apocrypha), and 1 Corinthians. We also enjoyed an Advent course based on the lectionary readings for Sundays in Advent. We learn from scripture and from each other, and our discussions are always lively and interesting. New members welcome!

Rev'd Diana Garfield

LITTLE LAMBS

Thursday mornings are a busy, happy time at Little Lambs. We have 17 families on our register, with an average of 12 families attending regularly. Childminders, grandparents, as well as parents, bring their children along and everyone is welcome for a chat and refreshments.

We enjoy seeing Glynis and Brian with their puppy from time to time, so children and puppy learn how to behave together.

It was so good to see past and present families at the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

Margaret Deacon

EDWARD BEAR

Our thanks go to Louise Baines, Rachel Butterworth and Ali Dobinson, for all their time and dedication in running Edward Bear. They have put together well thought out sessions with a Bible story, crafts, songs, puppets and Edward Bear for many years, along with a summer party and Christmas party, which have been lots of fun. At the end of summer 2018, the ladies said that they wanted to step back from leading Edward Bear; they stayed until October – when the clergy team took over running it. A huge thank you goes to the ladies for all they have done.

We are now looking for people to help at Edward Bear in any capacity – welcoming/helping adults and children, preparing the crafts, making refreshments and reading the story – otherwise the clergy team will have to continue to do all of this. Please speak to any of the clergy team if you feel you could help with this.

Rev'd Julie Hardy

PRAY & PLAY

This group is for parents and carers of small children to meet for mutual Christian support and discussion whilst the children play. It meets on alternate Tuesdays during term time from 10am for an hour. It is run by Rev'd Carolyn Tibbott with support from the Rev'd Julie Hardy and the Rev'd Diana Garfield.

We have a core group of 6 to 7 regulars, having recruited a couple of new members this year. We all enjoy open and relaxed spiritual discussions. It continues to be a group valued by its members providing shared support, a great opportunity to talk about issues beyond day to day child care and also explore member's Christianity. This year's discussions have all been based around Bible passages and have enabled us to deepen our Christian understanding and faith.

We are looking forward to continuing our spiritual discussions on the issues and experiences that affect our daily lives in future meetings. We also look forward to welcoming further new members.

Rachel Butterworth

CHILDREN'S FILM CLUB – FUN FAITH

Fun Faith continued for a few months in 2018 showing a film of a bible story followed by a discussion with the children. This was run by a member of the ministry team with support from the children's parents. Although well received at first, numbers of children remained low and it was decided by the PCC to stop providing Sunday School during our 10.30am worship. As an alternative we have made the area in front of the North Aisle child friendly with mats, cushions a small table and chairs. Each week a worksheet is photocopied for older children to work on and there are quiet toys for younger children to play with. I would like to extend my thanks to all our parents who supported Fun Faith as leaders over the years. I would also like to encourage people with children to use the 'children's area' during any act of worship. It is a joy to have children in church worshipping with us and we will seek to find other ways to teach our children the Christian Faith.

Rev'd Carolyn Tibbott

SUPPORTING WORSHIP

SIDESPERSIONS

8.00am Communion Service

Lis Hardy
Sheila Hasler

Sue Browning
Christine Watson

10.30am Morning Service

Margaret & Alun Powell
Margaret Ginn & Doris Baker
Barbara Curren & Yvonne Heaver
Jennifer & Brian Whymark
Margaret & Malcolm Deacon

Rosalie Ritson & Charlotte Tew
Marie & Ted Williams
Susan Garwood & Jill Readings
Keith Rouse & David Ellingford
Karen Paxton & Sylvia Ede

Relief Sidesperson - Mavis Tebby

5.30pm Evening Prayer

Dr Trudy Stevens
Michael Jones

Vic Barker

Changes during the Year :-

Due to their present circumstances, Margaret Clarke and Christine Ray have stood down as they are unable to continue to carry out the role of Sidesperson. We take this opportunity to thank them both for their devoted service over many years. Karen Paxton and Sylvia Ede joined the 10.30 sidespersons' rota.

The above are those who are on the Sidespersons' Rota and we take this opportunity to thank you all for your invaluable service over the past year. You are our welcome at the door and we appreciate your dedication and assistance, which at times is a very busy job. If anyone is interested in coming on to the rota, especially for evening prayer, contact us.

