

**Brighstone,
Brook with Mottistone,
Shorwell with Kingston**

*Reports from your churches about their outreach and
worship for the year ending March 2015*

Please take a copy and see what's going on

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Reverend Helen O'Sullivan

This is the first time we have published our annual report directly to the community. It has always been a public document (and indeed our annual meeting is a public meeting to which you are all warmly invited):

16th April 7.30pm at The Three Bishops

But, APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) reports have never - until now - made very exciting reading. They have tended to tell the church what they already know, and to tell the community things in which they aren't particularly interested.

I hope this report bucks that trend and within it you will find information that will help you to understand what we are doing and why, and even perhaps encourage you to share your reflections on this with us, so that your churches can serve our communities more effectively.

I think, and I hope you will agree, that much has been achieved this year in working out how better to support and engage with our local communities including:

- Regular local newsletters to the residents of Brook & Mott, and Shorwell
- Improved access at Mottistone
- The acquisition of the lease for the old Library in Brighstone
- The AgeUK post currently funded by St Mary's Brighstone and the particular success of the weekly coffee morning
- Youth work funded by individual members of the church & community
- The appointment of a local minister for Shorwell - funded by the churches in Brighstone, Brook and Mottistone
- The Moot - an informal monthly gathering in Shorwell
- And significantly more charity fundraising events and concerts held at St Mary's Brighstone

One of the most wonderful experiences for us this year was our involvement in supporting the launch of the Helping Someone CD to raise money for five local charities. Over £2000 has been raised to date and we had so much fun making the CD!

The tower at Brighstone has expanded rapidly and are now able to field a whole team of young ringers at St Mary's.

The Christmas Tree Festival continues to break its own records for attendance and fundraising! It has been great to see how so many people within the community have come together to share ownership of this amazing event. I know it has its headaches too, but on balance this does so much good for so many charities, highlighting and supporting their work.

We said goodbye to Reverend Canon Karen Schmidt at Advent, at the end of a wonderful year of 900th anniversary celebrations at Chale and then said farewell to Chale as they moved to the new group of Niton, Whitwell, St Lawrence and Chale under the care of the Revd Dr Nigel Porter.

There is a great deal still to do as we tackle the issue of the financial resources needed to keep the churches open and in good order, never mind the money needed to continue to fund the work we are doing within the wider community.

We should be able to measure everything we do as a church against the Gospel imperative to be and to share God's love in the world; after the example of Jesus Christ. I hope this helps to make sense of where our focus and our priorities are, and if it doesn't, then we need to rethink what we are doing and why.

So very many people make possible what is already being achieved through their very generous giving of time, talents and resources and I want to thank you all for the way you so graciously continue to do this.

Most of this report is a recap on the year ending, but we begin by a reflection from Steve in his new role as Local Minister for Shorwell.

Steve Sutcliffe - Licensed Lay Minister and Local Minister for Shorwell

Firstly, can I just say what an incredible privilege it is to be writing my report to you. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your unswerving support and your ongoing prayers during this immense journey of faith.

This time last year, who would have guessed that I would be sitting here compiling my report, but here I am and what a year it has been!

We started 2015 with our Archdeacon, Peter Sutton, discussing something entitled 'The Island Plan.' With a future where our clergy numbers would be reduced considerably, due to retirement in the majority of cases, the future is in our hands. Some will say 'hasn't it

always been in our hands?’ while for others the Vicar has always been at the forefront of mission in our communities.

But, Jesus calls all of us, not just those who are ordained, to serve one another and to minister to one another. And so we have a challenge. We can either allow our clergy to burn themselves out, or we can support them and the communities in which we serve, by working together, using our own gifts and talents alongside others to benefit everybody.

And this is where my role fits in. As the local minister for Shorwell I am the first port of call for pastoral support, for the sick, the bereaved and for those wanting to understand more about the Christian faith; and alongside this, I hope to support the local community in strengthening the links between all of us. Working alongside others to create opportunities where the church and the community can work together.

St Peter’s, a stunning church, is not the most accessible building and so in Shorwell we now have a regular monthly service called ‘The Moot’ which meets either in the village hall or by kind invitation of the Harrison’s, at Northcourt. We now have around 40 regulars, each contributing in their own way to half an hour of fellowship and half an hour of worship. This is proving to be a great source of encouragement, seeing people of all ages from our community coming together and getting to know each other.

I shall continue to enjoy meeting you all in my travels around the benefice, but for now I shall sign off. Thank you for the part you play in our combined mission in this part of the Island and beyond.

