

CHRIST CHURCH PORTSDOWN



Year Book 2016

A look back at events at Christ Church

Published April 2017



Introduction

This year book gives us the opportunity to look back at the activities of our church for the year 2016. No summary like this can ever be complete, but it provides a few snap shots of our life together. A companion document, the Annual Report, contains more formal information and the church accounts.

Vicar's Report

In my report for the 2015 Year Book I wrote these words: "During the year we moved closer to the long-awaited building project. I look forward to writing about its completion in the 2016 report!"

Although I cannot say that the building project is complete, we have achieved the major step of seeing the new entrance and toilets finally installed at Christ Church. This has made a huge difference to our life as a church and we are continuing to see new benefits. There are still some minor parts of that particular project to complete, we have some repairs to carry out and then we will be looking at future developments.

Whilst the building tended to dominate our thoughts during the year, it was not all we were about. It was pleasing to see attendances at our services pick up after a difficult 2015. This was due in part to an increase in the number of baptisms and an associated increase in young families.

In May, Sandy Phillips retired from active ministry at Christ Church. Sandy made a huge contribution to the life of our church during 12 years as a curate, and her ministry is missed. She has since become a regular member of our 8.00 congregation. In July Mark James was ordained and joined us as self-supporting Curate. Mark has a full-time job outside of the church, but has still managed to make a great impact. Sandra Morgan continues her much-appreciated ministry as Reader.

Richard Hutchins entered the final year of his training for ordained ministry and it will be with mixed emotions that we will send Richard, Diana, Jonathan and Angus off to Liss in the summer as Richard takes up the post of Curate. We will miss them all, but look forward to seeing how God will use them in the future. Last summer, Sarah Collins moved to Bristol to begin her training for Ordination. It is a privilege to have been able to share the journeys of a number of people moving towards ordained ministry in recent years. I wonder who's next! At the beginning of the year we said farewell to our church choir. We remain grateful for the faithfulness of our choir members over many years as well as appreciating the ministry of our continuing musicians.

We have continued to welcome children into our services. As the number of children grows, we have more thinking to do in this area – which is good!

As always, we lost some members of our church whose earthly life came to an end in 2016, including Beatrix ('BeaBea') Beaden, Lionel Dickson, John Wild, David Fletcher and Pam Knight. They are missed.

Once more we welcomed Cosham Rotary and Inner Wheel for their annual service of dedication, and for the first time we welcomed the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing

Corps for their corps service. This latter service was particularly moving, falling on the centenary of the death of Staff Nurse Bridget Donovan in the Queen Alexandra military hospital.

As the year ended we began to look ahead to how we would lead our church into growth in 2017. I pray that we will see the fruits of that particular work very soon.

Revd Andy Wilson

Curate's Report

I have found reflecting on my sense of Vocation and Ministry after just six months both rewarding and challenging. Mainly, I think, in trying to find a balance between full time work, a young family and self-supporting Ministry here at Christ Church.

Amongst the challenge, God has been at work. I have found a renewed place of refuge, the Psalms, notable 139. That sense of a God interested in me. A God that searches and knows me. A God who discerns my rising and falling, A God who discerns my thoughts and knows all that I need. In the challenge I have reaffirmed that I do not want my role as Deacon to become trite, something devoid of freshness. Surely the role needs to be more than the hours I put in around work, more than an agreement. Anything less to me, is simply me placing items in my diary, which in turn becomes nothing more than an idol I follow, sterile, benign. I want to follow God, not allow my goals to become my God.

I have enjoyed and remain humbled at the welcome and love I have received. I struggle still with names but I am getting there. As I focus on listening for Gods voice in my call I continue with some impatience in myself to do more but am loving the opportunities to lead and preach, make coffee and generally just get to know people. The parish has no coffee shops but three pubs and it is in here that I begin to sense the heartbeat of the parish.

It is safe to say I am settling in although I still feel like a child who sticks their tongue out as they concentrate trying to remember how to tie shoelaces. It gets easier I am told. My prayer is to continue to listen, remain faithful and build on the foundations that God is laying.

Revd Mark James

Churchwardens' Report

Our last year as wardens has been an exceptional one. Our Heavenly Father has sustained the vision that we, as a church family, laid before Him all that time ago for improving our church and, through your continued faithfulness, we have seen Him bring to fruition the years of dreams, hopes and plans. The new entrance is a real improvement and people not even connected with the church have commented on how good it looks and how it complements the church. Then there are the toilets that have transformed the old entrance are there any one of our family who has not used them and thanked God for giving us the resources to finally see them there?

