

St Luke's Milland and Rake
Parochial Church Council
Annual Report covering 2016

For APCM 9th April 2017

Trustees (Parochial Church Council) Annual Report and Financial Report For the Parish of St. Luke's Milland For the year ending 31st December 2016

Administrative Information

The parish is a charity but is excepted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the section 30 of the Charities Act 2011.

During the year, the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC):-

EX OFFICIO:

Rector/Priest-in-Charge	The Reverend Trish Bancroft
Churchwarden	Michael Cartwright
Asst. Churchwarden	Lynne Collard

Deanery Synod

ELECTED:

Jean Mallows,	Paula Loh
John Ablitt	Sue Lawrie
Elizabeth Cartwright	Maureen Keel
John Dawes	Sheila Pim
Julia Hughes	Betty Way
Robert Ireland (also PCC Secretary)	
Attending PCC meetings: Hon. Treasurer Anne Alderman	

Structure, Governance and Management

Members of the PCC are either ex officio in various capacities or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting as PCC members in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The PCC comprises the Rector and from 7 to 9 lay members. The elected Churchwardens, the Treasurer and Secretary appointed by the PCC are members ex officio together with the elected Deanery Synod representatives. From 2015 the membership of the PCC membership is in line with the Synodical Government (Amendment) Measure 2003.

Objectives and Activities

The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent (the Reverend Trish Bancroft) in promoting within the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC set out their objectives for the year as:

- Enabling and encouraging as many people as possible to worship at our church, and
- Enabling as many people as possible to become part of our parish community at St Luke's.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship in the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

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

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge of, and trust in, Jesus, and the provision of services within the 1664 BCP format and an emphasis on choral services
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish;
- Services with and at the Rake Church of England School, and the provision of facilities which may be used by Hollycombe School Milland.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St. Luke's Milland and the surrounding churchyard.

Achievements and Performance

1. Church Attendance.

The Church family welcomes guests from within as well as outside the Parish boundary. Visitors attend services by personal choice, it is our great pleasure to welcome anyone from all walks of life to take part in the life of the church; and the Visitors Book, kept at the back of the church, shows that many people from outside the Parish with family connections to the Parish and surrounding area return to enjoy the peace and facilities offered by the church building and churchyard. The church is kept open and available to visitors during daylight hours throughout the year.

There were 76 parishioners recorded in the Church Electoral Roll at 31st December 2016, being the completion of the Electoral Roll review (an increase of 8 during 2016). The usual Sunday attendance at 11.00 a.m. Matins was 25, with a worshipping community in excess of 50. These numbers increase greatly at festivals: at services over the Christmas period, saw 100 people attending the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve and Parish Communion on Christmas Day. At Easter 67 people attended Parish Communion. The two family services held in conjunction with Rake School (Mothering Sunday and Harvest) saw attendance of some 200 including over 60 children.

2. Review of the year:

The PCC has met 5 times during the year, including an Extra-ordinary meeting to ratify the expansion of the Benefice to include the Parish of Stedham and Iping, following the appointment of Revd. Bancroft as Priest-in-Charge. The average attendance at these meetings was 10. The meetings received reports on the deliberations of the Deanery Synod from its representatives and of matters discussed within the Fabric committee, with one of the Churchwardens over seeing work in the churchyard.

In June the PCC approved the proposed expansion of the Benefice to include the parish of Stedham and Iping, with, initially, the Rector being appointed as Priest-in-Charge at Stedham and Iping and moving to a full-time position to cover all three Parishes. The PCCs agreed at present to continue as three separate parishes.

The PCC continued to review the provision of education within the parish and close links with Rake C of E Primary School are maintained with Sheila Pim and the Rector being Governors, both continue to build and strengthen the ties with the school. The Leavers service and tea was held at the church on 21st July with teas and entertainment provided by members of the congregation and the leavers received bibles from the

George Street Trust. The School, families and friends joined our Mothering Day and Harvest services. There were several weekday services for the school during the year attended by children and their families; and both Rake and Hollycombe Schools held their Christmas services at the church with almost 700 people attending the three services. The PCC reviewed and agreed the policy with regard to Child Protection and Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding.

During the year legal advice was sought to ensure access 'in perpetuity' to the Rake War Memorial, now relocated within the grounds of Rake Village Hall.

At the beginning of 2016 the congregation joined with the Parish of Linch in collecting clothing for the Samara Aid Appeal for families in Iraq.

There were also a number of events at the church and in the Benefice to celebrate the 90th Birthday of Her Majesty the Queen and at the Church's stall at the Milland Rural Fair, which was a meeting place for parents and children to rest. Copies of the Church of England book "The Servant Queen and the King She Serves" were distributed.