AgeUKIW Project - Judith Stratton and Gill Bradbury

Since this role was created in March 2014, funded by St Mary’s Brighstone, much has taken place in the locality to address the needs of the more vulnerable older people living in the Benefice, and to strengthen the sense of community between the parishes. 26 residents have become AgeUKIW GNS volunteers working as:

- 1:1 befrienders (10 recipients)
- Volunteer drivers
- Volunteer computer support
- Odd jobs around the home, shopping, dog walking and telephone befriending
- AgeUKIW Extreme Weather Support Service (free heaters, blankets etc. to 5 residents)

Brighstone

In Brighstone, partnership working has been established with the South Wight Surgery to share information and signposting for clients and with Brighstone Library for computer training and delivery of books to the housebound.

Other activities include weekly drop in at the Exchange, gentle and seated exercise classes, dementia friendly church services at St Mary's and support to the Community Christmas lunch.

A writers' group and craft club have also been set up and meet regularly. Support has been provided to Brighstone School's Community lunch, and coffee mornings in residents' homes, plus a major development of the Tuesday Coffee Morning in the Methodist Church.

There have been visits from representatives of other organisations, services and special events, including a lunch outing. Since starting in August 2014 the coffee morning now welcomes 35 visitors a week. Since August 2014 over 700 volunteer hours have been given at coffee mornings and drop-ins.

Shorwell

Since February 2015 the project has moved into Shorwell and opportunities to gather information about what residents want for the community have been organised, including drop-in sessions held every Monday at the Island Cottages Office and a couple of coffee mornings. A number of activities are being planned to take place in the Crown Inn and the Village Hall.

Impact Survey

An impact survey has been carried out to assess the effectiveness of the project so far. More than half respondents say their confidence has grown and they have received help to maintain their independence, over 80% have made new friends and over 70% have someone to turn to in times of need.

Churchwardens' Reports

Churchwardens are the Bishop's representatives in the local community, and every resident, not just church members, are entitled to vote in the election of churchwardens, which is held at the beginning of the APCM.

St Peter's Shorwell - Yvonne Willoughby

On the whole we've had a good year; the 'special' services were well attended and it was rewarding to see so many people at Ben's (Youth Worker) farewell service last August. We had 4 weddings, 9 baptisms and sadly, 8 funerals.

The Flower Festival, as usual was much appreciated and many visitors have been through our doors, admiring the ancient beauty of the church and showing interest in the mural of St Christopher. They bought our special tea towels and mugs, and wrote lovely words in our visitors' book.

The Lent Lunch - This was the first year Shorwell hosted a Lent Lunch, raising money for local charities. This was held in the village hall was a great success; we hope to hold another one next year.

AgeUK - Judith Stratton is now in Shorwell on a Monday and her recent initiatives in the pub and village hall were heartening.

Community Outreach - We've been so pleased to welcome Steve Sutcliffe, as a Licensed Lay Minister, to Shorwell. Apart from his work with Revd Helen O'Sullivan throughout the benefice, he is now organising and running 'The Moot' which takes place on the third Sunday of each month, usually in the village hall and a few times at Northcourt Manor. Around forty people usually attend, including children, and they enjoy this short informal service. We have half an hour with a light pleasant breakfast followed by a few hymns and prayers. There are special activities for the children and it's pleasant to meet and chat with new friends. A real community spirit is felt by all, and we very much hope it will continue.

Fabric - Unfortunately, some months ago, a lightning bolt struck our church spire causing some considerable damage. A lot of loose rubble had to be removed, stonework was broken and various pieces had to be taken away for repair. This involved a lot of scaffolding and boundaries being made for the safety of passers-by. The costs were considerable, but I'm pleased to say that Wight Stonemasonry are doing a good job; most repairs are well underway and should be finished within the allotted time.

When this job is done, we eventually need to raise a lot of money to install a kitchen and 'loo' to make greater use of the church. I feel sure this can be achieved.

We were sorry to say goodbye to Revd Canon Karen Schmidt last December and wish her well.

Many thanks to all the ladies, and of course Douglas Potts, who do so much to make our church productive. We couldn't do without them!

I've enjoyed fourteen years as Churchwarden and thank Charlie Warne for his company and his help.

St Mary the Virgin, Brook and Ss Peter and Paul, Mottistone - Mrs Felicity Adams-Young

2014 has been another busy, and especially interesting year for me as churchwarden of both St Mary's, Brook and at Ss Peter and Paul, Mottistone. I could not have managed this unusual responsibility without the superb help and support of a large number of people from across the parishes. There were two baptisms, eight funerals and four weddings since Jan 2014.

Our congregations are relatively small but consistent, and worship continues in the established pattern, alternating each Sunday between morning Eucharist and Evensong in rotation at each church, with United Services across the benefice where there is a fifth Sunday in the month. As well as the usual services, several family occasions of Baptisms, weddings and funerals have been marked in each church in addition to well-attended Festivals and services for special occasions.

Of particular note, we said goodbye to Reverend Canon Karen Schmidt when she retired in December, and presented her with a gift and card after Evensong in Brook. The Christmas Tree Festival was as popular as ever with 719 visitors to Mottistone during the festival and £436.91 in donations. Our services have been enhanced by the organ playing of Mr Neil Courtney and Mr Howard Wilkie who have continued as organists with us.