It has also been a year that has seen the clergy of our cluster play a greater shared part in each other's churches, shared service where Andy, Peter and Connie have brought their talents and experiences to each individual church not their own and we as congregations have benefitted. This close cooperation really bore fruit during the time of the illness and

passing of Andy's father, this enabled all the ministry teams to integrate their time and resources to cover for Andy and allow him to spend as time as he needed to be with his father up to the end. We as the two wardens are eternally grateful to them for this and we look forward to our successors enjoying the same degree of support and cooperation. There are more cluster events on the horizon, a shared parish weekend away and a visit to the Holy Land under the leadership of Andy and Peter.

Our Summer Festival and Advent Fayre continue to play a large part in our church year enabling us to reach out to our wider family and community. Again, our Heavenly Father honours our commitment to primarily showcase our church, its services and what is on offer to them and their families. We have committed to Him that raising money is not our main object but He sees that we are not found wanting in getting the finances we need to continue the work He has set us.

Earlier in the year a series of meetings were held titled 'Leading Your Church Into Growth' (LYCIG), these were well attended and many ideas, suggestions and thoughts were expressed as to how we could continue to go forward and help our church grow both in numbers and spiritually. There are more sessions planned in the next couple of months and if you didn't come to the last series please try to get to these, your voice is equally important and the more input you put in the more we will know the direction we need to go. Whatever you do please keep these sessions on your prayer list so that not only do we find out what you think we should do but more importantly we need to know what our Father wants for us.

The New Wine Summer Conference held each year in Somerset saw a number of our Church Family attend and whether you go or not we all feel the benefits in our Sunday services especially, and the enthusiasm that those who go bring back is infectious. The monthly New Wine celebration service held at the Church of the Good Shepherd continues to be well attended but there is room for more to attend, pray about it.

Repairs to the building are ongoing (when aren't they?) the leak in the roof is being addressed and some progress should be seen as the year moves on. The vestry ceiling still needs sorting out, and when resources become available and, under the guidance of our architect, it will be done in an appropriate and sensitive manner. The condition of the north drive continues to be at the front of our deliberations and rest assured at the earliest opportunity it will be done, however ideally, we would like all the drive way done but this will take extra resources and a lot of prayer!!

Mark James, our curate, joined us during the year and it was with great pleasure that we welcomed him and his family to our fellowship, we look forward to seeing Mark putting into practice some of his ideas.

Our church, spiritually and physically, is in good health. No room for complacency but under our Father's guidance it will continue to be there, serving the community all the ways possible, to His glory. It has been a privilege to serve as Church wardens and we would both like to thank you for support and prayers during our time as wardens.

God Bless you all

Dave Fowler and Diana Hutchins

Building Development

New Toilet and Entrance

Following planning approvals from Portsmouth City Council and the Diocese (which took much longer than anticipated) the toilets and new entrance were built during the summer period this year (2016). The gas meter was moved from the porch to the bank on the south side of the church and disruption was kept to a minimum.

We were able to build the toilet and entrance within the budgeted figure and borrowed £20,000 from the Diocese to bridge the gap before we could reclaim the VAT resulting in a small surplus overall. Many thanks are due to all those people who have made contributions to the fund. The new toilets and entrance have been well received by the majority of the congregation.

AV Desk

To accommodate the new entrance we have moved the Audio Visual desk to a position in front of the walkway to the Flower, Tea and Coffee area. Now we need to provide some screening round the desk to reduce the visual impact.

Meetings

The PCC are grateful to the members of the BDG for their contributions and plan to incorporate maintenance work into a new group which will address maintenance work and a number of outstanding development items following completion of the toilets and entrance.

Andy Minchin, Building Development Group

Church Cleaning Team

We now have two times for cleaning the church and we always welcome anyone who has the odd hour to spare.

We meet on the first and third Thursdays from 09.30 – 11.00 and on the second and fourth Saturdays from 09.00 – 10.30.