Peter Baker, Margaret Powell, Michael Jones

PUPPET CREW

The Puppet Crew continued to meet on Wednesdays - 7pm to 8.30pm during 2018. We originally had 6 members at the beginning of the year and, after the Mothering Sunday performance, the Puppet Crew decided to take a break as two of the younger members were taking their exams.

In September the decision was made that the Puppet Crew would start meeting again. The leader at that time, Louise Baines, decided that due to other commitments she was unable to attend anymore. We would like to thank Louise for all the hard work she has done for puppets over the years and she will be greatly missed.

We started back in October and we had a new member, Claire, and Glynis had returned after taking some time off for dog training. The Puppet Crew has now got 7 members. We have performed at a Sunday Special afternoon; the family service in December; and the two shows on Christmas Eve. We are already set to perform at some more Sunday Special afternoons, the Christingle Service and on Mothering Sunday.

Michelle Curtis

CHURCH MUSIC

This year has been another successful one for our church music. The organ fund continues to grow through very kind donations and the series of successful concerts. The choir rehearses every week and work very hard to bring you lovely singing during the services and particularly during communion.

Below is a list of just some of our achievements:

- ✚ Affiliated to Royal Schools of Church Music.
- ✚ Jane Mitchell, Gwilym Morris and myself continue to share services and my sincere thanks to Jane and Gwilym for their support.
- ✚ We have played and sung at approximately 7 weddings.
- ✚ Occasionally the choir has sung at funerals – mainly at those of people/families who are linked closely to the church.
- ✚ Choir numbers have remained stable throughout the year and although small we have a stalwart group of outstanding people who support our worship week after week.

My sincere thanks go to the choir, with whom it is an absolute pleasure to work.

- ✚ The organ fund has been boosted by another round of Sunday afternoon concerts. We started in April with a visit from some of the winners of Chelmsford Competitive Festival. Then had the delights of Cross Harmonies and Jessica Edom Carey.
- ✚ The Anglia Singers approached us to perform a winter concert and the audience for this was one of our largest. As a result, the singers donated almost £1,000 to our organ fund.

The 2019 “season” has already started with a fabulous concert presented once again by the Chelmsford Competitive Festival.

Jill Parkin

ST. MARY’S BELL RINGERS

St Mary’s campanologists regularly ring our Tower bells for Sunday services and for weddings as required.

This past year has seen the centenary of the First World War and we participated in the Ringing Remembers campaign. We rang half muffled for the morning service before ringing de-muffled at 12.30 along with many other towers around the country to recognise all those that lost their lives. Further details can be found here: <https://bb.ringingworld.co.uk/event.php?id=9128>

We hold a practice and training evening on Wednesdays, with the first Wednesday of each month being at Little Waltham Church. If you are interested in learning to ring then please speak to us on Sunday or come over on Wednesday evening between 8 and 9pm. You will be very welcome.

For further information please contact Chris Marcus (Tower Captain) by email at broomfield@eacr.org.uk or by telephone 07730 796 422.

Chris Marcus

BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP (BRF)

Readings from the Bible Reading Fellowship are currently being read and enjoyed by around 20 people. Two new members have joined us this year and the feedback has been excellent. I continue to place past editions of New Daylight (which also comes in large print), The Upper Room and Guidelines on the bier which you can help yourself to, to give you an idea of content. If you cannot find any there, do let me know and I will locate some for you.

Margaret Ginn

CHURCH WEBSITE

The website is going well I hope. I try to update it every week with articles regarding an activity or special service or the theme of the weekly sermon. I also update the weekly verse (or 2). I also update the calendar once a month and I manage the website prayers and print out very shortened versions of the prayers for the Prayer Group meetings. Many thanks to Andy for changing the heading banners and managing any problems that arise with the website.

Joan Vine

SAFEGUARDING

There have been several changes that have occurred in the last year with regards to safeguarding in the diocese. The Chelmsford Diocese Safeguarding Office reviewed their Safeguarding Policy and Guidelines and the previous Chelmsford Diocese documents have now been replaced with the Churches National Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance. These were adopted by the PCC at their meeting on 20th September 2018. A copy of this and the PCC Safeguarding Statement are available in the vestry if anyone wishes to see them.