Many thanks must go to Mrs Libby Farquhar who despite stepping down as Brook churchwarden, has continued to be a great source of knowledge and guidance. Huge thanks also go to Mrs Susannah Seely who has been first-class in organising a rota of "Friends" of Brook church.

This has been a very successful new initiative to encourage a variety of people from the villages to get involved with their churches. They offer much appreciated support, preparing the church for services and looking after routine care and small repairs. Our thanks to Mrs Sarah Lang at Mottistone who helps in so many ways, and to Eileen who has

recently taken on the regular church cleaning. If you would like to be part of this new team for Friends of Brook and Mott please contact Susannah via the church office.

The Buildings Committee have continued to manage both planned and emergency works. The cross on the roof of Brook was badly damaged in a storm, and the stone gate arch at Mottistone became dangerous. On each occasion prompt attention prevented further complications. The Committee also supervised the improvement enabling better access for wheelchair users and others with mobility needs to Mottistone. The new path and gate was formally opened in the summer by Mr Andrew Hutchinson. We are grateful to those who give so much time to the care of grounds of Brook and to Mr Kane and Mrs Frances Hearnden who continue to care for the grounds of Mottistone. A huge planting of wild daffodils was carried out at Brook and as spring arrives, we are just about to see the fruits of our labours. Mr Peter Moore has continued to arrange the readers' rota for Brook and Mottistone and we thank him for continuing to organise us all.

The layout and content of our twice-yearly newsletter has been enhanced by contributions from people with expertise in those areas. Providing information for the local community about the events and activities across both churches, we believe it has been well received by locals and visitors alike. Most recent of these events was the Lent Lunch held at the Seely Hall, raising almost £200 for Médecines Sans Frontières and serving 48 people.

Our thanks also go to everyone involved in providing lovely flower arrangements all year round in both churches. Many visitors comment on how beautifully cleaned, maintained and presented they find the churches and how welcoming to find them unlocked during the day. This would not be possible without the commitment and effort of everyone in the local communities.

St Mary's Brighstone - Gill Bradbury & Roy Bromley

It's been another busy year at St Mary's. Here are some of the highlights from a Churchwardens' perspective.

Youth Work

We are partnering with a group based in Niton to offer a co-ordinated youth provision in the area. The South Wight Area Youth (SWAY) project is a multi-denominational initiative that aims to engage with young people in the villages and support their development into

adulthood. The immediate aim is to appoint two part-time Youth Workers to augment the full-time professional who took up their post this month.

PCC Focus Groups

The PCC is keen to add value and deliver certain projects on behalf of the regular congregation at St Mary's. Following a half day away we decided on our priorities and initiated small focus groups to consider what was needed and then to implement the outcomes. The first two groups are Prayer and Communications. The work of these two groups is being felt already and they will continue to help us. Other groups will progress work in the near future and are concerned with hospitality and pastoral support.

Community Christmas Lunch

For many people Christmas day is a lonely and stressful time. We facilitated a community lunch for the first time on Christmas Day. Some 30 people attended and enjoyed food and fellowship as well as some entertainment.

Outreach Worker

As part of our community outreach we are financing a part-time worker whose focus is to the older residents within our villages. We are partnering with AgeUK in this ground-breaking initiative and are very fortunate to have an excellent worker who has already had a positive impact on many people. We are exploring ways of keeping this important work going well into the future.

Greater Utilisation of the Church

The church has been used by a variety and expanding number of groups this year. We have the regular bell and hand bell ringers but also we enjoy a variety of music events and talks. We are exploring ways of increasing the building utilisation, as well as making our services more accessible to more people. Work is also in hand to upgrade the audio system, install WiFi and a glass projection screen.

Lent Lunches

Lent Lunches this year are reaching further across the Benefice with a group also holding a lunch in Shorwell.

Parish Giving Scheme

We are taking part in this diocesan initiative. It has been going for several years and is administered from Gloucester Diocese. It helps parishes process their giving quickly and efficiently, and deals with the Gift Aid thereby adding to our income.

Education

We continue our close links with the school, contributing to weekly Collective Worship, holding monthly school Eucharist Services plus an Emmaus Group for year 5/6 pupils.

Baptisms, Wedding and Funerals

There were 3 weddings, 18 baptisms and 14 funerals

Brighstone CE Primary School

Kim Hall

The relationship between Brighstone CE Primary School and the Church has continued to be strengthened throughout this year.

Our monthly Eucharist service has continued to go from strength to strength. The level of pupil involvement in the service has increased further. The Bishop commissioned two young people from the school to administer Holy Communion, a first in the country. There are currently 10 pupils who regularly ring the bells prior to each service, the children are very enthusiastic and we are very grateful for the support offered by the members of the congregation who join them at this time.

