

Brighstone, Brook with Mottistone, Shorwell with Kingston

*Reports from your churches about their outreach and
worship for the year ending March 2017*

Please take a copy and see what's going on

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Nick Dorley-Brown - Chairman Joint Parochial Church Council

This annual report once again follows the format in recent years and covers activities from all of our group's churches.

The APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting) is taking place on the 27th April 7:30pm at The Three Bishops, Brighstone. All parishioners are warmly invited to attend.

We are delighted that Linda Bushell has joined our Ministry team during 2016, and has got off to a great start. Our new Area Dean is Rev Allie Kerr, and we look forward to working with Allie and offer her all best wishes for success in her new role. We are very sorry to report that David Isaac is leaving his post as Area Dean in April 2017. We are so grateful to David for all the support and guidance he has given us, and we wish him and Jane every success in their new roles in the Fareham Deanery.

Interregna can be challenging times, and I would like to this opportunity on behalf of our JPCC to enthusiastically thank our ministry team and all those others involved in ensuring our worship and operation of our churches meets the needs of our community. We keenly await the recruitment of a rector for West Wight, and look forward to the leadership and developments the appointment will bring to the life of our churches.

Linda Bushell - Local Minister for Shorwell and Interim Priest for Brighstone, Brook and Mottistone

Dear One and all

Firstly I would like to thank you all for the very warm welcome which Gordon and I received on joining the Benefice and for the support offered whilst getting to know your parishes. We cannot believe the variety of styles of worship offered to those in the Benefice; or the depth of commitment offered by you all.

Now, I think, is the time to thank all of you, who have worked so tirelessly not only to keep things ticking over but to develop and extend the depth of devotion during the Vacancy. During this time there has been a steady increase in the offering of time, talents and collaborative working, not only in the Benefice, but right across the Cluster, and also with our fellow Christians in our local Methodist Churches. This is not limited to Sundays in church but extends to a team of Lay Pastoral Visitors offering Home Communion to the house bound, to residents of Brighstone Grange and to home groups in Brook. We also have a number of people training to Lay Lead non Eucharistic worship and many who work hard on Social Activities, which bring us all together.

As newcomers, our introduction to the Christmas Tree Festival held in the Brighstone area was amazing.

Brighstone School continues to have close ties to St Mary's and it is a privilege to lead their monthly Eucharist and to join 'The two Andy's' and Peter Johnson at some of their collective worship assemblies. SWAY continues to carry out very valuable work with our youngsters.

Each Parish has its own successes and I will say no more about Brighstone, Brook and Mottistone as others will be telling you more about their own villages.

In Shorwell 'The Pitch Up At The Pub', Friday mornings continue to grow in popularity to the extent that they have had to move into the larger room at The Crown Inn. £2.00 for coffee, cake, a quiz and lots of laughter seems a very good deal. 'Blokes, Bacon Butties and Banter' also remains popular; with the Gentlemen having enjoyed, among other things, a visit to the Tank Museum in Cowes. Table tennis continues to thrive too.

St Peter's church has made a good start with the fund raising for the church kitchen and toilet, and plans will very soon be available to view, when the real work will start! The monthly 'Moot' in the Village hall attracts between twenty five and forty people, mainly young families who eat, reflect, sing and make, in sessions led by our Lay Minister Peter Johnson. There are joint Monthly services with Shorwell Methodist

Church followed by lovely lunches held in the Methodist Church.

In all, I would say that the future looks bright. Thanks to you all and God Bless You. Linda

Steve Sutcliffe - Local Minister for Shorwell to September 2016

My dear friends, firstly let me thank you, for all your ongoing prayers, your support and your encouragement, it truly does mean the world to me. Thank you also for persevering to keep in touch, even when I am so poor in doing the reverse.

It hardly seems possible that I was bidding you all *au revoir* some eight months ago because so much has happened in the subsequent time in between. I am, however, still enjoying my course up in Cuddesdon and I have made many friends which has eased the burden of living away from my family and friends.

The college course has opened up a world of opportunity for me and I am very fortunate to benefit from that. Amongst the lectures and assignments which has broadened my knowledge and spirituality, I have thoroughly enjoyed separate 'themed study weeks' which are intense study weeks on a particular subject. One highlight was a trip to the Diocese of Durham, along with three of my friends, to look into 'Ministry in the North East.' This was a very informative and challenging study week which included a day trip to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. A place which has been described as 'a thin place where heaven comes close to earth' and I can certainly identify with that spiritual aura.

I have also been able to see how chaplaincy works within the prison community. This was an extremely moving week for me. I shadowed the Prison Chaplain and saw first-hand how delicate the balance is, in reaching out to the rejected in society and helping individuals recognise God in their lives. Also balancing the many needs of a diverse community whilst keeping a professional distance to enable and encourage rehabilitation and self-awareness. I will add that the dedication and know-how of the prison staff was incredible and I now have an even greater respect for the staff who work in such a challenging environment.

I have a month long placement organised for July in the city of Bradford. This is something which I am also really looking forward to. Many of my encounters so far have focussed upon building communities, bringing people together and helping one another realise our own God-given potential. Something which as many of you know, is very close to my heart and therefore I am very keen to develop. Helen helped me in realising the joy of bringing people together and developing the many diverse gifts and talents that God has given us, that in turn benefit the community and this course is helping to build upon that experience.

So let me close with my continued appreciation of all that you have taught me and continue to help teach me. I know times are challenging for you and I will certainly be praying for Linda, Pete, along with all of you as you face the future together. Be assured of God's presence with you and my prayers for you. Go well my friends and continue to shine the love of Christ in one another's lives.