The other change is that Chelmsford Diocese no longer processes the DBS checks. These are now processed by Thirtyone:eight an independent Christian charity established in 1977 providing professional advice, training and support in all areas of safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm.

All volunteers whose role requires a DBS have a current certificate and have completed safeguarding training. We need to remember it is the responsibility of every adult to promote the welfare of any child or vulnerable adult and protect them from harm. Safeguarding posters with telephone numbers are displayed in the church and church hall.

Lisbeth Hardy

THE WIDER CHURCH

FILM AND LUNCH CLUB

Another successful year for the Film Club, which is still well supported and enjoyed by our regular film buffs. We experienced the 'Suffragettes' with their struggle to obtain votes for women; the climbers of Mount Everest; and went back to the cold war with 'Bridge of Spies'. The programme for the year continued with 'Mrs Miniver', a tale which took place during the second world war; followed later in the year by a visit to the Welsh Valleys and saw the severe hardship of the local coal mining community in 'How Green was My Valley'. A Thomas Hardy literary classic, 'Far from the Madding Crowd', was our next film. The year finished with a romantic journey, 'The Longest Ride', so all in all a very varied programme.

We meet in St Leonard's Hall on the first Monday of each month, unless the Monday is a Bank Holiday when we meet on the second Monday of the month. August is the only month we don't meet. Arrival time is between 12.00 noon to 12.30pm and the film commences at 12.45pm with an average running time of approximately two hours. We each bring our own lunch but tea or coffee is available in the hall.

My thanks to you all who supported the Club during the past year, also those who make the tea and coffee for us and help clear the hall after the film. A big thank you to Julie for her help and for standing in for me when I am on holiday.

Peter Baker & Rev'd. Julie Hardy

LUNCH AND LAUGHTER

Another year has passed and Lunch and Laughter continues to prosper. We have a regular group of about fifteen but there is room for more! Homemade soup, french bread and cake are on the menu during the winter months, with ploughmans in the summer and of course cups of tea. Everyone makes a donation which goes towards church funds, last year we raised £340 which was very pleasing. Thanks must also go to Elaine, Lylia and Sheena who give their help with a happy smile, thank you we could not manage without you.

So here's to another happy year of friendship.

Sue Browning

BEETLE DRIVE

We loyal Beetle Drive players met seven times this season. We missed one session owing to a funeral taking place. We ranged from six to eleven people taking part and enjoyed a good chat over tea and cakes. Not bad value for 50p. We'd love to see new faces so please consider coming along, from 2pm to 4pm on the third Thursday of the month from April to November. No previous experience necessary.

Margaret Powell, Margaret Deacon

TUESDAY CHURCHYARD WORKING PARTY

The Working Party continues to meet every Tuesday morning from 9am to 1pm. We maintain the Churchyard and the car park and our tasks include cutting the grass, clearing leaves, tidying the graves and the cremated remains area, attending to the flower beds, sweeping the paths around the Church, clearing the surface water channels, maintaining the trees etc. The large variety of trees is a notable feature of our Churchyard and we especially care for these in conjunction with the Church Wardens.

We were saddened in July 2018 by the death of Ian Hughes. Ian had taken on responsibility for the maintenance of the Churchyard over a period of at least 30 years and we had come to rely on his leadership in our work. His knowledge of trees was immense and he served as the PCC's Tree Officer. In later months he would join us for our mid-morning break and give advice on tree matters. He is sorely missed.

The PCC have given us authority to ensure that the Churchyard is maintained in accordance with the rules and we remove items from graves that are deemed in contravention of those rules. This includes grave surrounds, plastic and artificial flowers, photographs, cards, balloons, wind-chimes, soft toys, ornaments, candles and personal belongings or memorabilia etc. A minority of visitors to the graves disregard the rules and one of the least pleasant aspects of our work is dealing with the removal of these inappropriate items. It is necessary to have rules to ensure common standards which respect other bereaved families.