Our Year 5 pupils were proud to play an active part in the Sunday Remembrance service in November, and we received a remarkable response to our Unknown Soldier sculpture. The letters written by members of the congregation as well as our pupils were very moving.

Our school choir has grown in numbers and quality, and this has been assisted by the leadership of Christine Biggs. The choir have taken part in many of our church services, and also sang at the opening of the Christmas Tree Ceremony.

The school's Harvest Festival, Macmillan Coffee Morning, Remembrance Service and Christmas Productions were all carried out within St Mary's Church. The support for these events was remarkable; at Christmas even the standing room was taken and the childrens' performances were all the more special as we were surrounded by the communities' Christmas Trees.

Youth Work

Peter Johnson

It seems a long time ago now since Ben Crouch came to us as our new trainee Youth Worker. Ben stayed for 4 years and left us at the end of August 2014. During his final year with us he was employed as a full-time, fully-qualified youth worker. This was an enormous step for us in the 5 churches, to go from a trainee youth worker of 20 hours a week to a full-time youth worker. Ben had an enormous impact on our young people over that time, establishing a good rapport with them and keeping many engaged in church who might otherwise not have been.

Since last April much has happened. We have had a successful CIA (Christ in Action) group meeting at the Methodist Church each Thursday, which Ben led. Ben and Dan Wells (Niton's Youth Worker) did some great work in Chale with a football and some young people. These were totally unchurched young people. Sadly, this has not continued since Ben's departure.

The young people at Brighstone were involved in Easter activities in the Church last Easter, involving a sleep over in the Church.

Our young people were involved in several all-Island Rock Solid events, including an exciting night hike in October. The older young people did a 24-hour prayer night at St Mary's, where they went without their electronic devices for 24 hours - a big challenge for some!

Last summer we had 3 young people attending Soul Survivor and 3 young people attending a Hants and Dorset camp. Both events were faith building and entirely positive experiences for them. We hope to encourage participation in such camps again this summer.

Our older young people are starting to get into the habit of attending Island-wide Catalyst events.

Last summer we also ran our second mountain camping trip to the Brecon Beacons. This time we tackled the impressive Black Mountain and had a great time. There were 7 young people and 6 adults. At the end of Ben's time with us, we had a terrific send off at Shorwell.

Since the New Year, Steve Sutcliffe has established a youth night at his house in Shorwell on Friday evening, which has been excellent.

Big Worship has continued on Sunday mornings with now only Beth and Peter leading it - we clearly need some more help here. It is an important time for our young people and their faith. Sunday Club is

similarly down to just Jerry and Peter to lead. More recently, we have had offers of help, which is welcome.

With the start of Andy Dorning as our SWAY Youth Worker and Annouska Blake as our part-time Youth Worker, we are hoping for great things for the year ahead. Your support has been exemplary and we are hoping we can continue to count on it for the challenges ahead.

Music for Worship St Mary's Brighstone

Beth Peckham

St Mary's has enjoyed another year of musical activity and diversity. We strive to offer a regular worship pattern and musical balance that seeks to cater for, involve and engage with our whole congregation and community.

The **Music Group** play for Family Communion service on the 1st Sunday of the month as well as other special services/occasions. Comprising of piano, flutes, clarinets, acoustic guitars and occasional violins, the Music Group has also continued to collaborate with singers from both the choir and congregation in leading worship to support and enable the congregation with singing.

In addition, we have also begun to have regular Singing & Worship evenings, once a month on a Friday night*, as an opportunity to get together to practice unfamiliar hymns, repertoire and learn new songs, as well as growing together a united group of worshippers and encouraging each other in our musical gifts and ministry. We then move to The Three Bishops for a time of friendship and fellowship 😊

*Due to various circumstances we are yet to meet this year, but hope to have our next meeting after Easter.

St Mary's Occasional Choir, now under the skilled leadership of Christine Biggs, sing on the 3rd Sunday of the month as well as other special services/occasions. The choir have engaged in various musical events and concerts across the Island over the past year to great success! Any new members always welcome, especially male singers at the moment!

Solace: Sarah Bromley continues to lead this unique monthly evening of intimate worship & meditation, with the occasional assistance of Peter Johnson. It is an invaluable holy space to find solace in these

ever increasingly busy times; to just be still and dwell in the presence of God.

Resources: We continue to use both Mission Praise and Brighstone Praise, and are endeavouring to use the projector and screen more regularly in services for singing and liturgy etc., granting more versatility and a wider range of media in worship. A new glass screen is to be purchased and installed.

Stars of Wonder: This popular Christmas concert once again closed the Christmas Tree Festival featuring a variety of local musicians and members of our church community, to raise over £550 for *Love Russia*.