During the year there have been 2 weddings and 6 funerals and burials of ashes. In addition there were 3 services of choral evensong including one at St Michaels in Tuxlith Chapel which was a Benefice Service

The church was also used for a number of other events, including the Tuxlith Arts and Crafts Festival, Rake and Hollycombe School services and assemblies and was used by a West Sussex film production company.

With regard to the fabric of the church, the details of work carried out on the building and in the churchyard during 2015 are covered within the appropriate reports appended. The primary objective has been to provide a calm and safe place for all visitors to the Parish and all visiting the church and churchyard.

3. Financial review:

General Fund:

In 2016 total receipts increased by £1,482; the principle constituent being an increase in fees from weddings and funerals etc. of £1,043. Tax efficient planned giving increased by £334. Total expenditure fell by £2,384. The failure of the Diocese to take the December 2014 parish contribution until January 2015 accounts for £1,800 of this.

The 200 club has continued to contribute £1,000 and the magazine has nearly covered its costs.

Revenues in the year have exceeded running costs by £3,858 and, with an unrealised increase in the value of investments of £2,649 and a transfer to the churchyard fund of £847, the general fund has increased to £20,031

Other funds:

Major maintenance expenditure continued to be met from the fabric fund. £4,171 was spent in the year comprising £1,085 in providing safety signs and scaffolding to protect the memorial garden, £1,298 in inspecting the coping stones and £1,788 in respect of the lightning conductor. £3,280 was raised from sponsorship of Jeremy Dawes' LIBDA bike ride specifically for the coping stones project. At the year end the fund stood at £26,390. The Rainy Day fund closed the year at £13,673. It is anticipated that this money will be required to meet the cost of repairs to the coping stones on the roof in future years. Other funds comprised £786 for choir requirements and £82 due to The Snowdrop Appeal from the Hollycombe School Carol Service collection. The negative balance in the churchyard fund of £847 comprises the balance of the cost of the beech hedge where equivalent donations have been received after the year end.

Outward Giving in the year was £1,603.

Reserves Policy: Although revenues met church running costs in 2015 and 2016, this has not been the case for a number of years. The PCC's policy is to maintain a balance in the General Fund to cover six months expenditure.

Thanks go to Anne Alderman, the Honorary Treasurer, for her management of the accounts and funds. Significant work on the Gift-Aided and Standing Order contributions, as well as the weekly banking, was done throughout the year by Elizabeth Cartwright and thanks go to her as well.

4. Mission, Worship and Communications:

With the expansion of the Rector's duties to include an additional Parish,, a review of the cycle of services has commenced to ensure the provision of appropriate services and communion.

The worship offered continues to follow the 1662 BCP format with services of Choral Eucharist, Matins and Evensong..

A number of Benefice Services and expressions of worship were held throughout the year, bringing the two parishes together, including The Epiphany Carol Service in January, the Lent Course, The World Women's Day of Prayer, St LukesTide service and number of the Holy Week services, a "Back-to-Church" service was held on Tuxlith Green in July, with all involved in recent marriages and baptisms, plus everyone on the current and recent Electoral Rolls being invited to the service followed by a picnic. The collection was donated to the Voices in Exile charity. In addition during the year there was a retiring collection for the Bethany Orphanage, which had been visited by members of the Benefice in 2015 and in October the Benefice held a Service for Christian Aid.

The Benefice also organised a series of Lent Lunches to raise money for victims of the earthquake in Nepal

The Rector continued the Messy Church services with two more sessions, held at St Lukes Milland, which saw a large number of children and family members attending, many of whom are not regular attenders at the usual Sunday Services and came from outside the Parish.

2016 also saw the launch of a Benefice web site (www.stlukesbenefice.com) which provides a large amount of information and photographs about the Benefice, details of services and events, and has generated great interest from couples wishing to get married in the area and provided a detailed calendar of services and events.

Other publicity has been kept under review, Christmas and Easter cards listing and publicity posters for specific events are generated. We owe a big thank you to Alison Ireland and Julie Ireland for putting together the St Like's website. It is a real asset and we have many people contact us through it. It still takes work to keep it updated and again a big thank you to Alison for that and for editing our magazine and Pew Sheet. The magazine is still in its early days of being a joint one with Stedham and Iping, so please bear with us as we work to get it to work well for all our readers.

The responsibilities for the activities of the church community are shared amongst the PCC and other volunteers, to whom grateful thanks are given.