Expenses are kept to a minimum as much as possible but during 2018 our total costs were almost £1,000 including £480 for two new mowers, £65 for a hedge trimmer and £300 for a skip to remove all the rubbish. Other costs amounted to £140 including petrol for the mowers and paint for the timber around the cremated remains area. The petrol cost was almost half previous years due to the dry summer when the grass didn't grow. It is estimated that over 1,000 man hours of work go into the maintenance of the Churchyard and car park every year. This is a very significant voluntary commitment by the members of the Working Party to the benefit of our Church.

An important part of our role is a presence in the Churchyard on Tuesday mornings when we are available to talk to visitors. We have many regulars with whom we enjoy a chat.

We continue to look after the Churchyard in a manner so that there is a balance between the need to make it attractive to local people and visitors whilst also encouraging wild flowers, insects, birds and bats. Our Churchyard is at least as old in places as the Church Building and has been a refuge for plants and animals for generations.

We are a very social group and enjoy coffee, sausage rolls and a natter mid-morning. Our special thanks go to Eric and Brenda Rowley who turn up each Tuesday to prepare our coffee and sausage rolls and clear up afterwards.

Anybody who enjoys a chat with a bit of gardening thrown in would be very welcome to join us, especially at grass cutting time when we are sometimes rather shorthanded.

David Marcus

(This report covers the year 2018 and was written before the sad news of the death of Brenda Rowley on 25 February 2019).

ST. MARY'S LADIES GROUP

The Ladies Group meet on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in St. Leonard's Hall. Our meetings are varied, with outside speakers talking about their charities or covering topical issues whilst others are of a spiritual nature. Other meetings are light-hearted and member-led such as our Strawberry Supper and annual Christmas Celebration. We were pleased to invite other church members and friends to a number of our meetings in the past year.

This year we have supported charities including Railway Children (helping street children in Africa and India); MENCAP; Marie Curie and Mercy Ships (providing health care around the world from a floating hospital).

Birthday cards are sent to all 2 and 3 year old children baptised at St Mary's inviting them to attend Edward Bear; Pray & Play and Little Lambs.

Our 2019 programme will cover topics as wide ranging as the Woodland Trust; Diabetes; and hearing about Chelmsford Suffragettes. Details of our meetings are published in the Round Tower and on the church website.

Sue Cole.

ST. MARY'S MEN'S GROUP

The Group meets every 3rd Tuesday of the month at various locations. A monthly email is sent to the men with lots of information and something to reflect upon, to be included please email hardygang@btinternet.com

The Group size varies from 3 to 20 men. Our past activities have included: Bowling; BBQ's; Film nights; walking from the Walnut tree pub to Broomfield along the footpaths; and social meetings at local pubs. We held another successful men's breakfast with an inspirational talk from Revd Mark Grant-Jones, senior chaplain to Colchester 16 air assault brigade.

Future meetings and events are being planned for 2019.

Paul Hardy

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

At present there are 21 box holders who attend St. Mary with St. Leonard's Church. These are people who support the Children's Society by collecting their loose change. The boxes were collected in November 2018, blessed in church before their contents were emptied and counted. The total collected was £598 with potentially another £68 in Gift Aid. St. Mary's as a whole also supports the Children's Society by having a Christingle service in February. Christingle services were also held in the church for Broomfield Primary School in December.

In 2018 the Children's Society worked with over 11,000 vulnerable children and young people bringing life changing support. This includes helping families trapped in poverty and debt, providing support to young carers and combatting child sexual exploitation. The kindness and compassion shown by box holders in donating enables the Children's Society to make it possible for these children to escape from potentially harmful surroundings and lead the happier lives that they deserve.

I would like to thank all those who have donated to the Children's Society during 2018.

If you would like to become a box holder, please contact me.

Sue Cole

CHRISTIAN AID

One of the advances in the use of technology, which permeates our everyday lives, is the use of credit and debit cards and contactless payments; cash is fast becoming a redundant commodity. Or is it? Thanks to 23 volunteers we were able to send a massive £2,097.07 to Christian Aid as St Mary's contribution towards the £9.8 million raised during their special week in 2018.

It is not easy to approach strangers' front doors, to negotiate uneven paths, snapping letter boxes and potentially inventive refusals. However, for many, the red envelopes and collecting bags are a familiar sight in May and it is heart-warming when one receives a cheery greeting and prepared donation.