St Peter's Shorwell Choir

Mary Tester

We continue to meet on alternate Tuesdays and prepare for the services in the forthcoming weeks. We especially practice our psalm singing, as fitting words to chants is one of the most challenging areas of church music and only now sung as part of Evensong services. We have an Evensong every month at Shorwell and would welcome other singers who might like to tackle psalms with us!

Due to illness and people moving away, our numbers are somewhat diminished and we are making an effort to recruit. If anyone reading this would like to join us we would make you very welcome. Any voice and no need to be able to sight-read. We have been meeting during the cold weather in members' houses so we are quite informal. We are working on two anthems at the moment: 'A Gaelic Blessing' by Bob Chilcott and a Phillipino Worship song 'Loving Creator'. We often end with Taizé chants.

Please contact Mary Tester 07710219740 or testers@dircon.co.uk if you would like to know more and join us!

St Mary's Brighstone Handbell Ringers

Michael Camps

In the summer of 2014 the PCC agreed to the purchase of two additional top bells which were specially made by Whitechapel Foundry in London. They add a brighter, lighter sound and are much enjoyed by the players. In mid-summer we welcomed a new player from Brighstone to our team.

These additions will enable our Musical Director to arrange more challenging pieces in preparation for specific performances later in the new year.

At the end of September we returned to Ryde Baptist Church to play at their Friend2Friend meeting and were greatly encouraged by their keenness to sing along with us. In addition, they also put a sample of our playing on their website!

In December the group performed "The Rhymes & Chimes of Christmas" at the Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival and also played the carols for the Candlelight Service at Brighstone Residential Home.

We have some new and exciting invitations to play at outside venues and look forward to sharing our more unusual form of music making with the wider community in the coming year.

St Mary's Brighstone Bell Ringers

Stephen Noyes

Brighstone ringing was "lively" in 2014, largely due to increasing number of bright young faces. The school ringers are now capable of ringing for their monthly School Eucharist unaided, and got a mention on Radio Solent in a piece on ringing in the Winchester & Portsmouth dioceses. Over half the Vectis Youths team, going to Oxford for the national young ringers competition, will have been taught in Brighstone.

The number of ringers has meant adding a second weekly practice; but Tuesday ringing 7-8 pm is now "silent" using a computer simulator to provide sound and so allows more time to be given to teaching, whilst Friday 6.00-7.30pm is "open" ringing. If you've ever wondered what ringing is all about then why not come along to one our practices?

We've been busy visiting other towers with the other Island ringers, and entering the local ringing competitions: our two teams came 2nd and 3rd in the Change Ringing competition in September. Our summer barbeque once again attracted fine weather.

With a good number of ringers available we could comfortably ring for all the usual Sunday services, weddings and throughout the busier period up to Christmas, finishing with midnight ringing to greet 2015.

St Peter's Belfry Band

Cal Challoner

It is now just over 15 years since the bells at St Peter's went through a major restoration for the millennium and so it was decided they needed servicing and checking. We were not completely surprised that some work is required to be done. However, before we could proceed with the necessary work, we had to stop ringing due to the fact that the spire had been struck by lightning and, until that had been checked. Fortunately, we were informed in time for Christmas that we could ring again and so the bells rang out for the New Year. We now await the repairs to the spire and then we can arrange for the necessary maintenance to be done.

The good news is that during the last few months we have gained two new young bell ringers and also a lapsed ringer who is re-learning. This has made life easier to ring all six bells for evening services.

Many thanks to all of you.

Home Communion

A team of 6 lay people authorised by the Bishop who take Holy Communion to those who are sick or housebound on a regular basis. Through this ministry we currently support 18 people who are unable to attend church for a variety of reasons. We also hold a monthly service of Holy Communion at Brighstone Grange Residential Home. If you know anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion at home please call Steve on 741341.

PCC Secretaries Reports

The PCCs (Parochial Church Councils) are the 'governing body' of the church, with members elected from the congregation and also including licensed ministers and deanery representatives. Each PCC appoints a lay chair from its elected members to facilitate meetings, an Honorary Secretary to deal with PCC administration and an Honorary Treasurer who reports to the PCC on the church financial position. All PCC minutes are public documents and can be found on the website, with hard copies of minutes and financial reports kept in each church.

Ex-officio (by virtue of office) members of the PCCs are:

- Helen O'Sullivan - Parish Priest
- Pete Johnson - Licensed Lay Minister
- Steve Sutcliffe - Licensed Lay Minister

We also currently have 3 representatives on the Deanery Synod which now meets as one island group.

- Yvonne Hide - Shorwell
- Mary Tester - Shorwell
- Guy Acland - Brook with Mottistone

Churchwardens are elected annually for a maximum of 6 terms.

PCC members are elected to serve for 3 years.