All my love, Steve.

Judith Stratton - AgeUKIW Community Development Officer for Brighstone, Shorwell, Mottistone and Brook (April – August 2016)

In March 2014, St Mary's Church Brighstone and AgeUKIW teamed up with the aim of addressing some of the social needs of more vulnerable older people living in the Benefice and to strengthen the sense of community between the parishes. This 2 year project was due to end in March 2016 but a change in contracted hours enabled this to continue until August 2016.

With the recruitment of a part time Community Development Officer came the opportunity for all residents to identify social activities already on offer and to suggest ideas for new activities to be developed. Lonely and isolated people in the area were referred to the project and those who wanted to get involved were encouraged to consider what they might like to get involved with and how barriers to their inclusion may be reduced.

As a result of this project - 27 Brighstone residents and 13 Shorwell residents have become AgeUKIW Good Neighbour Scheme volunteers and a further 19 Brighstone residents and 3 Shorwell residents have become regular 'lay' volunteers supporting events set up as part of the project by working as:

- 1:1 befrienders (10 recipients)
- transport, taking residents to social events, medical appointments, and social visits.
- computer support
- Odd jobs around the home, shopping, dog walking and telephone befriending.
- Prescription collection
- Running or supporting regular social events

Since August 2014 over 8000 volunteer hours have been given in Shorwell and Brighstone at organised events or helping people in the community.

Brighstone

Partnership working continues with the Methodist Church. New relationships have been forged with the FYT bus, promoting their services and setting up activities in line with timetabled routes. Brighstone Horticultural Society is supported by providing craft sessions and materials for people to make items to enter in the shows.

Other activities facilitated by the project include weekly AgeUKIW drop-ins, seated exercise classes and Tai-Chi.

An Open Morning was organised at The Exchange to promote the use and free hire of the facility attended by representatives from 20+ organisations and charities.

Support continues to be provided to coffee mornings in residents'

homes. On average, 43 people attend the Tuesday Coffee Morning in the Methodist Church each week. There have been visits from representatives of other organisations and special events held ie: a Christmas Party and a celebration for the Queen's 90th Birthday where three residents celebrated their 90th's in style. A six week course of Ukulele lessons also took place.

Shorwell

A weekly Pitch up at the Pub coffee morning and quiz at the Crown Inn attracts over 20 visitors from as far afield as Carisbrooke, Freshwater and Newport. The weekly Table Tennis Club and monthly social activity for men, 'Blokes, Bacon Butties and Banter' take place in the Parish Hall and the Shorwell Midsummer Fair is supported by volunteers from the Brighstone project.

Recognition

The Celebrating Age Awards 2016 were held in October and the Brighstone and Shorwell Coffee Mornings won the award for 'Age Friendly Team of the Year', recognising a group of motivated, hard working individuals who come together and accomplish something outstanding.

David Lumley, who provides an extraordinary service in the area helping people with their computers, laptops, iPads and mobile phones was also nominated for an award.

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

Churchwardens: Charlie Warne and Ann Jones

This has been a challenging year, moving forward, adjustments and changes and back into an interregnum. "The Moot" continued under Steve Sutcliffe's work in the Parish as licensed Lay Minister until he left to train for the priestly ministry in autumn when the Moot continued in Peter Johnson's capable hands and remains a popular informal monthly service.

The Revd Linda Bushell was licensed and welcomed to our Parish and what an asset she has been to us.

Things have started to move towards providing a kitchen and toilets for the church. A committee has been set up and already we have raised nearly six thousand pounds. Sarah Scotcher and The Wight Strollers started us off with a very generous donation and we have received donations from other people for which we are very grateful.

Unfortunately we had a break in. A stained glass window was broken and a collection box emptied. The window has now been repaired by a firm from Bristol. Apart from us paying the first liability our insurance covered the remaining costs.

The joint monthly service between us and Shorwell Methodist Church has been successfully restored on alternate second Sunday's of the month. They are followed by a lunch at the Methodist Church and the proceeds are shared between us. Our share goes to the kitchen fabric fund and we would like to thank them for all the work entailed in providing appetising meals.

Our thanks go to everyone who has supported us and the church over the past year.

**St Mary the Virgin, Brook and St Peter and St Paul, Mottistone -
Churchwarden for Brook: Susannah Seely
Churchwarden for Mottistone: Diana Nicholson**

Lay Chairman: Felicity Adams-Young

Elected Members:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Guy Acland (Deanery Synod) | 2014 |
| Chris Bull (Electoral Roll Officer) | 2015 |
| Nick Dorley Brown (Hon Treasurer) | 2015 |
| Sarah Lang (Sidesman, Mottistone) | 2014 |
| Rodney Hogg (Hon Secretary) | 2015 |
| Michael Kier (Sidesman, Brook) | 2015 |
| Sarah Turvill | 2016 |

Churchwardens' and Hon Secretary Annual Report

Four local PCC meetings were held in addition to JPCC meetings.

6 licensed eucharistic assistants and 10 lesson readers continue to assist with vergers/churchwarden duties at Sunday services. More than a third of our worshipping community are actively involved in some way in the work of the Church.

A bi-monthly service of Holy Communion for the less mobile has been maintained at three PCC members' homes in rotation throughout the year. Attendance has averaged eight people. Our special thanks to Rev David Isaac and more recently, Rev. Linda Bushell for leading these services.

Warrior Trail publicity continues to encourage visitor donations at Brook and at Mottistone. A 'Wrecks and Rescues' exhibition was created at Brook church featuring the village lifeboat connection and using material

kindly loaned by the compilers of Brook Village History, Sue Mears & Daphne Denaro-Brooksmith.

