



## **ST MARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 2017**

### Rector's Report 2017

I believe very strongly, and have often said it, that the ministry of a parish church should reflect the community in which it serves. Only then will it be able to offer ministry to all. St Mary's has been working hard to achieve that goal here in Richmond.

The church is welcoming and warm to all and that is because of the tremendous amount of work by the PCC and Friends of St Mary's. The PCC report identifies the achievements in 2016 which have helped to achieve this. Such things as improved access and facilities for those with limited mobility together with improved sound system and lighting. As I write this report we are planning the dedication and installation of eight new bells – more on this elsewhere.

The building is a significant community space in Richmond and it is wonderful that these improvements are so very inviting to the hundreds who attend concerts and civic services as well as regular and occasional services.

Over the last few years the worship pattern has developed so that many feel welcome to worship in a way which is right for them - a way with which they feel comfortable regardless of tradition and taste in worship style. Of course we do not come to worship our worship but the style of service must enable all to feel open to the Holy Spirit. A width of service enables this to happen. A regular pattern of worship is now established including BCP Holy Communion, Common Worship Holy Communion, Fun-Key church, Cafe Church, Free to Be, Worship for All etc. The challenge now is to address the lack of families and the 20 – 45 year olds. An initial open meeting has taken place and everyone is aware of the importance of making this part of the vision going forward.

St Mary's has a strong music tradition and it has been a delight to work with our new Director of Music, Chris Denton, and Fionagh Bennet.

Whilst there is much to thank God for, sadly the application to close St Michael and All Angels is proceeding. It is important that our ministry continues at Hudswell and it was a joy to see so many local residents at the George and Dragon for the annual 'Carols and Barrels'. Thanks to Scott and family for organising.

Once again we have been busy with occasional services – 19 Baptisms, 8 Weddings and 51 Funerals,

The links with the CofE Primary school and St Francis Xavier School continue to grow and it has been a pleasure to work closely with the staff of both schools. Members of our congregation are governors and work really hard to promote the Christian ethos within the schools.

At SFX we continue to work closely with the school chaplain, Rachel Ross Russell and it is lovely to see the pupils increasingly involved in the creating and planning of activities and whole school worship.

Exciting things have been happening during the year at our Primary School. The SATS results were the best in the area which is so encouraging to parents and staff. We have extended our nursery provision so now full wrap around care is offered.

I recently hosted a clergy Deanery chapter Meeting. One of my colleagues looked at the team board and commented that we have more people working and helping than he has in his congregation. There are so many of you who work so hard to enable St Mary's to continue in this positive way. We have said goodbye to some key people but others have just stepped up and taken over. That is what church is about – thank you.

Finally I thank the ministry team who enable the ministry of St Mary's to be as effective as it is. Much of what we do is because of the hard work and contribution by the team of retired clergy and Readers.

Once again God has blessed us with the gift of so many talents and skills and it really is exciting to look to the future, to discern his will for his church. Let us continue to use those gifts to reach out to the community in his name.

John Chambers  
RECTOR

### After the Cards and Visitors

We have continued meeting for coffee and a chat at Greyfriars on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of each month where new friendships have been made. Each month the number of “friends” meeting varies, but everyone leaves feeling better for the time spent together with people who are in the same situation and understand.

Carrie Stephenson

Convenor

### St Marys Bell Restoration Appeal Report

The amount raised now stands at £193,000 which is the amount needed to cast 8 new bells, construct a single level steel frame, install variable sound control and a new clock chiming mechanism and preserve and display our historic bells. We could never have done this without the support of the congregation of St Mary's, the people of Richmond, the Town and district Council, the Guilds and the bell ringers themselves. People have been so generous. The Richmond to Richmond cycle ride, one of the highlights of our fundraising initiated by Glenys Rogers and Glenys Jones, raised over £10,000.

In addition to personal donations, we applied for and received several grants including from The Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers (YACR), the Cleveland

and North Yorks branch of the YACR and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). The HLF application, spearheaded by Elizabeth Foster, will enable us to display the historic bells and research the history of bells and bellringing in Richmond over past centuries, fund workshops for schools and make a film of the project. The history research group meets alternate weeks on Monday at 2:00pm in the Richmondshire Museum. If interested, please contact Liz ([elizabethfoster@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabethfoster@btinternet.com) or telephone 07850 660925). Our sincere thanks also go to William and Claire for financial and administrative help, to the "Belles" for refreshments at fundraising events and to John and the PCC for support throughout the project.