Ros Molloy for Thursdays and Jo Duckett for Saturdays

Ros Molloy

Deanery Synod

We have covered and discussed a number of topics at synod during 2016 including:

- The Diocesan Strategy, “Live/Pray/Serve”.
- Support to IDWAL/Koforidua
- Innovative work in Parishes across the Deanery
- Deanery Plan 2016 (this covers the allocation of stipendiary and non-stipendiary ministers across the Deanery)
- A presentation by Revd Robert Sanday, the Diocesan Adviser on Disability
- Deanery Finances
- Diocesan Synod
- Vacancies for members of various committees and for the Deanery Synod Lay Chair

Note that our Deanery responsibilities are now shared between two Area Deans. The Revd Andy Wilson for parishes west of the A3M and the Revd Karina Green for parishes east of the A3M including Hayling Island.

Andy Minchin and Ruth Fowler, Deanery Synod Representatives

Electoral Roll

At the end of 2016 the Roll stood at 126 (141 in 2015) with 66 living within the parish and 60 living outside the parish boundaries. This is a decrease of 15 compared with the number reported last year.

Graham Olway

Flower Stewards

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside lead a small group of experienced flower arrangers who oversee the yearly flower rota. This comprises of many parishioners providing flowers in memory of loved ones departed or to celebrate anniversaries during the year. In addition we are fortunate to have a number of loyal helpers who come and assist in arranging flowers at weddings and the Christian church festivals. We were asked to arrange flowers for 7 weddings during 2016. We would love more helpers who would be most welcome.

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside

Friday Friends

Friday friends, although a small group, is an invaluable resource for the local older population. They really enjoy the time out and meeting up with friends for a natter and a cuppa. After noticing all the talk on knitting and some bringing their work in to show others, I suggested that maybe they would like to bring their knitting or crotchet in to work on. This has proved a regular feature and garners much conversation and excitement over some of the projects brought in. There are some very talented ladies! A number of their pieces are for charity organisations with a popular one being for The Mission to Seafarers who are in receipt of a specially shaped scarf. Pictures have even been received to show them wearing them whilst at sea. So greatly received and appreciated. And of course the ladies loved knitting them. They are addicted!

We have had 2 outings in the last year. One for afternoon scones and tea in summer and the other for a Christmas afternoon tea. Both highly enjoyed and the locations new for some. The views of the sea are always a winner.

Friday Friends meets on each first and third Friday of the Month at 1415 hrs in Christ Church church hall and we would love to see you. Both ladies and gentlemen would be made most welcome

Tracey Harvey

Gift Aid

How can you help your church financially without it costing you any more money?

Well, you can gift aid your donations to the church. Many of you do so already and, for that, we as a church are very grateful. If you are a UK taxpayer, we claim back the tax from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC), enhancing your gift to the church by £2.50 for every £10.00, at no additional cost to yourself. You do not have to commit to a regular payment, although doing so does help us as a church to plan our expenditure.

I know that some of you do not gift aid your donations because you feel that you do not pay enough tax to cover this (particularly if you have retired from work), or maybe you do not pay tax but you have a partner who does. If you feel that this may apply to you, please contact me and I will be able to advise you confidentially as to how you may still be able to help, **without it costing you anything**. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, please contact me for details of how gift aiding can actually be a financial benefit to yourself.

Since 6 April 2013, HMRC has enhanced the Gift Aid scheme for churches by accepting claims on "loose cash" in the collections. This is known as the Gift Aid on Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). However, this is subject to certain restrictions, including a maximum annual amount, and the existence of a significant number of regular gift aiders.

The claims on donations made in 2016 have generated rebates from HMRC amounting to £14,291.99. This is a significant element of income for our church. As it is all "free money", I urge you to sign up to our gift aid scheme if you have not already done so. Please contact me for more details about gift aiding and/or our regular payment schemes.

Your continued support for additional income for the Building Development Fund (BDF) is highly appreciated. Please be assured that the proportion of the rebate received in respect of the BDF income is indeed allocated to the BDF; in 2016 it totalled **£2,886.38**.

Our church is an active participant of the new Parish Giving Scheme (PGS). This scheme improves the efficiency of the gift aid claims and, if you have not already done so, I encourage you to consider joining by transferring your existing commitment to a direct debit or, if you do not yet have a current commitment, by setting one up. Full details of the scheme, including the benefits both to our church and to yourself, can be obtained from our Treasurer, Jacqui Wilson.

The gift aid income in 2016 of £14,291.99 was comprised of the following elements:

- £5,291.93 via the PGS
- £3,738.38 from Bank Standing Orders
- £3,909.25 from our Envelope Schemes (including Gift Day)
- £1,352.43 from GASDS.