On behalf of the PCC,

Reverend Trish Bancroft

March 2017

St LUKE MILLAND AND RAKE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Annual Financial Report

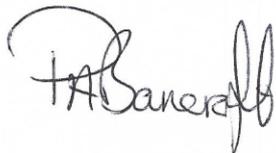
Receipts and Payments Summary of Financial Activities for the year to 31 December 2016

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	Total All Funds 2016 £	Total All Funds 2015 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies (note 3)	32,098	5,690	4,617	42,405	39,611
Charitable activities (note 3)	2,874			2,874	-
Other trading activities (note 3)	934			934	2,833
Investments (note 3)	1,629			1,629	1,637
Other receipts	-			-	-
Total received	37,535	5,690	4,617	47,842	44,081
Expenditure on:					
Cost of raising funds (note 4)	989			989	1,513
Charitable costs (note 4)	31,691	5,994	5,948	43,633	38,753
Other trading costs (note 4)	965			965	1,002
Other payments	32			32	-
Total paid	33,677	5,994	5,948	45,619	41,268
Reconciliation of funds:					
Net income	3,858	-	304	1,331	2,223
Profit on investments	2,649			2,649	18
Transfers between funds	-	847	847	-	-
Net movement in funds	5,660	304	484	4,872	2,795
Bank & investments b/f	14,371	40,367	887	55,625	52,830
Bank & investments c/f	20,031	40,063	403	60,497	55,625

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	Total All Funds 2016 £	Total All Funds 2015 £
Assets:					
Bank current account	19,114	2,215	403	21,732	19,646
Bank subsidiary account	917			917	780
CBF Deposit Fund		500		500	500
Investments at valuation		37,348		37,348	34,699
Bank & investment accounts	20,031	40,063	403	60,497	55,625
Gift Aid recoverable	5,679			5,679	5,300
Due from Linch PCC	32			32	-
Debtors	5,711	-	-	5,711	5,300
Total assets	25,742	40,063	403	66,208	60,925
Liabilities:					
Due for electricity	136			136	126
Due for oil	628			628	354
Due to architect		2,956		2,956	-
Due for scaffolding		918		918	-
Due for churchyard maintenance				-	446
Due for other church running	114			114	358
Due to clergy	59			59	-
Due to charity			82	82	-
Total Liabilities	937	3,874	-	4,752	1,284

The financial report on pages 1 to 5 were approved by the Parochial Church Council on 29 March 2017 and signed on its behalf by:



Revd Trish Bancroft
(Chairman)

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

- 1 The financial statements of the PCC have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and current Church Accounting Regulations, using the receipts and payments basis.
- 2 The following assets are recognised but not valued in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities: moveable church furnishings held by the churchwardens on special trust for the PCC, which require a faculty for disposal.
- 3 Analysis of total received:

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	Total All Funds 2016 £	Total All Funds 2015 £
Tax efficient planned giving	10,910			10,910	10,576
Other planned giving	240			240	120
Gift aid recovered	5,413			5,413	4,969
General collections:					
cash	4,195			4,195	4,059
gift aid envelopes	6,214			6,214	6,049
Special collections			283	283	459
Donations	1,458	5,690	90	7,238	3,825
200 Club	1,988			1,988	2,030
Fete				-	2,012
Cantique concert				-	1,573
Lent lunches & harvest			90	90	741
Other events	1,331			1,331	385
Grants	349		4,154	4,503	2,813
Donations and legacies	32,098	5,690	4,617	42,405	39,611
Fees for weddings & funerals	2,874			2,874	1,831
Charitable activities	2,874	-	-	2,874	1,831
Magazine sales	524			524	510
Magazine advertising fees	410			410	492
Trading activities	934	-	-	934	1,002
Investment income	1,629			1,629	1,637
Investments	1,629	-	-	1,629	1,637
Total received	37,535	5,690	4,617	47,842	44,081

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

4 Analysis of total paid:

	Unrestricted General Fund £	Designated Funds	Restricted Funds £	Total All Funds 2016 £	Total All Funds 2015 £
200 Club prizes	989			989	1,005
Fete expenses	-			-	398
Other event expenses	-			-	110
Cost of raising funds	989	-	-	989	1,513
Charitable donations (note 5)	1,312		291	1,603	2,089
Parish contribution	20,392			20,392	22,163
Clergy expenses	828			828	852
Rectory costs	1,274			1,274	1,977
Heating etc	2,934			2,934	2,632
Cleaning	1,532			1,532	1,680
Maintenance	1,101	5,994		7,095	1,705
Other church running costs	452			452	680
Churchyard upkeep	-		5,486	5,486	2,910
Rake School leavers service	149			149	163
Choir	-		171	171	279
Treasurer fee	787			787	721
Bank charges	320			320	337
Other administration	610			610	565
Charitable costs	31,691	5,994	5,948	43,633	38,753
Magazine printing	965			965	1,002
Trading costs	965	-	-	965	1,002
Other payments	32			32	-
Total paid	33,677	5,994	5,948	45,619	41,268
5 Charitable giving:					
Tearfund (Nepal)			90	90	0
Diocesan Lent Appeal				-	108
Voices in Exile	285			285	0
Diocesan Harvest Appeal	259			259	728
Christian Aid			201	201	0
Royal British Legion	409			409	294
Kathryn's Mercy Home	150			150	
McCabe Educational Trust	209			209	200
Other				-	759
	1,312	-	291	1,603	2,089