St Mary the Virgin Brook with St Peter & St Paul Mottistone - Rodney Hogg

- | | Elected |
|---|---------|
| - Sir Guy Acland Bt. (Deanery Synod Rep.) | 2014 |
| - Mrs. S Seely | 2014 |
| - Mr. C. Bull (Electoral Roll Officer) | 2010 |
| - Mrs. S. Lang (Sidesman), Mottistone) | 2014 |

The following members have served for more than ten years and were last formally re-elected en bloc in 2011:

- Retiring Churchwarden Mrs F. Adams-Young
 Mrs E. Farquhar
- Sidesman, Brook Mr M. Kier

- Hon. Treasurer Mr N. Dorley Brown
- Hon. Secretary Mr R. Hogg

- Sunday attendance slightly increased and with broadly similar numbers at both churches
- Eight Meetings (4x B&M, 4x Joint PCC), and two local church meetings at evensong
- One Churchwarden responsible for both churches due to vacancy
- First full year of **B&M Friends** group of seven, sharing between-services management at Brook
- Second year of rota of 15 Readers, with sidesman/verger responsibilities before and after each service
- Five shared events with Seely Hall committee
- Village Consultation Meeting in June, to explain how the churches are funded and how these funds are spent and collect ideas for avoiding the widening PCC deficit
- Consultation responses incorporated into PCC Autumn Newsletter and simplified Regular Giving and Legacy forms delivered to all residents

Report on the Fabric (Fabric Sub-Committee)

Brook: tower shingles stripped and replaced, unstable belfry louvres secured, donation box reinforced, rotted WG memorial bench replaced, safety mirror installed at car park exit

Mottistone: tower leaks repaired, rotten north and south gates replaced with new copies, east gate arch condemned as unsafe and taken down, east window removed and defective stonework renewed

Goods and Ornaments of the churches: no changes.

St Mary's Brighstone - June Horsfall

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| - Lay Chair: | Mrs Jean Wavell | Elected |
| - Churchwardens: | Mr Roy Bromley | 2012 |
| - | Ms Gill Bradbury | 2013 |
| - Elected members | | |
| - | Mrs Joan Brown | 2012 |
| - | Mrs Janet Edwards | 2012 |
| - | Mrs Angie Brown | 2012 |
| - | Mrs Bev Fryer | 2012 |
| - | Mrs Norma Bradley | 2013 |
| - | Mrs Pat Spittles | 2013 |
| - | Mrs Beth Peckham | 2013 |
| - Hon. Secretary | Mrs June Horsfall | |
| - Hon. Treasurer | Mr Ian Johnson | |

Under the 3 year ruling, members elected in 2012 are required to stand down at the APCM. Our thanks to Joan, Janet, Angie and Bev for this service to the PCC. We look forward to welcoming 4 new members in 2015.

The PCC has held 6 meetings in the year, 2 of which were extraordinary meetings.

From the minutes (more online):

Church roof: 3 companies have been asked to quote for significant repairs. The total cost is likely to be in excess of £60k. Various fundraising initiatives are being explored.

A discussion was held re Communion before Confirmation as the Bishop had put out a revised policy on this subject. His full policy could be read online. It was felt that baptism and confirmation were ultimately steps in the journey of faith and as such people should be free to enter into them as and when they were ready. It is not necessary for the reception of Holy Communion to be linked to Confirmation.

Stewardship & Finances are under the spot light as we need to substantially raise income to continue to meet our liabilities and support our outreach work.

A demonstration was given to the PCC of a new 'transparent' screen to be used in worship. We are awaiting a site visit from the company to advise us where to place the screen.

St Peter's Shorwell - Yvonne Hide

- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| - Lay Chair | Mr Richard Morrison | |
| - Churchwarden | Mrs Yvonne Willoughby | |
| | | Elected |
| - Elected Members | Mr Richard Morrison | 2012 |
| - | Mrs Jill Downer | 2012 |
| - | Mr Royston Carter Jones | 2014 |
| - | Mrs Jill Jackman | 2014 |
| - | Mrs Brenda Rowe | 2014 |
| - | Mrs Janet White | 2014 |
| - Hon. Treasurer | position vacant | |
| - Hon. Secretary | Mrs Yvonne Hide | |

There have been 11 PCC meetings since the last APCM. Four were joint meetings with the other 4 parishes and 3 were extra-ordinary meetings called at short notice.

The PCC presented Charlie Warne with a garden statue in recognition of his 30 years' dedicated service as churchwarden.

In April, 2 years after his conservation work on the St Christopher wall painting, Peter Martindale came to check that it was in a satisfactory condition. The next check is in 5 years' time.

In June, a water leak developed under the south path in the churchyard. In anticipation of work to be done installing a kitchen unit and WC in the church, the PCC decided to have the water supply cut off. In spite of this a successful Flower Festival with the theme "The Parables of Jesus" was held over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

In July, PCC members from the West Wight Deanery attended a very successful meeting led by Revd Charlie Peer, the diocese Mission

Development Officer. Mission development in our parish has seen the monthly Sunday “Moot” become established with increasing numbers, especially of children, and an informal monthly “Coffee and Chat” to encourage socialising.