Separate Friends' Groups care for and prepare each church between Sunday services on a monthly rota.

Brook: One memorial service was held, but no baptisms or weddings.

Mottistone: There were no baptisms or weddings, there was one burial in the churchyard.

There was an Evening service to receive the Nadfas Record (available to view on request).

Subsequently, there has been an inventory carried out by the Diocese of the silver.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission are going to put a plaque on the right-hand side of the entrance to the churchyard with regard to the grave for the Unknown Sailor of WW1 therein.

Report on the Fabric

Brook: Repairs to cracked and eroded masonry and pointing identified in the 2015 Quinquennial were completed at Brook in May 2016.

New space for social events and exhibitions has been created at the West end and four short pews moved to temporary storage.

A motion –activated light was installed in the porch.

Mottistone: The disused pipe-organ was sold and useful extra space provided at the West end. A stock of folding chairs was purchased for use at concerts, weddings and other events, along with armchairs for the elderly and disabled - three to go in Mottistone church and three in Brook.

Smartwater security marking was reapplied at selected areas in both churches.

St. Mary's, Brighstone

Church wardens: Gill Bradbury and June Horsfall

The church has now been in vacancy for a year since our last report despite hopes and anticipation that we would see a Rector in post before now, however, this has not meant that the church has entered a rest period!

There have been several significant developments alongside the regular services and worship in the church. This has been despite increasing financial difficulties. We have made positive progress in raising funds for the roof repair thanks to generous donations from the church and the community and having raised about half the amount required are in a good position to seek grants towards the completion of the work. Thanks are due to the hard work and expertise of the Fabric Committee.

As the result of a grant of almost £10,000 from the Diocesan Mission Opportunities Fund and a donation towards the refurbishment we are now about to reopen The Exchange, greatly improved by a newly built disabled toilet and basic kitchen facilities, thus making it much more attractive and usable for any members of the church or community.

The augmentation of a ring of six bells to eight is a notable achievement due entirely to the efforts of the bell ringers who raised the finance without any contribution from the church or local community as they were aware of the priority to raise money for the roof repairs. The new bells will be dedicated by Bishop Christopher in July.

Regrettably, despite the generosity and hard work of many individuals we were unable to pay a significant amount of our parish share last year, however, we owe a debt of gratitude to Alan Edwards who has worked tirelessly to clarify our finances and keep the PCC informed about our position.

The work in the village, begun with the help of Age UK, has continued to flourish and develop, a testimony to the excellent foundation laid during the period of the church's funding.

Individuals continue to support the work of SWAY by regular donation and one off events, and this year we have been pleased to welcome Andy Evans as Trainee Youth Worker to help us in our work with children and young people in the church and the school.

A successful Christmas Tree Festival has again seen us welcoming a significant number of people into the church and allowed for donations to a good many groups and charities. Our grateful thanks are once again due to Chris Goodman and his army of helpers.

Regular services have continued and following Steve's departure for ordination training, we were thrilled to welcome the Rev. Linda Bushell as Assistant Priest-in-Charge (acting) who has been regularly working well in excess of her two days a week. We have been generously assisted by clergy and retired clergy from the Cluster, most especially the Rev. Mark Whatson, the Rev. Richard Harding and the Rev. Grenda Hurt. The laity have taken on additional responsibilities, particularly Peter Johnson and we also have five members of the church, due to be commissioned next month, who are about to complete a Leading Worship Course, all of whom have already been engaged in leading worship in the Benefice. Lay Pastoral Assistants have provided pastoral visits and home Communion to the housebound as well as a regular group of residents at the Grange. Café Church celebrated its first birthday in February and is clearly meeting a need for many people. We continue to think about how we might increase its appeal to members of the community.

Logos, in combination with Solace, an opportunity for Biblical teaching and contemplative worship is now established on a monthly basis either in the morning service slot or on a Sunday evening, and further opportunities for study and sharing are available in two Bible Study groups. Co-operation with the Methodist Church has made for more opportunities for shared worship and Bible Study and helps us to see ourselves as the Body of Christ in Brighthstone, not just St. Mary's Church.

Finally, thanks are due to the many individuals, not mentioned by name in this report, who have sustained the life of the church in ways too

numerous to mention, by prayer, practical care and concern, financial giving and many forms of service to the church and community. With or without a Rector we look forward to a future blessed by serving God in this place.

Brighstone CE Primary School – Teresa Fox, Headteacher

The strength of the links between the Church and Brighstone CE Primary School have been tested and challenged over the past year. The on going growth in the relationship is testament to the whole community that is united through faith.

The school leadership has undergone a number changes during the past year. During the summer term of 2016 the school had an Interim Headteacher – Mr Mark Snow and I took over as substantive Head in September 2016. Shortly after this, due to ill health, Daphne Brook-Smith stepped down as Chair of Governors. We would like to thank her for all of her hard work and support for the school during her time on the Governing Body. We are also very grateful to Diana Nicholson, who has taken on the role of Chair of Governors. We would also like to welcome the Revd Linda Bushell as our Ex Officio Governor. Although there have been many changes, we have kept a clear spiritual focus as a school and continued to forge links with the church.

On a weekly basis (every Thursday), we have a school worship that is led with support from the church. Since the departure of Stephen Sutcliffe and Anouska Blake in the summer of 2016, we have been very lucky to work with Rev Linda Bushell, Peter Johnson and the workers from SWAY. Through the support of Rev Linda we have been able to continue with our regular school Eucharist service. The children are always actively engaged with this – sharing the readings, writing and leading the prayers and sharing offerings of their work. The school choir continue to be active in leading the singing - thank you to Christine Biggs for her support and encouragement of the children, her help with organising and leading the school choir is invaluable.