6 Payments to PCC members:

a No payments were made to PCC members in the year other than for reimbursement of expenses incurred on behalf of the PCC.

Notes to the Annual Financial Report

b Clergy support for Council tax, environmental charges, alarm maintenance, travel, telephone and postage etc totalled £1,951.

c Six members received reimbursement for cleaning materials, minor maintenance items and upkeep of service sundries amounting in total to £379.

7 Statement of designated funds:

	Fabric	Organ	Rainy Day	Sound System	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Balance b/f	27,281	-	11,263	1,823	40,367
Income from:					
Donations	3,280	2,410			5,690
	<u>3,280</u>	<u>2,410</u>	-	-	<u>5,690</u>
Expenditure on:					
Maintenance	4,171			1,823	5,994
	<u>4,171</u>	-	-	<u>1,823</u>	<u>5,994</u>
Transfer between funds	-	2,410	2,410	-	-
Balance c/f	26,390	-	13,673	-	40,063

8 Statement of restricted funds:

	Churchyard	Choir	Special	Total
	£	£	£	£
Balance b/f	-	887	-	887
Income from:				
Special collections			283	283
Donations	20	70		90
Grants	4,154			4,154
Lent lunches			90	90
	<u>4,174</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>373</u>	<u>4,617</u>
Expenditure on:				
Charitable donations			291	291
Churchyard upkeep	5,486			5,486
Choir		171		171
	<u>5,486</u>	<u>171</u>	<u>291</u>	<u>5,948</u>
Transfer between funds	847			847
Balance c/f	-	465	786	82

Designated funds have been set aside by the PCC for the stated purpose but may be used to meet other needs if required.

Restricted Funds comprise monies that may only be used for the stated purpose.

The Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC (the Trustees) of St Luke's Milland

I report on the accounts of the PCC for the year ended 31 December 2016, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

Respective responsibilities of the Trustees and the examiner

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

It is my responsibility to:

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

Basis of this report

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC 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 the 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 section 130 of the Charities Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave 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.

31 March 2017



Mr L G Lloyd
The Luke
Browds Lane, Wake
Fiss
Hampshire GU23 7JA

APPENDICES:

Rector's Report

It has been another year of team work and so I really can't thank everyone personally, so many do so much and I would hate to miss someone out. However, I would like to thank Churchwardens, Michael and Lynne for all they have done throughout the year. They are both always available when I need them. Sam Pope has done so much over the years and we thank him for all the time spent on many things, especially the graveyard. However, he has been mentoring Lynne and she is now taking over much of the organisation of the graveyard. Thank you to the PCC as a whole, and those not on the PCC, for contributing so much to the upkeep of the building and graveyard and enabling worship to happen every Sunday, not least a thank you to the bell ringers. John Dawes has been managing the difficult task of the fabric for a number of years and has decided it is time to pass it on, so a big thank you to John for everything he and the Fabric Committee have achieved. Thank you to Bob Ireland our PCC secretary for his wisdom over all things official.

The Church has looked wonderful throughout the year, especially for the festivals, so a big thank you to the flower team. Also, thank you to Elizabeth Cartwright who pulled together a team to clean the church saving us a considerable amount on paying for cleaning. So, thank you to the cleaning team.

We had a busy year and thanks to Maureen and the refreshment team we were well fed and watered at various events. No mean feat with the lack of running water and facilities.

We held "Messy Church" twice. In May, the theme was Pentecost and November the theme was Advent, both were very well attended, with lovely crafts made, joyful worship and delicious afternoon tea.

We welcomed our friends Jeyapaul and Charles from India and learnt about their project for their school and home. We also welcomed a speaker from Christian aid.

Sheila Pim and I have worked closely with Rake School throughout the year and I carry on taking assembly once a month. They were awarded a "Good" by Ofsted and one comment was that the school had "A good Christian ethos". Both Rake School and Hollycombe School have been to church for Christmas services and Rake have also had Harvest and Mothering Sunday services in church and they have been of a very high standard, well done both Rake and Hollycombe.