The plan is for the old bells and frame to be removed during the 2 weeks between 13<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March. The restored old bells, frame and new bells will be installed between 18<sup>th</sup> April and 19<sup>th</sup> May. We need volunteers to assist the professional bellhangers during this period. Please sign up on the timetable at the back of the church if interested or for further details contact Peter Trewby ([peter@trewby.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:peter@trewby.fsnet.co.uk) telephone 01748 824468). We hope to keep any disturbance to a minimum but apologise in advance for disruption during this time. There will be no bells at St Mary's between 13<sup>th</sup> March and mid-May 2017.

The dedication service for the new bells (and rededication of the old) led by our patron Bishop James Bell is planned for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 7:00pm. This will be a great occasion enabling us to thank donors and celebrate with the congregation this once in a lifetime event. Please put the date in your diary!

Peter Trewby

#### Thursday Study Group

The Thursday Bible Study Group meets at 1 Roper Court, Richmond, DL10 4DF, at 7.30 pm on Thursday evenings. Everyone is welcome to join us.

We have gained three new members in the past twelve months, and are continuing to study the book of The Acts of the Apostles with a translation and commentary by Tom Wright, former Bishop of Durham. We read each week's selected text from different translations of the Bible, we discuss our understanding of the text, and contribute our individual insights and experiences, and then we deepen our understanding through the commentary. There is much to consider in each short chapter, which is why we are taking so long to complete the book.

There is no compulsion to speak – just listening to others is a way taking part. We finish the evening with tea or coffee and biscuits, and enjoy each other's company.

Jennifer Patrick

#### Wednesday Study Group

The Wednesday Study Group has been meeting on a regular basis in what is its seventeenth year at 2 Hurgill Road. It's often been cosy but never (yet) too full! We have normally worked our way through individual books of the bible from start to finish although we have sometimes had a change to look at particular themes or to contribute a group to the town's ecumenical Lent Study Course. Our present book is

the New Testament book of Hebrews which is definitely not short of its challenges! New members always welcome to share ideas, fellowship, coffee and cake.

Scott Lunn

### Charitable Giving Committee Report

The PCC made the decision to continue running the 'Charity of the month' voluntary retiring collection on the first Sunday of the month throughout 2016.

These collections have raised over £2000 during the course of the year, supporting six British and six international charities, who support others, either through their Christian work or in their care for the disadvantaged.

As we look to the future the committee has been looking at a variety of opportunities to have a Mission Link partner.

### Christians Together in Richmond

**Lent 2016.** The study groups, held at various times in different locations, were interesting and well-attended.

**Holy Week prayers**, led by people from different churches, were held each day at noon in Holy Trinity, and culminated in the **Walk of Witness on Good Friday**. This large gathering followed the Cross from the church in Newbiggin, and around the Market Place, finishing outside Holy Trinity for the moving illustration of the nailing of the cross. Hymns were sung at various points in the walk.

**In August**, Joy Hornsby organised the rota to have Holy Trinity open for prayer and reflection. As usual, various people visited, some just to look in briefly, others to pray or to talk with the volunteer "on duty".

**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** The 2016 Agape Meal was a well supported event with some lively discussion, and was hosted this year by the Roman Catholic church in their nice cosy hall, with members of other churches helping with the catering. Daphne Clarke led the united service in Holy Trinity the following day. In the other months, the **First Thursday Prayers** have been led by members of each of the churches and provide a welcome and enjoyable time for us to worship together.

The **Picnic in the Park** was enjoyed again in June in Ronaldshay Park, with people of all ages, some from various churches, but also many who were not church members, bringing their packed lunches and enjoying the chance to chat and play together. Held just three days after the tensions of the Referendum, it gave a lovely opportunity to remind ourselves of unity and fellowship.