Throughout the year the school has taken part in and supported the church with its involvement in the wider community. We were privileged to take part and share in the service at the war memorial on Armistice

Day, this was a reflective and poignant moment for all of the children. Following on from this the school choir sang as part of the Remembrance Sunday Service later that weekend.

As a school we actively supported the Christmas Tree Festival, we were very proud of the school choir, who once again led the singing at the opening ceremony at the Methodist Church. We were very grateful for the use of the church for our annual school Nativity that took place on 13th and 14th December. The whole school took part and the church was packed on both occasions with parents, family and friends. The message behind our Nativity this year was sharing the gift of God's love with everyone.

More recently we have been trying to find ways to actively involve the children in Sunday services to encourage them to attend church with their families. A number of children from the school helped with the church service on Mothering Sunday. The children took part in a number of ways: with the readings, prayers and the singing, they also helped to give out flowers during the service. All of the children that attended came with their families including siblings, parents and grandparents. We look forward to more opportunities to involve the children and their families in the future.

As I highlighted at the beginning of my report, the past year has been one of many changes but as a school we have strong foundations to continue to build our relationship with the church family. Through our school values of love, courage and respect we want to be able to share in the spiritual life of the church and work with it to serve our local community.

Youth Work – a new addition and a new phase – Peter Johnson

2016 has been an interesting year and 2017 has started off no different! One youth worker leaves us and another one joins the work. Nothing stays the same, young people grow up and present us with new challenges.

From April to the end of August, we were conscious that we were soon

losing Annouska and Steve Sutcliffe from our work with young people. Steve has been very supportive of youth work on a Friday night and in the school, whilst Annouska worked really hard wherever needed. Both were exemplary in their commitment to youth work in the 5 Churches.

In May we had our first Corf Camp since Roy's passing and it was a roaring success. With a BBQ led by Richard Webb and his team from Niton, fun on the water led by Phil Wells of C&A and games organised by Andy Dorning, 70+ people enjoyed a lovely day on site. There were families from all over the patch and it was inspiring to see people making connections.

During the Summer Holiday SWAY hired a minibus and provide transport and activities across the area these activities include Ice skating, Sea Fishing, Skateboarding lesson and finished off we a competitive game of all age rounds held at the Chale Rec.

We once again were able to promote the work of SWAY at the Chale Show with the use of the council all-purpose youth bus which is kitted out with games and activities for young people. At the church service on the Sunday morning Andy Dorning was given the chance to talk about the bus and SWAY. We also used this opportunity to promote the social enterprise Wight Heat. We were also fortunate to have a Wight Heat stall at the Wolverton manor fair in September. A number of young people volunteered their time at both these events.

In early August, three of our young people went off to Soul Survivor and had an inspiring time with thousands of other young people. Late August was our Wales trip and this was the biggest yet. We had 23 people, housed in a bunkhouse near the beautiful Sgwd yr Eira waterfalls. Again, we had a wide range of young people from across the area of SWAY. We did a wonderful day's walking one day and then braved the caves and the gorges the next day! What fun!

And so we said farewell to Annouska as our youth worker after around 18 months with us. She went on to train and work as a youth worker in Verwood.

Come September, we had the exciting arrival of Andy Evans, our new Youth Training Project student. Andy is 20, training with Moorlands 1 day a week and part of the Core Team of Youth for Christ on the Island, but working with Andy Dorning as part of SWAY. He is based in Brook, but

works across the area supporting and leading youth work. Andy is a great asset and has been enormously helpful in lots of ways at Brighstone, Shorwell and Chale.

We had a superb Bonfire Evening at Niton in November, involving around 70 people, mostly young people.

SWAY was the chosen charity for the Annual Stars of Wonder concert in St Mary's during the Christmas Tree Festival, with young people serving mince pies and mulled wine. £450 was raised, for which we were very grateful.

This brings me onto the question of funding. The initial Council funding runs out this March, but through hard work and much prayer, the target for this next year has almost been reached at the time of writing. This is an enormous encouragement. It has led the Board to consider looking for a Part-time Youth & Family Worker as soon as possible to supplement the great work being done by all involved in SWAY.

The Exchange in Brighstone is finally taking shape, a place for young people to hang out in and other groups to meet in comfortable and warm surroundings, with toilet and kitchen facilities on hand. This is an exciting venture and one we aim to make useful for the community as well as the young people. We are hoping to Open the Exchange again, with it's new facilities and make-over on 28th April.

Since September, Andy D and Andy E have joined with myself in conducting Collective Worship at the Primary School on a Thursday morning. This has been an utter privilege. Our younger youth group on a Friday evening has been growing and we held our first Night Hike Challenge in dark November for this group. Our older young people excelled themselves in helping to run it and the whole thing was a big success.

SWAY continue to support both Niton & Brighstone Primary schools with school based activities and after school clubs.

The work in Chale on Wednesday evenings continue to grow with the support of both Niton & Brighstone and we are seeing more young people and more families getting involved. We recently began a bite sized gospel session with a group of young people who are open to talking about and listening to the Word each week.

The Social Enterprise, Wight Heat, is now up and running and will provide us with a source of funding in the long term. Jo Richards has been invaluable in gifting us with this Island business. We look forward to seeing this grow and enabling young people to gain valuable experience of working on something practical.

We are excited about the future for SWAY. We have plans, dreams and aspirations and these are all focused on giving young people hope, purpose and the good news of Jesus Christ for which we stand. Please continue to support and help us achieve these aims.

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.