If you would like to speak to me about gift aid, my address is: 24 Park Avenue, Widley, Waterlooville, Hants, PO7 5DW. If you wish, you can leave a note for me in the "B" pigeon hole in church, or you can email me at: rogeralanbanks@yahoo.co.uk.

Roger Banks, Gift Aid Administrator

Christ Church Portsdown Good Neighbours



Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others – 1 Peter 4:10

This scheme provides practical help for people in our community who do not have friends or relatives nearby to support them. Last year 32 volunteers responded to 814 requests for help, an increase of about 1 per week on the previous year and again the biggest increase was in requests for help with shopping. Our main activity revolves around providing transport to medical appointments; providing assistance with shopping; making friendly visits to people who feel alone and facilitating attendance at social events which includes the monthly Neighbourhood Lunch (**see information below**). We also have helped people with small D.I.Y. jobs and with their pets as well as helping people manage their paperwork and form filling. A new initiative is a “Daily Call” service for those who feel particularly anxious about living alone – this is currently under trial and if successful will be offered more widely.

The team is volunteer led and so people from all walks of life, whether retired or still working are able to offer whatever time they want to give and can choose the sort of help they wish to offer; some people choose to make Good Neighbour volunteering a big part of their lives and others can only give a little – we all do just what we can! We have 53 clients currently, all of whom are extremely grateful for whatever help they receive and in turn all volunteers find a great deal of satisfaction in what they do – indeed research tells us that helping others is an important factor in being happy!

There has been interest in what we do from our two Cluster Churches and we are currently trialling working with St John’s Purbrook to develop our scheme to benefit more people across a wider area. If successful the group may rebrand to be inclusive of all three Cluster Churches.

Our team continues to be willing and enthusiastic, showing a good deal of kindness and care to so many people in our local community who really need the sort of help we are able to give. We will always welcome more volunteers – if you might be interested in joining us please call the number below or send an email or speak to one of the Management Committee.

Christ Church Portsdown Good Neighbours

Email: good.neighbours@christchurchportsdown.org

Sheila Gill – Chair CCP Good Neighbours

Neighbourhood Lunches

The neighbourhood lunches are proving to be as popular as ever. On average, forty five members of the local community join a team of volunteers to enjoy a home cooked, two course meal on the fourth Friday of every month.

The meal costs £4 and, through careful stewardship, we have been able to donate a substantial amount to a local charity and to Christchurch.

At Christmas we celebrated with other Good Neighbours clients and the Friday friends group with a full Christmas meal followed by Carols and Cake.

The hard working team of volunteers welcome the attendees and help to generate a congenial atmosphere of fellowship and care.

Linda Hoole

Portsdown Guiding Groups

Rainbows

We currently have two rainbow units in operation. Our Thursday Rainbows have had a busy year. They have enjoyed trying out a variety of cooking sessions, French knitting, crafts and games. They celebrated the Queens 90th birthday with a party organised by the Portsdown Trefoil Guild. They have also completed activities in connection with Remembrance Sunday. Other activities outside of our regular Thursday meetings include visiting Fort Nelson for the morning to explore and make catapults. At the beginning of 2017, Guider Becky has stood down as the Brownie Leader and Cindi Bronger has taken over as the Guider in Charge. Becky will continue to support the unit in an Assistant role.

The Monday evening Rainbows have enjoyed undertaking a number of different activities linked to the four elements of - Look, Learn, Laugh and Love. They too visited Fort Nelson and also Waterlooville Police station which will complement the emergency service event they are due to attend in Havant shortly.

The rainbows have made their promises and have been developing life skills which will help them at school and home.

Brownies

Over the last year the Brownies have been thriving with lots of newcomers, they have worked on their seasons badge. Activities included, autumn cooking, Winter Olympics , bird feeders, sunflower competition and making picnic pads.

They have also had a science evening, 'I'm a brownie get me out of here' session and plenty of craft and games activities.

Becky would like to thank all leaders and parents for their support over the last year. In particular the team would like to thank Laura Quinn, who after many years as a volunteer with the group has had to relinquish her role due to work commitments.

Guides

The Guides have been involved in community activities over the last twelve months which have included; helping at the Church Festival and supporting the Christingle service in December.