**Coming next.** Sheila Pearson, John Dickinson and Roy Bebbington have comprised the committee for the past year. John Dickinson has been our Secretary for several years and we are most grateful for all he has done to keep us organised. At the time of writing, it is thought likely that after the AGM in March, the current structure may change, so that our activities and ecumenical dialogue can continue, but without the need for a formal committee. Regular events would continue, but led and organised

by individual churches, or small ecumenical teams, who would invite the other churches to join in.

Sheila Pearson

### The Friends of St Mary's Annual Report

I will start with the usual reminder that The Friends of St Mary's is open to all those who are on the Electoral Roll. It was formed to help with the general upkeep and maintenance of the church, its activities and services and to bind together in common fellowship all those who love the Parish Church. Several members of the committee have been doing this for a long time and we are very grateful to them for this. Sadly we had to say goodbye to one of the stalwarts of the committee, Susan Wallis, during this year when she and Robert moved away from the area. We wish them well in their new church community.

The year began with our final donation of £1,500 towards the Disability Access Toilet and ramp. It has been good to see it in use not only on a Sunday but at the many events the Friends have supported over the year. This includes serving refreshments at the various concerts and festivals during the year which together with ticket money raised around £850 for funds. These include the Royal Armoured Corps, Barnard Castle School, Swaledale Festival and 'Summoned by Bells.'

Margaret Emmerson has had bus trips to Skipton, Carlisle, Whitby and Boundary Mills bringing in £500, Jane Hatcher donated the money from her guided walks and our annual BBQ raised £320. Our new venture of a Silent Auction was very successful and we thank Anne and Carrie, who joined the committee this year, for their hard work in organising this event which made nearly £1,000. We also welcomed Glennis Robson as our new Secretary and she is efficiently keeping us organised.

We have provided Easter eggs, Christingles, a banner and cups and holders throughout the year and if we go ahead with the new seat cushions The Friends have agreed to help with the cost.

The Friends work hard to raise money for the improvement of the fabric and ornamentation of St. Mary's as well as providing interesting social occasions for all. Whilst many are willing to help with events it does need someone to actually co-ordinate this help. Please give some thought to who would be willing and might enjoy doing this.

### Knit2gether Report 2016

The Knit2gether Group has enjoyed another year of meetings at The Restaurant at Greyfriars, on Flints Terrace, Richmond in between 10am and noon on a Friday.

Meetings have a regular attendance of approximately 14 – 16 ladies and gentlemen of all ages, plus many occasional visitors. Each bringing their own creative projects, sharing knowledge and skills whilst having fun and fellowship.

New member always welcome.

Claire Murray

Convenor

### Monday Morning Toddler Group Report

Gathering about 10am in the Methodist Church Halls we enjoy a time of fun and friendship for children aged between 0 and 5 years old and their adult carer (mum, dad, grandparents, friends etc.) Tea, coffee, juice, fruit and healthy snacks are available throughout, and even more important a warm welcome is guaranteed. This is manned by an enthusiastic, loving and committed team made up of ladies from both Richmond Methodist Church and St Mary's Church. If you would like to come along and help we would love to see you, as more helpers make it easier when there is the inevitable outside commitments or illness. You don't need to help all session or even every session.

We celebrate Christmas, Easter and birthdays. Families are kept up to date with activities and services at both St Mary's and the Methodist Church and we are delighted to see them come. We took part in the St Mary's Exhibition during the year.

The time spent with each other is invaluable. We know the children gain lots, but so too the adults as they find people with similar concerns, joys and thoughts as each other.

Gillian Lunn

### Mothers Union Report

St Mary's Mothers' Union continues as an integral part of parish life. Prayerfully contributing to events in the parish, deanery and in our episcopal area of Ripon.

(We have difficulty being included in the Western side of this episcopal area because of the distances and terrain involved.) We held our own Christmas Eucharist with members from St Anne's Catterick branch at St Mary's and followed it with tea mince pies and cake.

The Belles of St Mary's (alias the Mothers Union) contributed refreshments for the Bells exhibition and welcomed the tandem riders and cyclists back from their ride from Richmond on Thames with tea in the Town Hall. Because of this involvement we were privileged to be invited to the bell foundry to see the first Richmond bells cast.