Perhaps even more important than the financial contribution is the opportunity collecting gives us for witness. It allows us to demonstrate to the people of Broomfield that, as Christians, we are not merely Sunday worshipers but are a caring congregation that takes an active role in seeking to improve the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. Everyone can help, even the less mobile, as support in prayer for the stalwart volunteers walking the paths of our village is warmly welcomed.

In 2018 Christian Aid Week focused on *Standing Together (to help families weather future storms)*. This year the UK's longest running fundraising week will be focusing on helping mothers deliver their babies safely in Sierra Leone.

Christian Aid Week 12th-18th May 2019

Please help us help this worthy cause.

As I am sure you are aware, there is considerable development within Broomfield and a lot of new housing in our parish. This means more roads to target. Please will you consider volunteering to undertake the delivery and collection of envelopes in a road near you? Even just a few extra houses would be valued. Please contact me if you can help. Thank you, in hope. 01245 359079 or by email: Trudy_Stevens@outlook.com.

Trudy Stevens

FLOWER ARRANGERS

The team of 10 ladies have again beautifully decorated the Church for Easter, harvest and Christmas. 150 posies were supplied for Mothering Sunday. Six wedding couples had flower displays of their choosing and I provided two funeral wreaths. I am grateful to Carolyn and the Ministry team, and the flower arranging ladies for all their willingness and support. Two donations from surplus funds have been given to the Treasurer during the year.

A phone call from Sue Cole in September asking if she could borrow the frame to make an arch of knitted poppies over the Church door for the Remembrance Day service led to an enthusiastic response with over 600 crafted poppies adorning the Church throughout November; a very moving and much appreciated scene, part of the wider remembrance held in the Church, commemorating 100 years since the end of the First World. Credit to Sue for instigating and supervising this.

Margaret Pinkerton

THE ROUND TOWER MAGAZINE

Our distributors deliver 200 copies a month – many thanks to all of them - and we also sell 20 to 30 over the counter. Many of these are to families which, hopefully, multiplies our readership even more and makes the magazine an effective way of communicating with our parishioners. The Round Tower continues to be used as part of our Mission and Outreach. Towards the end of 2018 and into 2019 Rev'd Julie has been delivering free copies to the new households which are being added to Broomfield's population, including the new housing which is springing up on the hospital approach road. This is a good way of welcoming new families into the village and letting them know we exist and are a welcoming church.

Putting the magazine together each month is made easier by the amount of copy we receive and a big thank you to all who contribute. There's always room for new writers however, so if you feel the urge to put pen to paper, please do so. We try to keep a balance between articles, announcements and advertisements but if there is anything you would like included please let us know.

Many thanks to the editor, our Vicar, the editorial panel and proof readers, Margaret Clarke, Margaret Ginn, Peter Watson and Trudy Stevens who has just joined us. Peter also does an excellent job in dealing with the advertisements.

We aim to cover our costs and earn a small surplus on the Round Tower which we have for a number of years.

Alun Powell

CHELMSFORD FOOD BANK

Unfortunately, Chelmsford Foodbank is still going strong.

That may seem a strange way to start, but indicates that, unfortunately, there is still an ongoing need for foodbanks. But fortunately, thanks to generous gifts of supplies, time and cash, that need is being met.

So grateful thanks are once again due to all those members of our congregation that have supported Foodbank during 2018 by donating food and other necessities; money; and regularly taking the gifts to one of the food bank collecting points. And of course for your prayers for the people who need help and for the volunteers in the multitude of roles that keep the operation running smoothly from week to week.

To see what items are most urgently required please do look at the weekly Church newsheet but the general rule is that no fresh/perishable produce can be coped with since it may spend some time in the warehouse before that particular item is required to be made up into parcels.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Brian Worboys

MONTHLY COFFEE MORNING

Time passes so quickly and another year has gone. It seems only yesterday we were celebrating Christmas and so we proceed through all the seasons.

We continue our monthly coffee mornings for Little Havens Children's Hospice on the second Wednesday of each month at 10.30am in St Leonard's Hall.

We look forward to your company on these dates and a warm welcome will greet you.

Little Havens Hospice for Children is our chosen charity and so far over the years we have raised a total of £5,200 for this very worthwhile cause.

Ann Hurrell