The church building of Milland is a blessing for the benefice and the community, it's wonderful that we can offer its use in so many ways. We've again had funerals with big congregations and it's wonderful that the church can welcome such numbers. It's also important that the Church is opened every day for public use, so thank you church openers. Lastly, we are blessed to have our organist, some churches really struggle to get cover for a Sunday and for us Leslie is always available, so thank you, Leslie and not just for Sundays but for all the funerals, weddings, baptisms and not forgetting "Messy Church" services that you have played for. And thank you to the choir for their constant presence with us, leading our singing each Sunday.

A big thank you for another great year.

Rev Trish

Fabric Committee – Annual Report for 2016.

Work has been primarily focussed on repairs to delaminated coping stones where a small pile of debris was noted on 24 February 2016. In addition, all periodic inspections were carried out, remedial work on the Tower was finalised by installation of a new lightning protection and a new door at Turret level along with cleaning and waterproofing the base of the turret itself. The other major work is that of re-tipping of 49 ferramenta bars on the west windows . Finally, we had a visit from Mr. S. Roberts of Ecclesiastical Insurers concentrating on the preparation of a health and safety pamphlet which is a ‘must-have’ if we are not to lose our insurance.

- a. Coping-stones. The prime consideration was that of safety for staff and visitors from falling debris. This came from copings which were delaminating after many years’ service, this delamination came from rainwater penetrating the stone, freezing from frost and thereby bursting the stone.

An examination from a cherry-picker was made by the architect which showed several separate bursts/fractures. Because some of the damaged copings overhung the Memorial Garden, protective scaffolding was erected to eliminate any danger to those visiting it. A second more detailed examination was made which showed nine places where delamination had taken place and it was obvious that we could well find more. It was also obvious that we were faced with a large bill, mainly because of scaffolding costs.

Now, over a year later, the cheapest tender is still over £41,000 which will mean a fund-raising scheme being mounted as current funds are insufficient. Gathering funds will take some time and therefore we have changed to protective netting on all the affected parts for the interim period whereby we can avoid scaffold hire which involves a cost-per-week element by buying the netting and paying just two costs for installation and subsequent removal.

This has been and still remains a difficult job. We are indebted to our architect for his ready advice and support, to our Archdeacon for her ready response to our requests and to Mrs. Morton-Smith whose knowledge of masonry and its repair is worth a fortune!

- b. Ferramenta. Subject to the final decision by the PCC (and the Archdeacon) we are planning to progress these repairs now using current funds. The reason for this is that some bursting of mullions has taken place, more will occur and glass may well break if we leave things for another winter and we have a contractor who has fixed a slot in the summer, is efficient and has a well-trained work-force.

The damage is confined to the west-end windows but also includes the four small windows in the South porch. The ferramenta bars, which basically prevent the glass from rocking in high-winds, have been here since the church was built over 130 years ago. Rain has seeped down over the years into the stone sockets, the bars have rusted and the stone has ‘blown’. Repairs will comprise cutting out 49 ferramenta bars, re-tipping with stainless steel, cleaning and painting them black and refitting with a lime-based mortar.

In addition, the porch windows are 'blown' thus new ones have to be made with the glass being tinted to the same shade as now and new 'comes' or leadwork introduced. The anticipated total cost is some £8,500.

All this work will be done in workshops and the gaps in the window spaces protected by security boards for the eight weeks involved. Only one of these, that over 'Maureen's kitchen' will be seen in the Nave and weddings and other services will hardly be affected.

- c. Sound Amplification system installation has the requisite funding and orders for equipment have been placed for installation in 2017 (February).

Thus 2017 will see some heavy demands on funds. I regret this is a gloomy report but when old buildings show signs of fatigue one way or another, it just has to be dealt with.

For myself, after about 20 years' service, I have asked for retirement with effect from today. I hope my efforts have been of service to the church, but time and tide have made life more difficult as the days go by and I should retire before memory fails and mobility ceases leaving me to make even bigger mistakes than I do now. I am only sorry that I leave a well-loved building in an imperfect state.

John Dawes.
Fabric Committee

CHURCHYARD Report for 2016.

Over the past year, which includes beginning my role as a Churchwarden I have been learning about the maintenance of the churchyard. I suspect most people would have the same opinion as I did initially that it would not involve very much, how wrong I was. During that year I have been tutored by Sam Pope, I couldn't have learnt as much as I have without him but I think I will still be learning the ropes even after I retire.