The branch continue to support the food bank and are always represented by a member at baptisms to present a bible story book to the babies. We joined the parish members in the Cathedral when Canon John took his stall, whether John was wearing the "Holy" socks we had presented him with is not known but the congregation did enjoy the cake M U provided that day. Midday prayers at the Cathedral always highlights of our year gave us two outings which we combined with a lovely lunch.

The concert by Reeth band with afternoon tea proves a popular event in the church calendar and was enjoyed by a good audience in the summer.

I was lucky enough to represent the branch in Winchester Cathedral for the service of thanks for 140 years of the Mothers Union 3,000 members heard Archbishop Justin Welby commend the Mothers' Union for their work with families and made references to the changes taking place in family life.

As well as St Mary's bell appeal the branch have supported :-The Mothers's Union big summer appeal, Practical Farming, Marske church, the Away From It All holiday scheme (A scheme which allows families who cannot go away to have a holiday) as well as most parish events.

Membership is not confined to Mothers, and we would welcome any members of the congregation who would like to join us. We usually meet on the last Tuesday in the month and details are in the parish magazine and on the pew sheet .

Margaret Clayson

Chairwoman

### Music and Choir Report

2016 was my first year as organist at St Mary's and I 'inherited' a rich choral tradition with experienced singers and young keen choristers all eager to make music to the glory of God. We have an extensive library of music and singers with the knowledge and ability to perform it, although we could do with more singers to join our ranks.

Indeed, recruitment is a perennial problem for most church choirs (and St Mary's is no exception) so I set about a recruitment drive in local Primary schools last year and then staged a 'Singing Day' in September. From these we gained two new choristers and have hopefully sowed some seeds to be harvested when I return again to the schools next term. My own son, Benjamin has also recently joined so things are going in the right direction, if slowly. Gone are the days when Sunday church attendance was the rule rather than the exception and many children/families are busy on Sundays with other activities now. The children who do sing in the choir, however, continue to flourish musically, and their tone is really developing into something quite beautiful. All choristers their way through the RSCM medal scheme which develops their knowledge of music and general musicianship.

A regular member of the choir for many years, John Plowman, moved away in 2016 and we miss his talent and musical experience, and another area of recruitment will be adults this year.

Highlights of my first year here have been the extremely warm welcome and encouragement I have received from choir and congregation since I arrived, also some memorable services including a super Choral Evensong last June for the Queen's birthday which included music from her Coronation and other State events. The service involved our own singers as well as those from other choirs. At the Carol

Service on 18th December we also benefitted from the addition of previous choristers and my own esteemed predecessor, Colin Hicks.

Plans for the future very much depend on how the recruitment drive is received and how many new members come along, both adults and children - but I'm very committed to finding a form of 'choir' which fits best at St Mary's and keeps us singing well into the future.

The organ is, of course, magnificent and very unusual in that it is one of the few sizeable Harrison organs of its time that has been relatively untouched over the years. It was built when the company was at its peak (indeed, our instrument was built in the same year that perhaps the firm's most celebrated organ, that of St Mary Redcliffe in Bristol was built). Apart from heating - related problems like small leaks from the bellows and odd missing notes the organ seems in good condition and hopefully will remain so for a good while yet. We are all custodians of this treasure and need to look after it in the same way that we do to our beautiful building and splendid bells.

My thanks must go to all who sing in the choir and chorister parents for all their support and guidance since my arrival. Particular thanks to William and Henry who have catalogued our music library so thoroughly, for the DBS-checked adults who help at choir practice and also to Andrew Christer who plays the organ so magnificently at the monthly choral evensong and Christmas carol service.