CAFE CHURCH/THE MOOT - Music at these services is led by the Music Group and other supporting musicians. They feature half an hour of worship songs in the background whilst people enjoy their refreshments and chat; this is then followed by half an hour of worship that features 3 or 4 songs. The children are also invite to join in using our collection of handheld percussion instruments.

ST MARY'S CHOIR - Led by Christine Biggs and usually sing on the 3rd Sunday of the month as well as other special services/occasions. Any new members always welcome, especially male singers at the moment! They meet to practice once a month on either a Tuesday or Wednesday (depending on other choir commitments).

SOLACE/LOGOS - Led by Sarah Bromley and Paul Davies). These are now happening on a semi-regular basis and alternate Morning and Evening to provide a more contemplative form of musical worship and deeper encounter with the Bible.

MUSIC GROUP - The Music Group usually play for our Cafe Church and Moot services, as well as other special services/occasions. Now comprising of piano, flutes, clarinets, violin, saxophone and acoustic guitars, the Music Group has grown and continues to collaborate with singers from both the choir and congregation in leading worship to support and enable the congregation with singing. We have a combination of piano and organ on some weeks/special occasions. We now meet once a month on a Thursday to practice for any upcoming services.

RESOURCES - We continue to use both Mission Praise and Brighstone Praise, and have also recently subscribed to SongSelect Online to access more songs and musical arrangements. We 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 screen has been researched and approved by the PCC for purchase. Both the church electric piano and organ have been serviced within the last year, and a new portable 'Korg' stage piano has been purchased for use at services beyond the church building (Cafe Church, outdoor events etc.).

Music, Shorwell - Mary Tester

The choir at St Peter's has had some setbacks during the year, in terms of membership numbers and also members not able to get to some services for a variety of reasons. However, our spirits are high and we have a good turn out at rehearsals, which are enjoyed by us all. We meet fortnightly on Tuesdays and practice the hymns for the next services. We try to include some of the newer and more successful modern hymns, without overwhelming the congregation with too many unknowns, hoping a strong lead from the choir will encourage them.

We practice the psalms for our monthly traditional Evensong and the choir is much more confident about this now. Music for the psalms is also distributed to anyone in the congregation who can read music which

has proved popular. We are trying to build up a repertoire of anthems to add to a service where appropriate.

The choir put on a concert - 'A Christmas Celebration' - in the church with songs, carols, poems and stories which was very well received. The candlelit church was decorated most beautifully and refreshments were provided. The evening was enjoyed by a large audience.

We would be glad of any new voices to join us. Sight Reading is not required but love of music is!

Brighstone Handbell Ringers - Michael Camps, Leader

At the end of our Summer Term session we sadly said farewell to one of our longest standing and experienced ringers who left us to reside near her families in Norfolk. We were also very pleased to welcome a member from our own church to join the team when we commenced in September.

During the year the Handbell team went out to play at the Methodist Chapel "AgeUK morning" and the Isle of Wight Pearl, as well as at The Grange for our annual Christmas Carols service for the residents. We also played at St Mary's Church during the 20th Christmas Tree Festival.

It was decided to take an extended break from practices from January to the end of March due to the cold temperature in the church as well as several individual members being unwell.

Although no firm dates have been fixed for the year ahead, we have several invitations to perform at outside venues over the summer months. I have also been doing some research into different techniques which I plan to introduce to players so that we can add some exciting new sounds to our music making this coming season.

My thanks to all our ringers for their continued loyal support.

Brighstone Bell Ringers - Stephen Noyes, Tower Captain

The first half of the year was quite relaxed, with weddings as well as Sunday services to ring for, and the usual two practices per week on Tuesday 7.00-8.00 (silently, using our ringing simulator computer to generate sound for the ringers only) and Friday 6.00-7.30. At the start of August Brighstone hosted the week long Birmingham School of Bell Ringing summer ringing course, with the students split into two groups making use of the Brighstone simulator for teaching and then going out to the other Island towers to practice what they had learnt.

At our BBQ in July we had an excuse to celebrate our recent ringing "first", being the first local band ever to ring a quarter peal of Stedman in the county; Beccy had bought a bell shaped bottle of whisky for Steve's 18th birthday (now well matured!) and this was opened to celebrate. We've enough experience now to take on more demanding bells, so for our outing in October we invited friends along for a ring at two eight bell towers in Portsmouth followed by the much heavier ring of 12 bells at the Cathedral.

In the background we were getting surveys, quotations and a faculty organised for the addition of two extra bells for a complete octave at Brighstone, cast by the Whitechapel foundry in London to match our present six Whitechapel bells. The project was kept low key so as not to interfere with fund raising for the roof: the money is coming from grants by ringing charities and numerous donations by ringers across the Island, with the Tax Man being the second highest contributor through Gift Aid and VAT reclaims. Plans were going well when Whitechapel announced in December that their site had been sold, they would close in May, and they were taking no new orders; they have been casting bells since 1590. However, since our plans were well advanced we were offered the chance, if we acted quickly, to have two more Whitechapel bells; the support of the PCC in acting so swiftly was invaluable and it could not have happened without them. Seven ringers were lucky enough to see the new bells cast on 3rd February; they were installed on 4th April, and a couple of weeks later the concrete securing the frame will be set so that we can start practicing 8 bell ringing for the planned dedication by our Bishop on 16th July.

If you've ever wondered what ringing is all about then why not come along to a Tuesday or Friday practice and have a go?

Shorwell Bell Ringers - Cal Challoner, Tower Captain

This has been twelve months of ups and downs with various problems, with various things stopping us from ringing the bells up and down!!!!