My initial thoughts were that provided the grass was cut regularly, including all round the graves, leaves swept up during the autumn, hedge cutting and keeping the churchyard tidy that was all it involved. How wrong I was. It involves a team of professionals who come in at various times to carry out their own speciality. The grass has to be cut on a regular basis, like any lawn but there are certain areas that cannot be cut until after the daffodils have finished. Strimming cannot be carried out round the graves during May, June and July so as not to disturb nesting mammals etc. The trees have to be regularly inspected and any diseased or damaged trees dealt with appropriately. It really is a minefield and thanks to Sam I now have some idea of what it all involves in order to maintain our beautiful churchyard. With the assistance of the team of specialists I hope I will be able to keep up the standards but please do not shoot me if I get some things wrong.

During 2016 the major projects were the hedge cutting on the north boundary, adjacent to the Old Rectory, this had not been done for several years so will take a while to totally recover, but in future will only require light pruning in the autumn. Jack Gratton kindly offered the loan of his bonfire area for clearing of all the cuttings.

The other major project was the removal of the row of leylandii between Tuxlith Green and the new graveyard, followed by the planting of a new beech hedge. This project was

masterminded by Sam Pope for which I would like to offer a vote of thanks. An irrigation system was installed when the hedge was planted which will be used on a weekly basis during the growing season and during the summer. The water supply for irrigation system has been supplied by Jack Gratton who has installed another tap, which is connected to the standpipe behind Tuxlith green. Very many thanks must be given to Jack for the use of his water supply during the first year of our beech hedge.

Apart from regular maintenance there are no major projects this year apart from some work that will need to be carried out on some of the trees.

Since starting this report some high winds have brought down two large branches, one behind Tuxlith chapel and the other is the Douglas Fir at the far side of the new graves. This may result in remedial work or even removal of both trees but I have informed Adam Gibson and am currently awaiting his comments. I will report back as soon as I have a better idea of what will need doing.

Once again I would like to offer a big vote of thanks to Sam for all his help over the last year and hope I have not caused him to throw his hands up in despair too often.

Lynne Collard, Churchwarden.

Report of Deanery Synod for 2016

Your Deanery Representatives are: Jean Mallows & Paula Loh.

Summary of Proceedings of Synod during 2016 :From a Report to Deanery Synod on 22 February 2017

Introduction:

1. Synod had approved its “Guidelines for Growth” at its meeting in November 2015, and decided in consequence that its meetings in 2016 should concentrate on three main themes, corresponding to its own Guidelines and the overall Diocesan Strategy, namely:

- Promoting the common good
- Growing in faith and number
- Re-imagining ministry

2. These formed the themes of the discussion at each Synod in 2016.

Meeting on 2 March: “Promoting the Common Good”

3. Representatives gave examples of activities in their parish that contributed to the common good, and the speed with which flipcharts were filled with examples was testimony to the extensive work in every benefice. These included activities undertaken but also roles undertaken, for example as school governors, community bus drivers, and so on. Examples of activities included: Friendship teas and Uno Lunches (Easebourne), Mothers and Toddlers and lunch club (Cocking), Youth Club(Rogate), supporting reading scheme, supporting Syrian refugees, and hospital car service(Harting), Internet cafe (Fernhurst) and Mother and toddlers, Youth club, and Messy church (Midhurst).

4. It was also appropriate that this meeting heard a presentation about Midhurst Foodbank. Some 190 people had been fed since opening back in Sept.2014, and some 50 volunteers were supporting the project.

Meeting on 13 July : “Growing in Faith and Number”

5. The meeting heard a detailed report by Rev’d Derek Welsman and Rev’d Dave Willis about their collaboration in jointly running a Christianity Explored course for their respective

parishes of Easebourne and Midhurst. This was a 7 week course, aimed at those who knew little about Christianity, but were interested to know more. The sessions were run in the evenings at Easebourne Primary School which had good facilities. Each session was preceded by a sit down supper (of high quality) that enabled participants to feel relaxed. Some twelve people started though two subsequently discontinued, however four were subsequently confirmed, and seven remain regular church attenders. This presentation prompted so many questions and discussion that it formed the centre-point of the proceedings.

6. Rev'd Dave Willis also reported encouraging news about developments in establishing the Faith Room at Midhurst Rother College which was now being used for prayer and occasional Holy Communion services for the staff.

7. Mention was made of the Archdeacon's plan to create two new benefices: Fernhurst being linked with Camelsdale and Lynchmere, and Stedham being linked to Milland and Linch.

Meeting on 9 November: "Re-imagining Ministry"

8. The Lay Chair had written a discussion note to prompt the debate about the role of the laity in particular. This charted the way in which the church had moved from the concept of a "universal priesthood" to one in which bishops, priests and deacons had particular roles.