Chris Denton

Director of Music

#### All Age Worship Music Group

Singers and musicians have been kept together for another 12 months thanks to Jim Jack and Brett Overin taking the lead for the music and Gill MacLean for the administration. However Fionagh Bennet has now been appointed as the leader and she is in the throes of getting us into shape! A new name for the group of singers and musicians is under discussion at the moment and we will continue to lead the worship on the third Sunday of the month and for other special services. If anyone is interested in singing or playing then they would be most welcome and can chat to Fionagh after the All Age Worship Service (third Sunday of the month - usually) or e mail her on [music@fionagh-bennet-music.co.uk](mailto:music@fionagh-bennet-music.co.uk)

#### PCC Report 2016

- The Rector was installed as a Canon of Ripon Cathedral, and members of the PCC and many of the congregation attended his installation at the Solemn Evensong service there.
- Joan Plowman left Richmond, retiring from her role as Reader.
- William Gedye took over the role of Treasurer from Rebecca Simpson.
- Leaders and helpers of the All Age Service band and chorus retired, but continue to

be part of the group; the leadership was taken by Fionagh Bennett.

- Susan Wallis gave up the position of Electoral Roll Officer, prior to leaving Richmond.
- Jane Callard intends to leave Richmond and so resigned as Children and Young People Team leader.
- Claire Murray retired as an elected member after her three-year term, and was replaced by Susan Scrafton.
- Sheila Harrison resigned from the PCC and from the Deanery Synod after many years of service.
- Draft proposals, received from the Diocese of Leeds for a declaration of closure for regular public worship of St Michael and All Angels, Hudswell, were approved.
- It was decided that St Mary's church building be kept open during day-light hours for visitors to spend quiet time or leave a tea-light candle for prayer.
- A special retiring collection for charity on the first Sunday of every month proceeded satisfactorily.
- A continuous three-year stewardship cycle was launched encompassing time, talents and financial contributions.
- St Mary's PCC agreed that half of funeral collections could go to a charity specified by the family.
- It was agreed that the Blenkiron family provide a churchyard seat in memory of John Blenkiron, sited near the south porch.
- A successful and well-supported community exhibition entitled 'Summoned by Bells' was held in May.
- Fundraising for the bell project, launched in May 2015, attained its target of £160,000 in 2016, and two coachloads of supporters travelled to Taylor's Bell Foundry to see the new bells cast.
- After a year's trial of the monthly 'Illuminate' modern praise service, it was discontinued due to lack of local support.
- Following the distribution of a questionnaire on the current pattern of worship, only 10% of parishioners responded, which could be interpreted as satisfaction with the current arrangements. The varied style of services appeared to please most of the people, who appeared to be happy with their experiences and to have an openness to change.
- There was a good response to the new Eucharistic praise service called "Worship for All", inaugurated in May.

- The access ramp to the toilet for the disabled was completed by Staley Stonework.

Jennifer Patrick  
Secretary to the PCC

### St.Mary's Flower Guild Report

This is my first report here in Richmond heading the St Marys Flower Guild. New to Richmond and St Marys Church in late 2015 I have been most welcomed as a member of the congregation and have soon found myself some jobs to do.

Last year Judith Clarke who, after many years, stepped down from heading the St Marys Flower Guild, has been a great support and source of advice during the changeover period. My thanks to Judith and Julia Robertson who held the role for several months and to all the members of the Flower Guild for helping me settle in.

It is always a challenge, when new, to ensure that all the church members' needs and wishes are being catered for and as I took over Harvest, National Remembrance Day and soon after Christmas were upon us. Taking the opportunity after Sunday Service to speak to people I soon gathered ideas and thoughts of what was required and this is an ongoing undertaking.

The Flower Guild is a small group of individuals whose numbers currently stand at 13. Ideally we would like to recruit others to join the team. All that is needed is a love of flowers, no previous experience is necessary, as you can be guided and taught the basic knowledge that is required. It is anticipated during 2017 floral workshops will be provided for those wishing to develop their knowledge and skills further. Recently the team all gathered for a coffee morning to share ideas and plan for future events. The next being Easter.

Introduced before Christmas and proving to be welcomed is the opportunity for members of the congregation to request a small floral arrangement as a remembrance to mark the anniversary of the loss of a loved one. This is placed in the window above the Book of Remembrance. A donation is given to cover the cost of seasonal flowers.

Responding to the request of another person a floral arrangement or plant is now placed on the Welcome table; a pleasant site to welcome visitors and all attending services at the church.

The year ahead is a busy one with a Flower Festival planned for June 2017. The theme of which is 'Treasured Memories.'