During the last twelve months we had a further inspection of the bells and then started to do some of the work that needed doing, and was deemed to be necessary work. Unfortunately water coming in from the tower had penetrated into the headstocks and they had to be taken back to Nicholsons for repair. Fortunately three other ringers from other churches were able to help dismantle the headstocks and replace them on their return. We are extremely grateful to them as it kept the cost down.

However since then we had problems with plaster falling down from the ceiling and had to stop ringing again until it was inspected.

The cost of all this work has amounted to approximately £500 and we were very grateful that we received a donation towards the cost, which completely repainting the bell frame.

We still have some work to do, but we are ringing again, when we can, depending on our bell ringers being available. If there is anyone out there who would like to learn, please get in touch with me on 740961 or call in the Post Office.

Home Communion - Madeline Goodman, Lay Pastoral Assistant Leader

Over the past year an authorised LPA has been able to take Holy Communion, and offer support, to eighteen sick or housebound people in Brighstone and Shorwell, some of them on a regular basis. All of these people, for one reason or another, have been unable to get to church.

In Brook a group of people, unable to get to church, have regularly been gathered in the home of an authorised church member to share in Holy Communion.

Monthly services of Holy Communion have been held at Brighstone Grange residential home. Between six and twelve residents have been able to join in.

If you know of anyone who is unable to get to church and would like to receive Holy Communion please contact Madeline on 741166.

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:

- Linda Bushell - Interim Priest and Local Minister for Shorwell
- Peter Johnson - 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.

Brighstone PCC Report - Alison Mascarenhas, Secretary:

St Mary's Brighstone – Alison Mascarenhas

Lay Chair: Mr Alan Edwards 2015

Churchwardens: Mrs June Horsfall 2015

Ms Gill Bradbury 2013

Elected members: Mrs Norma Bradley 2014

Mrs Pat Spittles 2014

Mrs Beth Peckham 2014

Mr Keith Plater 2015

Mr Chris Goodman 2016

Mr Peter Fryer 2016

Hon. Secretary: Mrs Alison Mascarenhas

Hon. Treasurer: vacant

Under the 3 year ruling, members elected in 2014 are required to stand down at the APCM. Our thanks to Norma, Beth and Pat for their many years of service to the PCC. Kathy Davies, Hon. Treasurer stood down from this position during 2016 and the position of Treasurer is currently vacant.

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

From the minutes (more online):

Following on from the success of the Lay Pastoral Assistants course, 5 church members from St Mary's are now attending the Lay Worship Leaders Course. The 8 week course led by the vicar of Niton will enable course members to assist in leading worship in a variety of formal and informal settings which will be particularly valuable during the continuing interregnum.

The PCC has organised the updating of facilities at the Exchange following a grant. New facilities will include a kitchen area, toilet and improved heating. The Exchange will also be decorated with the help of the youth in the church and will provide a better environment for youth

and other groups to use.

Finance was a continuing concern on the PCC agenda to meet general running costs and the repair of the roof and building. The PCC were continuing to pursue grant applications and fund raising activities to help meet costs.

Shorwell PCC Report - Yvonne Hide, Secretary

Lay Chair Mrs. Brenda Rowe / Mr. Charles Warne
Church Wardens Mr. Charles Warne and Mrs. Ann Jones

| Elected Members | | Elected |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------|
| | Mr. Royston Carter Jones | 2014 |
| | Mrs. Brenda Rowe | 2014 |
| | Mrs. Janet White | 2014 |
| | Mrs. Jill Thomas | 2015 |
| | Mrs. Yvonne Willoughby | 2015 |

Co-opted Members

Mrs. Barbara Cram
Mrs. Jill Downer
Mrs. Mary Tester
Mrs. Yvonne Hide

Hon. Treasurer Position vacant
Hon. Secretary Yvonne Hide

There have been 2 Joint PCC meetings with the other parishes since the last APCM. Shorwell's PCC met 6 times with 2 extra-ordinary meetings called at short notice.

A few weeks before the last APCM, St. Peter's Church was burgled. Entry was gained through a leaded window near the north porch and an unknown sum of money taken from a collecting box. The Midsummer Fair Committee made a generous donation towards the repair of the window which was eventually installed in December.

In July a Church Project Committee was convened to begin work on

plans for a kitchen and toilet in the church, starting with the restoration of the water supply. A Fabric Fund to finance the project made a healthy start with 2 substantial donations by a local drama group.

The annual Flower Festival, held over the August Bank Holiday, commemorated Shakespeare's 400th anniversary. Organizations in the community again joined members of the congregation to produce beautiful interpretations of Shakespeare's words.

We have been very fortunate to have the help of Steve Sutcliffe, as lay minister, in the parish for 2 years. The Moot continued to flourish under his guidance. He left in September, supported by our prayers, to start his training for the ministry at Cuddesdon near Oxford.

In October we were delighted to welcome Revd Linda Bushell to live in the parish while working part-time and conducting services for the benefice.

Shorwell has been without a treasurer for several years and Linda's work with Victoria James (Diocesan Stewardship Advisor) to balance the church's accounts is deeply appreciated. The PCC voted to join the Parish Giving Scheme after the APCM.

Joint Parochial Church Council - Barbara Cram

The JPCC met once since the last APCM in 2016 and once, to date, in 2017. Overview of the minutes:

22nd September 2016:

- Update on appointment of West Wight Team Rector including draft of Cluster profile and timetable proposed by Archdeacon (AD) was welcome and was discussed.
- Rodney and Guy were thanked for their very valuable work in producing the cluster profile.
- Update on appointment of Local Minister, the draft agreement for Linda Bushell was discussed and enthusiastically endorsed by the meeting.
- Discussion followed on the implications of the proposed reorganisation of the Ministry in West Wight.