Lightning struck St Peter’s spire in early November dislodging coping stones and badly damaging the top third of the spire. Rebuilding starts this spring.

Revd Canon Karen Schmidt left in early December to become fully retired. We shall miss her quiet help in all aspects of parish life.

Meanwhile, we are delighted at the 2 year appointment of Steve Sutcliffe as Licensed Lay Minister to the benefice. We are especially pleased he is based in Shorwell and will be involved with our community from Monday to Friday each week.

Joint Parochial Church Council

Anna Davidson

The JPCC met three times since the last APCM, in 2014 and once, to date, in 2015.

Overview of the minutes:

15th May 2014:

- All churches fed back with news from their parishes.
- The proposed merger of Chale with Niton, Whitwell and St Lawrence was raised.
- Judith Stratton and Mark O’Sullivan from AgeUKIW gave a presentation to the JPCC to inform them of the work the church funded AgeUK project would be undertaking within the benefice.
- An update on the Youth Worker was given. Ben Crouch, current youth worker, intended to move on in September 2014 as was Niton’s youth worker. This presented the opportunity to link with Niton to work together on Youth Provision. It was proposed to take on two Youth Training People (one for Brighstone and one for Niton), along with a full-time Youth Worker to share with the whole SW Wight.
- There was an update on the church acquiring the old library in Brighstone – the new name The Exchange was discussed.

6th September 2014:

- A joint meeting of the PCC's from Niton, Whitwell, Chale and St Lawrence went well. The Archdeacon announced The Bishop was willing to nominate a candidate as incumbent for the benefice.
- With the imminent retirement of Revd Canon Karen Schmidt, the benefice was seeking approval to retain the use of the parsonage for two years to house a lay reader to keep the momentum in Shorwell.
- The JPCC discussed ways in which they can engage better with the local communities.
- SWAY (South Wight Area Youth Partnership) representatives informed the JPCC they were looking to employ a full time youth worker who will then oversee and coordinate a Youth Training Person employed by the benefice. SWAY had been granted £80K over two years from the IWCC in order for SWAY to handle certain youth groups they had identified in our area. Concerns were raised by the JPCC over the commitment of funds to a youth training person, and how much influence the IWCC would expect to have given their financial investment.

11th November 2014:

- All churches fed back with news from their parishes.
- Helen O'Sullivan announced that Steve Sutcliffe had been offered the post of Licensed Lay Minister, fixed term for two years. Steve had accepted.
- SWAY had appointed an experienced Youth Worker who would be moving to Niton shortly. His work will encompass Brighstone.
- There was feedback following the One Deanery Plan meeting which had taken place on the 10th November. The JPCC discussed how they intend to meet the forth-coming challenges arising from the Plan.
- Cross-Benefice relations were discussed and how best to improve them.

15th January 2015:

- All churches fed back with news from their parishes.

- The merger of Chale with Niton, St Lawrence and Whitwell was confirmed with news that a new vicar had been selected, Revd Nigel Porter.
- With the retirement of Revd Canon Karen Schmidt, Nick Dorley-Brown asked the JPCC to discuss how Helen O'Sullivan would be best supported.
- Safeguarding was discussed and the JPCC were asked to be mindful of it at all times and the legal obligation to have measures in place.

Electoral Roll Report

The church electoral roll is the list of those connected with a particular church. These may be resident in the parish or elsewhere and individuals may be on the electoral roll of more than one church but may only serve as an officer in one church.

St Mary's Brighstone - Bev Fryer

There has been a small drop in the total numbers on the roll this year:

- Removed from the roll - 3
- Added to the roll - 0
- Total number on the roll in 86

These represent:

- 52 households within the Parish (73 members)
- 9 households outside the Parish (13 members)

St Peter's Shorwell - Yvonne Hide

There are 34 names on the Electoral Roll.

- Five names have been added since the last APCM and none have been removed
- Twenty six households are represented on the Roll
- Twenty are in the parish
- Six people from 4 households live outside the parish

St Mary the Virgin Brook and Ss Peter and Paul's Mottistone - Christopher Bull

There are 39 names on the Electoral Roll.

- One name has been added since the last APCM and none have been removed
- Twenty five households are represented on the Roll
- Twenty six people are in the parishes and 13 live outside the parishes

The West Wight Deanery Synod

Sir Guy Acland

The WW Deanery Synod met on 19th June 2014 at St. Mary's Church, Cowes. After a short service of Eucharist with Hymns, Synod conducted the business of electing Officers and the Standing Committee. This was followed by a PowerPoint presentation by the Archdeacon in which he continued his discussion - begun earlier in 2014 - on the subject of creating a One-Island Deanery and an Island plan for church life over the next ten years to 2025.