In May last year, girls went to London to the Guide 'Big Gig' event at Wembley for a pop concert alongside guides from the Purbrook and Waterlooville areas. Other joint activities included a successful Rounders competition with Purbrook Guides and a visit from the group to Portsdown for a campfire and singing evening.

Our summer camp took place at Runways End near Aldershot. The adventure packed week included rafting, high ropes course and survival skills. Plus a trip to the local leisure centre and shopping.

The guides enjoyed visiting Cosham Fire station and learnt more about what the Fire Service do and what to do in the event of a fire.

The Senior Section

When a guide reaches the age of 14 they can join the Senior Section. This group for older girls has a focus on the girls planning and delivering their own programme, with the support of a Guider. Emma, an experienced leader joined us after Christmas and has been working with the group on a number of activities including a Murder, Mystery evening, setting up a fundraising tuck shop which is available to the Guides each week and looking ahead to recruiting girls from other groups over the coming months.

Maria Calway-Kennedy

Hall Management

We are grateful once again to the members of the management committee who have worked hard in 2016 to maintain and improve the hall. During the year we have had an asbestos survey carried out, purchased an external notice board, had repairs to the flat roof done and new road markings in the car parks. We have also now established a regular window cleaner and gutter clearer which keeps the hall looking more presentable externally, and purchased a reconditioned vacuum cleaner to help with the internal cleanliness.

The hall is well-used with many regular groups plus one-off hires (usually children's parties), the fees for which cover all the expenses of the hall and contribute to the income of the church. One of the best 'earners' is when the hall is used as a Polling Station, which of course happened twice in 2016. The excess of income over expenditure during the year was nearly £8,000.

Jacqui Wilson, Hall Manager

Homegroups

In 2016, there were 4 home groups. The Tuesday and Thursday group joined together and moved to Wednesday evening

- Monday evening (led by Dave Fowler)
- Wednesday afternoon (led by Jacqui Wilson)
- Wednesday evening (led by Sandra Morgan)
- Wednesday evening (led by Sarah Collins and Pauline Letters)

Approximately 30 church members attend these groups. During Lent 2016, a new group formed and met together on a Monday morning in the Church Hall for 6 weeks.

The home groups generally meet every 2 weeks on the first and third week of each month except during Lent when they meet weekly. During the past year, all the groups have followed the same course.

The First 2 meetings of the year were one off studies. The first was discovering more about Thomas and the second was discovering how to read gospel stories using a method taught by Ignatius of Loyola.

The Lent study was called 'The Prayer Course' which gave us the opportunity to really dig deeper into what prayer really involves There were 6 sessions each one introduced by a DVD

in which we looked in on a conversation between Pete Greig and Jonny Hughes about adoration, petition, intercession, dealing with disappointment, thanksgiving, learning to listen and Spiritual Warfare.

In the summer, we studied extracts from the life of Moses and in the autumn we spent time deepening our understanding of the Holy Spirit.

We would encourage everyone to join a Home Group as it deepens our relationships with other members of our church family and builds trust, understanding, mutual love and respect and provides an opportunity to care for and serve each other. This is underpinned by the Bible, the Word of GOD as we deepen our knowledge and apply His word to our daily lives.

Sandra Morgan

Lighthouse

Lighthouse provides simple craft activities for young children to introduce them to the stories of the Bible and help them know God.

Lighthouse is usually available at the 10.30 service (except Church Parade weeks). It is open to any children in church and takes place in the family area in the south aisle. As the congregation varies from week to week, we do not always see the same children, but it is generally well attended.

We have been looking at stories from The Old Testament and building a chart showing 'People in the Bible'.

Jackie Quinn

Mission Support

Over £8,500 plus services, goods and produce were distributed to charities and individuals during 2016 as well as prayer and practical support. (This figure includes over £1,000 collected house-to-house for Christian Aid). Details of the missions supported can be found in the Annual Report.

Revd Andy Wilson

Mothers' Union Portsdown Branch

The purpose of the Mothers Union is to demonstrate the Christian faith, by the transformation of communities world-wide, through the nurture of family in its many forms. Other aims cover supporting & promoting marriage, encouraging parents in their role to develop the faith of their children & maintaining a world-wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship & service.

Programme

- Each meeting usually has about 20 people.
- Meetings take place at 2.15pm on the first Tuesday of each month (except August) in Christ Church Hall.
- On the last Thursday of each month at 1030am the Mothers Union meet for Communion & Intercessions led by the Mothers Union in Christ Church.