9. In discussion it was pointed out that in this Diocese some 40% of clergy were due to retire in the next ten years, but there was also a shortage of volunteers to help maintain church life. The first part of the subsequent discussion focussed on identifying what it is that the clergy are uniquely empowered to do, with, secondly, the laity doing everything else.

10. The third part of the discussion focussed on how the laity might do more to support hard pressed clergy; there being seven clergy now in this Synod, of whom six are full time, serving 18 parishes, and 22 church buildings. It was pointed out by the Rural Dean that the real pinch point for clergy was the Sunday morning services, and coping with the expectations of congregations to always have some form of Sunday service in "their" church. Synod came up with various proposals to address this.

11. This meeting also heard a presentation about the work of the Family Support Work service in this Diocese and its keenness to open better channels to this area.

Postscript: You may have noticed the recent General Synod meeting besides dealing with the "gay marriage" issue, also took an important report by the Archbishop's Council about the role of the laity called: "Setting God's People Free". Here is the link to the report:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/media/3858033/gs-2056-setting-gods-people-free.pdf>

Here are a couple of extracts:

"This report identifies the need for **two shifts in culture and practice** that we see as critical to the flourishing of the Church and the evangelisation of the nation.

1. Until, together, ordained and lay, we form and equip lay people to follow Jesus confidently in every sphere of life in ways that demonstrate the Gospel we will never set God's people free to evangelise the nation.

2. Until laity and clergy are convinced, based on their baptismal mutuality, that they are equal in worth and status, complementary in gifting and vocation, mutually accountable in discipleship, and equal partners in mission, we will never form Christian communities that can evangelise the nation.

We believe that these two shifts would represent a seismic revolution in the culture of the Church. The first is about the focus of our activity and the scope of our mission, the second is about the nature of the relationship between clergy and lay. They are both vital. And they are both rare.

..... **What is needed, first and foremost, is not a programme, but a change in culture.** A culture that communicates the all-encompassing scope of the good news for the whole of life, and pursues the core calling of every church community and every follower of Jesus – to form whole-life maturing disciples. And a culture that embodies in every structure and way of working the mutuality of our baptismal calling and the fruitful complementarity of our roles and vocations.”

Derek Welsman (Rural Dean).Mike Abbott (Lay Chair).

Choir and Music Report for 2016:

The choir has continued to provide dedicated and much appreciated support to our worship, enabling us to maintain our tradition of sung matins and Merbeck eucharists. Choir numbers are well below what one would want, though their loyalty and commitment are impressive. They are greatly encouraged by the regular attendance at choir practice of the Rector, but feel some unease that the recent enlargement of the benefice appears to have resulted in a slight but ominous reduction in the amount of traditional liturgical singing. On the other hand opportunities to meet and sing with choristers from the other churches in the benefice are always enjoyable. An adequate quorum of singers has always been available when required, whether for Sunday services or occasional services.

Leslie Lloyd, Organist.

Tuxlith Chapel Report for 2016:

Although within the churchyard, the Chapel is neither the property nor the responsibility of the parish. The freehold is held by the diocese but the building is leased for 99 years to a small national charity, the Friends of Friendless Churches. The latter are assisted locally by the Friends of Tuxlith Chapel, the membership of which includes many members of our congregation and of the PCC, as well as many from outside the parish. The parish has no financial obligations in respect of the Chapel, but, as goodwill gestures, provides the Friends with electricity for heating and lighting for their occasional meetings, and a site and parking facilities for their fund-raising activities. The parish has been pleased to witness the recent re-roofing of the Chapel – a project understood to be largely financed by government grant and managed by the Friends of Friendless Churches.

Leslie Lloyd
Secretary, Friends of Tuxlith.

Bell-Ringers' Report for 2016

The last year has seen us struggle as a band, with a shortage of ringers. This seems to be increasingly a problem across the country as a whole, as there just aren't the numbers of young ringers coming forward. Many churches in rural areas are seeing their bands disappear altogether, so we are fortunate to have a core of four or five regular ringers at Milland, supplemented by helpers from Rogate on some Sundays. Rogate are in a similar situation, so

we help them on a Sunday morning too. Liss are also struggling, and rarely ring at all. However, they do have two recruits who we teach at Milland on a regular basis. As a result, we've not been able to ring at Milland every Sunday – it only takes one or two of the band to be away and ringing has had to be cancelled. But we have managed to ring at least four or five bells for the majority of Sunday services, with the exception of during August. Our bells are going well, and Barry maintains them on a regular basis. We are considering getting a smarter (non-permanent) carpet, which will not only make the ringing room look better, but also help to keep us warm in the Winter. We are also considering purchasing another laptop, so that the ringing simulator can be used again – very helpful if we ever meet short on a practice night!