I would like to thank all members of the Flower Guild for their continued commitment to providing flowers to enhance St Marys Church for visitors and worshipers alike. Feedback from members of the congregation expressing their appreciation is received, past on to the arranger and always most welcomed.

Katrina Templeton

### Bell Tower Report

This year, we have been lucky enough to be very busy at practices, often welcoming 14 or more on Tuesday nights. This makes us unusual in the area and we should be

pleased to have so many committed members of the bell ringing team. Monday night practices have continued and we are looking at how we can develop this in the future, including refitting the simulator to our new bells.

More importantly, we are usually able to ring all 8 bells for Sunday services, and we continue to ring where we can for extra services such as Evensongs, Carol Services and special events, sometimes ringing quarter peals (longer pieces of about 45 minutes) which help develop the skills of the band. Congratulations to Alastair, who has recently rung his first quarter peal, qualifying him to be elected as a full member of the Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers. We entered the local striking competition, held this year at West Tanfield, and our team succeeded in winning the 'fun' completion with the help of a ringer from Saltburn.

We have continued to develop our relationships with other local towers, particularly through regular visits to Grinton whilst some of their ringers join us regularly at practice nights. We are fortunate to have the support of Glenys from Catterick, who along with our own Glenys initiated the highly successful cycle ride. Thanks to them and to everyone else who has been involved with the fundraising appeal and in preparing for the work on the bells this year. Special mention should go to Peter as steeple keeper and leader of the appeal, Liz as leader of the local history group and John and Jan for leading extra practices on Monday nights. We look forward to an exciting year!

### Churchwardens' Report 2016

Many week day visitors to our church comment on the memorable calm, peaceful and prayerful atmosphere. Seeing the church like this it's difficult to imagine it full to the rafters for equally special and memorable occasions when the town uses its parish church. We had record numbers in November for our annual Remembrance Day service. Thanks to everyone who helped to make the day so special.

Advent and Christmas saw an increasing number of seasonal services and events for local schools and organizations both civilian and military from the town and beyond. Matching the expectations and demands of users and coping with the logistics of staging, seating and catering can be difficult. Turning the building from a concert venue on Saturday evening back into a church for Sunday morning is hard work. Thank you to all who have helped on these occasions throughout the year. It's certainly appreciated by all concerned.

We don't have the monopoly of hosting special services. We were able to fill a coach to visit Ripon in September to see our Rector installed as Honory Canon at the cathedral. Congratulations John and good luck for this important position. A memorable day to celebrate our patronal festival.

Those of us who visited the Loughbrough bell foundry were able to witness our new bells being cast. An historic moment. The next stage is the temporary removal of our historic bells prior to their reinstallation along with their new cousins in the new frame. We all look forward to the day when we hear the results of the hard work of the team who have organized the project.

William Gedye has done much to evaluate, streamline and reorganize our finances. Revised paperwork, counting procedures and banking arrangements have helped to make the situation clearer enabling better budgeting and financial planning. An

especial thank you to William and all who help count the collections on Sunday mornings.

The recent stewardship campaign has enabled us to review and update our monetary commitment to the church. It is planned that we have an annual programme of stewardship every autumn. Over a three year cycle we will take time to explore the way we can use our time, our talents and our money. The season of remembrance reflection and harvest thanksgiving is an ideal time to examine the way we use our gifts in the service of the church.

If I'm absent from church on Sunday morning I'm probably at work. Juggling my full time job which involves working shifts and weekends with wardens' duties can be a challenge. It is only made possible with the help and co-operation of my fellow warden and deputy Roy and Janet Morel. Often much responsibility falls on their shoulders. Thank you for your continued help and support.

David Frankton & Roy Morel

Churchwardens

### Estates Team Report

Next time you find your attention wandering in church try counting up the number of lamp bulbs of different types. At the last count there were about one hundred. The majority of these are energy efficient fittings. We have continued to improve efficiency with a continuing programme of using led bulbs in existing fittings. This has improved the level of light in some areas. Although initially more expensive this type of lamp uses less electricity and last longer. Quite an advantage when the fittings are thirty feet from the floor.