- At the commencement of each term we have a church service followed by refreshments. We also have a guest speaker nearly every month.
- Lent Lunches are held every Saturday in Lent from 12 noon till 1.00pm in Christ Church Hall, with homemade soup, rolls, butter, cheese, Tea & Coffee. Proceeds from these lunches support the work of AFIA & TEAR Fund.
- In the month of May we have a Coffee Morning & various stalls to raise funds.
- At Christmas time we have a Christmas Tea Party & Deanery Members are invited.

2016 Highlights

This has been a special year & interesting time for The Mothers Union.

- Commissioning Service for the Revd Elizabeth Groves, our new President at St George's Church Portsea. The service was taken by the Bishop, the Rt. Revd Christopher Foster.
- Our World Wide President, Mrs Lynn Tenby visited Portsmouth & a service was held at Portsmouth Cathedral led by the Bishop, Rt. Revd Christopher Foster.
- We celebrated the 90th Birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Second, the Patron of The Mothers Union.
- The Mothers Union celebrated 140 years, 1876 – 2016. Four Million members in 83 countries.

A celebration of faithful & dedicated witness of the Mothers Union was held at Winchester Cathedral, led by the Archbishop of Canterbury & Lynn Tenby World Wide MU President. Mothers Union Banners were presented & many church leaders were present as well as Mothers Union Chief Executive, President of The Diocese of Winchester, also branches all over England & beyond.

As we enter a decade, our goal is to bring positive change to over one million people by 2021.

My prayer is that The Mothers Union will grow & thrive, with Gods many blessings.

Pat Hatchard

Music Group

The worship band continues to provide music for three Sunday services at 10.30am and once for the evening informal service on the third Sunday of the month. We play the music chosen by the Worship Committee and try to mix the traditional with the contemporary.

We have excellent singers but would welcome anyone who would like to sing or play. Age and experience not important. I would like to remind everyone that we are always open to comment and suggestion from the congregation.

Our aim is to assist and enhance worship.

Stuart Davies

Open Church

At a meeting held in church last year the consensus among those that were there was that the church should be open more in the week; to this end home groups said that they would be doing a morning a week. In my head, I cynically clapped because I knew it ultimately wasn't going to happen! It seems, again, that the suggestion was made by those there but

that somebody else should do it. However, many left that meeting satisfied that a decision had been made and that we were moving forward.

A year on the church is now open on a Monday thanks to two people from a home group that was there and of course it's open on a Friday morning. In the sessions 'leading your church into growth' many put forward the suggestion that we should be more welcoming and that it wasn't just for the sides persons or the wardens, we should all play our part in meeting people and making them welcome and getting to know them. Again, however, it seems that this only applies to Sundays and that for the rest of the week the church remains closed. We won't know how many people visit our church during the week and go away disappointed but I do know on a Friday morning we get told that people, usually from out of the area having visited our website, that they came and went away empty, it really isn't good enough!

We need the church to be open every day not just on certain mornings, we need people in church to welcome any visitors whether from afar or local, and we need this to be a regular commitment. Should you take this on you mustn't be disappointed if no one turns up or feel it's time wasted, it's a service for your church, your community and ultimately for the expansion of the kingdom.

Our monthly Friday coffee mornings continue to be a delight and it's so good to see our regulars getting together and catching up with each other, it's animated and it's lively fellowship if you haven't visited us, it's on the second Friday of each month you will be made welcome by all of us there. God Bless you all

Dave Fowler

Open the Book

Open the Book is a Bible Society initiative which aims to take Age Appropriate Bible stories into local schools.

The Open the Book team is made up of 6 members who are from both Christ Church and St Johns Purbrook. Every month during term time, the team rehearses a story, specially adapted by the Bible Society, which is then performed in Purbrook Infant School with the help of several willing volunteers.

We have a lot of fun and laughter as we rehearse the stories which makes meeting up a pleasure but we also recognise what a privilege it is to take Gods word to these eager young children. Everyone dresses up to help the story come alive. The Children really look forward to our visits.

The stories we performed in 2016 year:

- January Abraham - God's friend
- February Joseph -The Dreamer
- March The Last Supper -An Important meal
- April Moses -The secret baby
- May Moses -The burning bush
- June Feeding the five thousand, The Marvellous picnic
- July Jesus and the Children
- September Gideon - A brave and mighty Man

- October Elijah and the Ravens, The jar and the jog
- November The boys who liked to say 'No' and the men who liked to say 'No'
- December Christmas -The Shepherds' Story

Sandra Morgan

Ordinands Report

2016 has been a busy year for the 3 ordinands out of the Christ Church 'stable'.