- Stewardship campaign was discussed.
- The Parishes Administrator role was discussed.
- A coloured A5 newsletter was discussed as a joint Benefice publication.

12th January 2017:

- David Isaac (Area Dean) and Peter Sutton (Archdeacon of the Isle of Wight) were taking ideas forward to cluster meetings from sessions they have attended. The Bishop was coming to the Island and leading a series of five Lent sessions. There will be a Pilgrimage around the Island and summer sessions may be planned.
- David Isaac spoke about the potential candidate interviews for the post of the Rector of the West Wight. Lots of preparations were going on behind the scenes by the Bishop. The administration of the above to be done by the Archdeacon's Office with the Area Dean. It is a complex. There was a recap on the parish representatives role.
- Nick Dorley-Brown thanked Gill Bradbury, Robin Whaite, Peter Johnson and Felicity Adams-Young for keeping services going on behalf of the congregation.
- David Isaac will be leaving with Revd. Jane Isaac as she is appointed vicar of Shedfield/Rector of Wickham. On 25th January Revd. Allie Kerr was to be licensed as Area Dean. In addition Revd. Kevin Arkell is able to issue marriage licenses.
- There was a round up of all the churches.

For full minutes go to: http://www.fivechurches.org.uk/?page_id=1892

Electoral Roll Officers Reports for APCM 2017

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.

Brighstone - Bev Fryer, Electoral Roll Officer

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

Removed from the roll: 6

Added to the roll: 2

Total number on the roll in 76

These represent -

47 households within the Parish (65 members).

8 households outside the Parish (11 members)

Shorwell - Yvonne Hide, Electoral Roll Officer

There are 33 names on the Electoral Roll.

One name has been added since the last APCM and one has been removed.

Twenty one households are represented on the Roll.

Eighteen are in the parish (28 members) and 5 people from 3 households live outside the parish.

Brook and Mottistone - Chris Bull, Electoral Roll Officer

Number on the roll: 45

Added: 2

Removed: None

Houses on roll: 26

In Parish: 28

Out of Parish: 17

The Isle of Wight Deanery Synod - Sir Guy Acland, Bt

My last report took us up to the Inaugural Event which was held on 20th January 2016 in Cowes Yacht Haven to celebrate the creation of the Deanery of the Isle of Wight, bringing together the East Wight and West Wight Deanery Synods into a single entity.

A Meeting of the Deanery Synod of the Isle of Wight was held on 11th May 2016 at Newport Minster.

The meeting began with a short service at which the Revd Canon David Isaac was commissioned as Area Dean of the Isle of Wight.

Being the first meeting of the new Deanery since its inauguration most of the meeting was devoted to constitutional matters and the election of officers and members.

The following honorary officers were elected to serve:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Lay Chairman of the Deanery Synod | - Graham Salter |
| Chair of Deanery Finance Advisory Group | - remain vacant |
| Deanery Treasurer | - Peter Blake |
| Deanery Synod Secretary | - Sally Rivlin |

The Synod ratified the constitution of the Deanery Council to act as the Standing Committee of the Synod, to be comprised of 3 clergy members, 3 lay members, together with the honorary officers. Others could be invited to be in attendance.

The following lay members were elected to serve:

David Bennison, Sarah McCarthy-Fry and Hilary Spurgeon.

The following clergy members were elected to serve:

The Revds Hugh Wright, Amanda Collinson and Allie Kerr.

The constitution of the Deanery Finance Advisory Group was ratified. Its function would be to advise the Deanery Council on matters relating to the deanery budget, allocation of resources and the determination and collection of the parish shares. Membership of the group would be comprised of the Chair of Finance (once appointed), the Deanery Treasurer, and would include, ideally, one representative from each of the clusters.

The 2015 accounts of the old East and West Wight Deaneries were approved and their closing balances (East Wight £3074.24; West Wight £1672.47) merged into a single account for the new Isle of Wight Deanery which produced an opening balance of £4746.71. Synod agreed that the 2016 Parish Precept should be met from that opening balance, while still leaving a small opening balance. The 2017 budget, which included a 10% increase over 2016 expenditure, was set at

£4227.50, and was agreed.

The Archdeacon gave an update on vacancies and future ministry deployment. There was still a significant number of vacancies across the Island, which fact will be well-known to readers of these notes [however, we are by no means alone in this dilemma]. The Archdeacon outlined plans for cluster development evenings, with a view to getting projects started with the aim of pooling resources as our churches strive to work more closely together. He concluded on an optimistic note concerning the encouraging increase in numbers of Island people enquiring about vocations and the take-up on the Lay Pastoral Assistants courses which are running and on-going.

A Meeting of the Deanery Synod of the Isle of Wight was held on 29th September 2016 at All Saints Church, Newchurch.

The Synod was preceded by a celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Christopher presiding.

Mr Ollie Boulter, Planning Services Team Leader of the IW Council, gave an interesting presentation on strategic planning on the Island within the National Planning Framework Document, the significance of which to Synod was the requirement to consider people's needs for spiritual provision (ie access to churches) when considering the infrastructure of proposed Major Development [housing] Areas. It might be necessary to plant new churches, either in their own buildings or otherwise.

Bishop Christopher introduced the report on the Review of Newport Minster and invited the Synod to offer him comment and advice in considering how to respond. This remains work in progress.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry, as Chair of the Finance Subcommittee [appointed since the previous meeting - see above], briefed Synod on the situation concerning some 12 Island parishes which were struggling to pay their arrears and current shares, and had been placed on a list for specific Viability Focus. She emphasised that by concentrating on mission first it was hoped that the money would follow.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry then presented the draft Parish Share 2017 tables, reminding Synod that if any parishes requested a lower Parish Share

(which several had already done) others within the Deanery would have to pick up the shortfall. It was noted that the Deanery budget was operating within its limits and that all parish treasurers had been contacted and informed of the 2017 Deanery Precept.