The WW Deanery Synod met on 20th November 2014 at the church of St. James, Yarmouth. The Revd Sandra Tebbutt gave a talk on the work of The Bible Society. Later, Synod voted on the motion "This Synod agrees that the two Deaneries of the Archdeaconry be merged to form one Deanery of the Isle of Wight". Results: for the motion 30, against 0, abstentions 1. EW Deanery had voted in a similar manner to accept the motion, therefore the Archdeacon agreed to take the views of both Deaneries to the Bishop to move the formal process forward.

A Joint Meeting of East Wight and West Wight Deanery Synods was held on 21st January 2015 at All Saints' Church, Ryde. The Archdeacon gave a presentation to introduce his "Living Together" document. The paper, consisting of almost 50 pages, sets out detailed proposals for the two Deaneries coming and working together. At present it is a consultative document, and will be discussed in detail at the next Joint Deaneries Synod on 27th May 2015.

One-Island Deanery (short summary of a 50-page document)

Background: there is a national shortage of clergy; about one third of our Island stipendiary clergy are due to reach retirement age within the next ten years; there is an evident (and understandable) reluctance for younger clergy to take up appointments away from their mainland comfort-zones; there are 60 Anglican churches on the Island, with an average weekly attendance of 32 people; at the end of 2014 the Island's collective Parish Share shortfall amounted to £264,000; we are living beyond our means.

It is the Archdeacon's (widely shared) view that, since retiring clergy are unlikely to be replaced, the old model of one clergy person being responsible for one or more churches and working in isolation is not a viable option for the future. Equally, the old structure of two Deaneries is costly in human and management (committee) terms and absorbs valuable time and energy which could be better used. (One larger Deanery Synod would need to meet in a location central to the Island; there would be one Standing Committee, one Finance Committee, one Mission and Pastoral Committee, and one Area Dean.)

The Island would then have a single significant group which would seek to develop a strategic plan for ministry and mission throughout the Island in which, over time, the deployment of stipendiary posts would be fairer and more strategic than at present. Parishes across the Island are already exploring ways of working together in new ways ("Clusters", of which there are six) in order to create a clear mission strategy which will transform church life. Greater (and possibly quite satisfying) demands are going to be made on "lay Christians" within our parishes in order to support our remaining clergy and help to make this work.

The Archdeacon's discussion document asks how we might best use our 60 church buildings in a way that proclaims the Gospel and builds the Kingdom but does not swamp us. We need to be sure about which buildings will play a part in the long term future of the Church, and be frank about those buildings that have a question mark over their future as places of worship (and, essentially, what can happen to those buildings which can be used in other ways?)

The Archdeacon concludes that worshipping Church congregations have declined numerically, as has the availability of licensed ministers, and that we have an abundance of buildings. We need to remind ourselves of why we are here, and work hard to make a difference.

"Living Together" is a work in progress.

PCC Treasurer Reports

Full financial statements and report will be available online and at the back of the churches following the APCM.

St Mary the Virgin Brook and Ss Peter and Paul Mottistone Nick Dorley-Brown

Receipts and payments produced a deficit of £14K - an improvement on the 2013 £27K deficit.

Diocesan Parish Share was £16.3K but included a catch-up from 2013 of £6K.

Building maintenance costs were £21K (2013: £32K)

The deficit was financed by a withdrawal from reserves of £19K (2013: £31K).

St Peter's Shorwell - not available at time of going to print, please check on-line following the APCM

St Mary's Brighstone - not available at time of going to print, please check on-line following the APCM

Fellowship Groups

Anna Davidson

There are a number of groups meeting within the benefice on a regular basis.

Shorwell Bible Study Group:

each Friday 14:30; fellowship, study and prayer.

Women in the Word:

alternate Fridays 10:45 Brighstone; coffee and cake, study and prayer.

Bible Study:

Tuesday 20:00 Brighstone; cake, study and prayer.

Tuesday 10:00 Brook; fellowship, study and prayer.

Rectory Breakfast:

08:30 Wednesday; a time of enquiry for parents of Brighstone Primary.

Emmaus Confirmation Course: March/April each year for young people who wish to explore the Christian faith

Young Persons Group:

Each Friday 19:00 – 21:00 at 5 Northcourt Close; for Year 8 and above.

Coffee and Chat:

10:00-12:00 monthly, a fellowship group operating generally within Brighstone and Limerstone.

Please see the website, or the weekly pew sheet, *The Link*, or call Anna for more details.

We hope that this has given you something of an overview of all we care about as a church and all that we are engaged in. If any of it raises any questions for you please do share these with us.

I hope you will appreciate that it is quite a job collating this information, especially so close to Easter, and that you will forgive any omissions or typographical errors!

Happy Easter.

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