Susie Templeton left in 2015 to start her pioneer training and an associated placement with Revd Annie McCabe at St Luke's Southsea and is kept very busy down in the city; she has completed her first year studies and moved into the second year of a three year course.

Sarah Collins, who joined us for a while from Droxford Parish, has been to Bishop's Advisory Panel and was recommended for ordination training. Because she had completed a year at Trinity College Bristol by her own means, she is continuing there for a further two years on a residential basis.

Richard Hutchins has spent much of the year worshipping with congregations in other parishes, on placements at St Alban's West Leigh and St Luke's Southsea, as he completed second year studies on the Portsmouth Pathway and moved into the third and final year before his planned ordination in July 2017.

We have also had the delight of welcoming Samantha Martell from St Peter's Petersfield before Christmas. Samantha is a third year ordinand alongside Richard and will ordain at the same time.

This is a very visible demonstration of God actively calling people but remember that **all** of us are called by God to minister in some way or another. If you sense a clear calling – or even a niggling thought that just won't go away – then please talk to the leadership team to help discern what God is saying and calling you for.

Richard Hutchins

PCC Report

The PCC met 11 times in 2016 with an average attendance of 76% (72% in 2015). The topics covered by the PCC each month are summarised in the Portsdown Post and a full set of minutes from the last meeting are displayed at the rear of church.

Throughout the year the PCC received numerous letters of thanks from various charities and beneficiaries of the goodwill and donations made by the congregation and supporters of Christ Church. With the leadership of the Vicar, the PCC has sustained the essential business of the Church while also delivering in 2016 the new entrance and toilets as part of the building development plan.

Graham Olway MBE, PCC Secretary



Christ Church Visitors

The Pastoral visiting scheme has twelve members. Our role is primarily to listen on a one to one basis to anyone who feels that they need us. We are here for anyone and everyone within our Christ Church family. This year our home visits have diminished slightly with more hospital visits in recent months.

This year the team have spent time completing online safeguarding training and two of our members are just finishing a ten week course on pastoral visiting. Once feedback is given the training maybe considered for all members of our team.

The visiting team have recently lost two members. We are always keen to meet new prospective members. If you feel that this could be a role for you, please speak to Andy Wilson or myself.

Thank you to everyone in the team. Without their support we couldn't do this important pastoral care work.

Karina Golledge

Portsdown Post

The magazine is exclusive to our Portsdown Christ Church history. It has always been produced in house and, although reduced in numbers, is still going strong.

We still resist commercial advertising, the magazine is mainly financed through charging a modest 40p per copy which is distributed throughout the parish and beyond. It is also available free of charge through our church website.

Thank you to all the people who tirelessly deliver the Portsdown Post to homes in the parish, to Ros Molloy for co-ordinating the deliveries. Also to Margaret & Martin Baggs and Rita Drake who all help to collate and fold the pages. Thanks also to Matt Doe, our webmaster, who transfers the electronic version onto our church website to reach an even wider amount of readers.

Ruth Fowler, Editor of Portsdown Post

Prayer Group

Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given to you." If we want to see God at work in our church then we need to pray together. Once a month, on the first Thursday of the month a small group meets to pray for the life of our church. Everybody is welcome and yes, it's OK if you don't say anything.

For many years Jean and John Partridge hosted the meeting and we thank them for their hospitality. From April 2017, the meeting will move to 2pm (still on the first Thursday of each month) and will usually be hosted by June Ames. Come and join us!

Revd Andy Wilson



72nd Portsmouth Scout Group



72nd Portsmouth (1st Portsdown) Scout Group City of Portsmouth Hampshire
Established 1930 A Registered Charity

Scouting offers young people between the ages of 6 and 25 the opportunity to grow through a progressive badge scheme, the outdoors, the community and above all by having fun.

The 72nd Portsmouth Scout Group meets in the Scout & Guide HQ.