An ongoing problem with damp on the south wall of the chancel near the high altar has been investigated by the stone mason and has highlighted the need to repair the pointing of the outside wall. This has begun to dry out and we have been able to experimentally repaint the interior wall using the required lime wash paint. Thanks to Roy and Len who, using scaffolding provided by Acomb Construction, have tested their painting skills and head for heights.

Our heating system continues to serve us well. Ongoing maintenance is always necessary. A change of contractor to locally based KH Heating has insured that help is always on hand. A problem with the time switch control has been identified which will probably require the replacement of the control unit.

Regular gutter cleaning and roof inspections continue to keep our building more or less watertight. We still have issues to address highlighted in the 2014 quinquennial inspection.

Richmond Town Council continues to keep our churchyard and surrounding areas in excellent condition. Thanks to Andy Macey and all who work so hard maintaining this large area.

The next twelve months will, I'm sure, bring its share of challenges keeping our much loved building in good order to serve the needs of all those who use it. This is only possible with the help and co-operation of those who give their time and talents so freely. Thank you for all your hard work and efforts it's very much appreciated.

David Frankton. Roy Morel. Leonard Scrafton.

### St Mary's Richmond Women's Fellowship

We have enjoyed another very happy and successful year.

The past year has been interesting and varied which followed the usual pattern of short time of prayer, a guest speaker followed by refreshments. Our meetings last about an hour and a half. We meet in the Town Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 2pm (excluding July and August.)

In keeping with our affiliation to St. Mary's, we held our annual Easter Service and traditional Carol Service. In addition, we held our annual summer afternoon and Christmas parties.

We continue to be a happy relaxed and caring group who enjoy good fellowship together.

We are an elderly group of ladies and sadly in the last year for various reasons two members can no longer attend. However, we have welcomed one new member this year.

It is worth mentioning that the Women's Fellowship was formed from the then Young Wives Club who wished to open membership to a broader cross section of women. This was achieved and continues to be the case as our membership is a broadly based group of ladies of both secular and interdenominational.

This year we celebrate our 46<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in September.

Eileen Simms

Convenor

### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 2016

#### Background

We have had a busy year revising the PCC accounting processes, and running the Stewardship Scheme to 'refresh' the regular giving by our congregation. Following Independent Examination, the accounts will be presented to the PCC at their meeting on 6 March 2017, and the Annual Church Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

#### Summary as at 31 December 2016

This year we have a modest surplus on a similar turnover to 2015, thanks in part to the Stewardship scheme and to savings made on Utility and Insurance bills, in the final quarter of the year. We also had an increase in fees from weddings and funerals.

The PCC has sufficient long term investments and bank deposits to cover both the 'Restricted Funds' below, and reserves.

The Finance Team have completed a full review of investments, funds and bank accounts resulting in fewer accounts and a common mandate.

I would like to thank those of you who have adopted the new paperwork, and accurately count the collections each Sunday. Also thanks go to the Church Wardens who look after all the associated banking. Claire Murray as assistant

treasurer processes all billing and supplier invoice payments efficiently and thoroughly, as well as being a mine of information on Parish matters. Special thanks go to Gill and Alastair McLean who have again carried out an independent examination of the accounts.

#### Unrestricted Funds (Day to day Income & Expenditure)

The Stewardship campaign resulted in us making up of the shortfall from regular donors who have left the parish or have recently died.

The Parish Share for 2016 of £67,000 has been paid. The coming together of the 5 former diocese has resulted in a new scheme for calculation the parish share for 2017. As one of the larger, wealthier Parishes we need to meet a significant increase for 2017 when our share will be £77,900.

The net effect of these two factors is to leave us with a predicted small surplus again for 2017, with little headroom from income for unforeseen increased costs. We are in the process of writing to those who have not yet responded to the stewardship scheme invitation.

#### Restricted Funds (Money set aside for special projects)

The Disabled Access Toilet installation was completed. A contribution was made from the Fabric Fund to complete this work

The Bell Appeal reached its target, and work has started with the production of the bells in Loughborough. Installation is due in spring 2017.

Other 'Restricted Funds' are in reserve to cover future work to the fabric of the church, closure of St Michael's Hudswell, the anticipated replacement of the main blower on the organ and for the development of 'Fun-key' church.

William Gedye

Treasurer