We now practice every other Thursday, with Rogate the other week. Although these tend to be well-supported with help from outside, there just aren't enough ringers to go round many towers for Sunday ringing. We do also hold a monthly advanced practice for the district at Milland, and these are well-supported by ringers from the Winchester & Portsmouth, Guildford and Chichester dioceses – ringers from Buriton, Bramshott, Hawkley, Haslemere and elsewhere – and as a result a couple of members of our core band can now ring to a higher standard. But we do still need more learners to ensure our band can continue to prosper in the future.

Brian Underwood
Ringing Master.

Report from the Trustees of the George Street Trust:

The trustees of the Rake School Trust and the George Street Trust met twice during the year and approved a number of grants during the year totalling over £10,000; including support for local cases of need approved by the Trustees under the terms of the Trust, these included the costs of the Rake School Leavers assembly including the presentation of Bibles to leavers. Small gifts were also presented to the Staff of the school at Christmas.

The payments also included contributions towards the costs printing of the pewsheets; the Youth Clubs in Rogate and Liss, and towards the upkeep of the Churchyards at Milland, Linch and Iping Marsh. Donations and related gifts were distributed in the Benefice at Easter and bequests were made to a small number of individuals as approved by the Trustees under the terms and conditions of the Trust's definition of providing support within the Benefice.

If anyone would like more information on the George Street Trust and the Rake School Trust please contact the Rector, Michael Cartwright or Anne Alderman.

Bob Ireland, Trustee



Rake CE Primary School
Rake, LISS
Hampshire
GU33 7JH

Telephone: 01730 892126

Fax: 01730 894860

E-mail: head@rake.w-sussex.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr David Bertwistle BEd(Hons) NPQH

Report to St Luke's, Milland, PCC

March 2017

The economic climate and budget restrictions have begun to hit hard at Rake Primary School. We began this financial year in a very positive way with a £20,000 carry forward, however rising costs and our commitment to the inclusion of every child who wants to come to the school have had a huge impact on the budget.

We are hugely grateful to the trustees of the **George Street Trust** who have given us enormous financial support this year. Despite this support in September we are looking at reducing our staff by almost 20%. Our commitment to supporting all our children, whatever their needs, does not waver and we are looking at other funding streams to be able to continue the current adult to child ratio - it is the adults who make the difference.

We now have **111 children** on roll and we have continued to run as a five class school and we hope we will be able to do the same next academic year.

The children across the school are **achieving well** with the majority achieving **in line with or higher than national average** in all subjects and in all year groups. Our Key Stage 2 results last year were disappointing, but not surprising as our Year 6 cohort was made up of a large number of pupils with additional needs (all of whom achieved their own personal targets).

The quality of teaching and learning across the school has always been good, but following a recent visit from the Local Authority we were judged to be **good with many outstanding features**. The report was hugely positive stating:

'The lessons seen were good overall, with a lot of outstanding practice evident.'

'The school has an excellent ethos of enabling mistakes, letting children get things wrong and helping them learn from this - building confidence and resilience is a strong characteristic of the school.'

'The school runs ... an exciting and engaging curriculum, providing breadth and depth across all subjects. Children are on task and motivated and teachers have a very good understanding of what is needed to support and challenge.'

We are currently preparing for our SIAMS Church Inspection, which as a Church of England School we have every five years. We currently rate ourselves as being good. Both Rev Trish and Sheila Pim, our Foundation Governors, are supporting us in finding the required evidence for the inspection.



Eco-Schools



www.rake.w-sussex.sch.uk

We are still committed to offering additional educational experiences to our children. We make good use of our 2 acre area of woodland that is used for Forest School activities which enable the children to learn about the woodland and to undertake tasks collaboratively. We also ensure we still have two whole school trips in the year - in December we all went to the pantomime once again and we are planning to take all the children to the Weald and Downland museum at the end of the school year. This is on top of the termly class trips which enhance the topic work undertaken by each class.

We also offer on-site swimming in our own swimming pool. This, sadly, is coming to end of its life and some serious decisions need to be made about the long term future of swimming before next summer.

FoRSA, the Friends of Rake School Association, have been fund raising over the past three years to replace our adventurous play area - they hope to have raised £10,000 by the end of this academic year.

We are all very proud of our links with the community, particularly with St Luke's, where we are always given a warm welcome. We are currently practicing for our Mothering Sunday Service for the church and our in-school Easter service.

As members of the church we consider you to be part of our Rake family - you are very welcome to come and visit us and our extraordinary school.

David Bertwistle
Headteacher
March 2017