A Meeting of the Deanery Synod of the Isle of Wight was held on 25th January 2017 at Newport Minster.

The Synod began with a celebration of the Eucharist at which the Revd Allie Kerr was licensed as Area Dean by the Bishop of Portsmouth.

The Area Dean introduced a plan to prepare a bid for Mission work on the Island by bidding to the Church Commissioners for funding. Ideas from the floor included, briefly,:

- Support the work of clusters;

- Reach those outside the church in a new way appropriate to the digital age;

- Pioneer team to include a youth worker and others;

- Improve the interior of the Minster and use it as a base for an Island-wide mission team [which is what is already happening! See below];

- Define Mission - is it the same as Evangelism? Mission will look different in different places;

- Attract 10-14 year-olds - "catch" them. Majority will be unchurched. Provide somewhere safe for them to go;

- Employ expertise in the centre as a common resource for all Island parishes, with digital skills, funding, property, treasurer's/financial know-how;

- We see the need - we now need to reach those on the margins;

- Professional secretarial resources and assistance for clergy.

The Area Dean closed this item with an invitation to members to continue to think and pray about Strategic Mission and to encourage others to do so. [Whether the bid for funding succeeds remains to be seen.]

The Revd Kevin Arkell updated Synod on the progress of the refurbishment of Newport Minster. The total cost of the project would be £2.7 million. One generous donor had promised £1 million as matched-funding. Raising the balance, through applications to grant-making trusts and by organising local events and appeals, was well in hand and many of the initial phases of the work to make the

building watertight and safe at roof-level had already been completed. The next phases will concentrate on the internal re-ordering. [Do look in next time you are in Newport.]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry introduced Victoria James (Diocesan Stewardship Advisor) who gave an overview of the stewardship programme. Some 25 Island parishes were a good way into meeting their individual fund raising targets, and several had already done so. Training events on encouraging legacies and on gift aid were planned for early in 2017, both at St John's Church, Newport.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry stated that Viability Focus Measures had sent shock waves to those affected, and they are now working on their mission priorities. She said that the situation could not be allowed to continue and that support would be offered from the diocese to address matters. All parishes must ask themselves: are we viable? Can we meet our day to day expenses? Living off reserves cannot go on indefinitely. Can clusters work together to improve the lot for all concerned? [Much food for thought in all this.]

Updates were given on the need to encourage those in our parishes to take up various roles, not necessarily ordination, but leading worship and assisting with pastoral care (both of which have had very positive responses, as we know).

Synod was briefed on the continuing number of vacancies across the island, to which no resolution appeared imminent.

The Lay Chairman reminded members that at their 2017 APCMs parishes must elect their synod representatives for the next three-year period; documentation would be sent out to parishes.

Finally the Lay Chairman gave a vote of thanks and a small presentation to the Revd Canon David Isaac for his time as our Area Dean; his wisdom and humour would be missed. We offered our prayers to him and to his wife Jane as they enter a new phase of their lives as she takes up the appointment of Vicar of Wickham and Shedfield on the mainland.

So ended a busy and thoughtful first year of the combined Deanery.

PCC Treasurer Reports

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

Brook and Mottistone, Treasurer - Nick Dorley-Brown

Receipts and payments produced a deficit of £9.2K.

Regular giving was in line with 2015. Payments increased by £9.6K with building maintenance increasing from £4.4K to £18.7K as a result of expenditure deferred from 2015 being carried into 2016. Five churches shared costs reduced as our licensed lay minister left to study for ordination.

Shorwell, Treasurer - None

The account have been passed by the PCC and is with the external examiner at the moment. The PCC has also voted to join the Diocesan Parish giving scheme and will be adopting this from June 2017.

Brighstone, Treasurer - None

During 2016, the total income received by St Mary's Church was £79,797. However this included a legacy of £22,000 and donations specifically for roof repairs. The total expenditure was £77,591. This was made up of £61,919 for church running expenses, payments for the lay minister, contributions to AgeUK and £15,672 of the parish share. Our parish share was £41,793 so there was a shortfall of £26,121.

During the first quarter of 2017, income has been £12,298.10. Church running expenses have been £7,259.81. One month's tranche of the parish share has been paid, amounting to £3,483.00. The full parish share for the quarter would be £10,449.00.

Many thanks to those from all four parishes who have donated to support the Youth Worker. During the quarter £2,267.27 was donated of

which £2,012.00 has been spent.

The PCC has decided that the main priority for 2017 is to get the roof repaired, estimated at £86,000. From use of part of the legacy from last year and generous donations from villagers, church attendees and visitors about half the amount required has been raised. During the quarter £3,346.40 has been donated to the Roof Fund for which we are grateful.

Fellowship Groups: Barbara Cram - Benefice Administrator

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.

Young Persons Group:

Each Friday 17:00-18:00 The Exchange Brighstone for Year 5-6.

Each Friday 19:00-21:00 Shorwell Parish Hall/Exchange for Year 8 and above. A varied programme of activities and sessions is organised by the Youth Team.

Coffee and Chat:

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

Blokes Bacon Butties and Banta:

10:00-12:00 the third Wednesday of the month at Shorwell Parish Hall. A

time for chat, with Revd. Linda available at the meeting for the second hour.

Please see the website, or the weekly pew sheet, *The Link*, or call Barbara 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.