Beaver Scouts	6 - 8 years	meet	Tuesday	5:00pm to 6:15pm
Cub Scouts	8 - 10½	meet	Wednesday	5:30pm to 7:00pm
Scouts	10½ - 14	meet	Friday	7:30pm to 9:30pm
Explorers	14 - 18	meet	Monday	7:00pm to 9:00pm
Network Scouts	18 - 25	meet	throughout the City of Portsmouth	

During 2016 the 72nd Portsmouth Scout Group and Pinnacle Explorer Unit have continued to develop scouting in Widley. We have enjoyed a variety of experiences both in through our weekly meetings and further afield. Our Scouts summer camp was in Wales and they had a fantastic time travelling by canoe along the river; stopping to camp by the riverside each evening. They also took the opportunity to take part in gorge walking, although there was considerably more leaping off cliffs into water than walking!

Contact Elaine Isaac at

72ndportsmouth@live.co.uk

Elaine Isaac

Sidespersons

There are currently 11 members of the congregation who have volunteered to carry out the duty of sidesperson at our regular Sunday services & at additional services during Christmas and Easter during the last year.

The duty involves assisting the Duty Wardens by welcoming the congregation and visitors as they enter the church and giving out Pew Sheets and Service Booklets as required. They also assist with the taking of the collection and help to tidy up the church after each service.

Two sidespersons are required at each 10.30 Sunday service and one sidesperson assists the Duty Warden at the 0800hrs Holy Communion service. New volunteers are always welcome and if you are interested in becoming a sidesperson please speak to the Church Wardens

Many thanks to everyone who has volunteered as sidesperson during the year.

Diana Hutchins

Traidcraft

Having a Fair Trade stall in the church is a not a profit making venture; we are trying, as a Church to make a difference and helping to fight poverty through trade. Thank you to all who have supported this aim during the past year; this support is very much appreciated.

Sales have been disappointing this past year. Perishable goods have been going past their sell by dates and therefore not able to be sold. So I will reduce the variety of goods available on the stall but will be happy to order on request.

The Real Advent Calendars and The Real Easter Eggs have been popular.

Items for sale include tea bags (standard and decaff), pineapple pots, toilet rolls (good quality), kitchen rolls, facial tissues and rubber gloves. Please next time you are in the Church have a look.

If there are other goods or products you would like to see on sale I would be happy to order them on request. If you purchase any goods there is a cash box for the money on the table. Thank you again to all who have supported this venture in the past year and we look forward to your continuing support.

Linda Banks

Who Let The Dads Out?

Our “Who Let The Dads Out?” group has been meeting together for about 3 years (3rd birthday was in January 2017). Gathering together on the third Saturday of each month we meet between 9 and 11am in the Church Hall.

It has been a good year for the group and we typically get about 6 Dads and 10 children or so each month – numbers obviously vary depending on work and family commitments – and the core group of ‘regulars’ has grown to 10 or so in strength.

It has been great to see the flourishing relationship between Dads and their little ones and between Dads and other Dads. The Dads have taken opportunities to go out together at times other than WLTD0?, including trips to Casa Brasil in Port Solent, the cinema, and lower key get-togethers at The George on the odd Friday evening. It is clear from Facebook posts that Mums appreciate a bit of down time as much as the Dads enjoy time with their children.

If you haven’t heard of Who Let The Dads Out? it is a Dad and Child group, where dads (and male carers) can bring their children (up to school year R for our group) to get to know them; based on Malachi 4:5 ‘...turn[ing] the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers...’ (NIVUK). WLTD0? involves play and craft with the children, and time for the dads to meet other dads and discuss...well, whatever they want really. Coffee, tea, bacon butties, newspapers etc. are provided for free (donations are not refused and the group continues to naturally fund itself) to provide a space for dads to spend time independently with their children.

Richard and Diana will hand over organisation of the group in early 2017 in preparation for their onward move to Liss.

Richard Hutchins

Women's Breakfast

We met twice in 2016 – in May at the Church of the Good Shepherd and in September at Christ Church when Susie Templeton spoke to us about the challenge of busyness in our lives. As numbers have reduced and we struggle to find speakers, those who organise the Breakfasts at both churches have come to the conclusion that the meetings have run their course in this particular format. In 2017 we will be trialling an alternative Women's Meeting on Saturday evenings once a month, which will take different forms each time and will hopefully encourage friendships and enable ladies to bring their non-church friends along. The first of these meetings will be on 22nd April at 7pm in the coffee lounge at Church of the Good Shepherd – please come and join us (if you are female!)

Jacqui Wilson