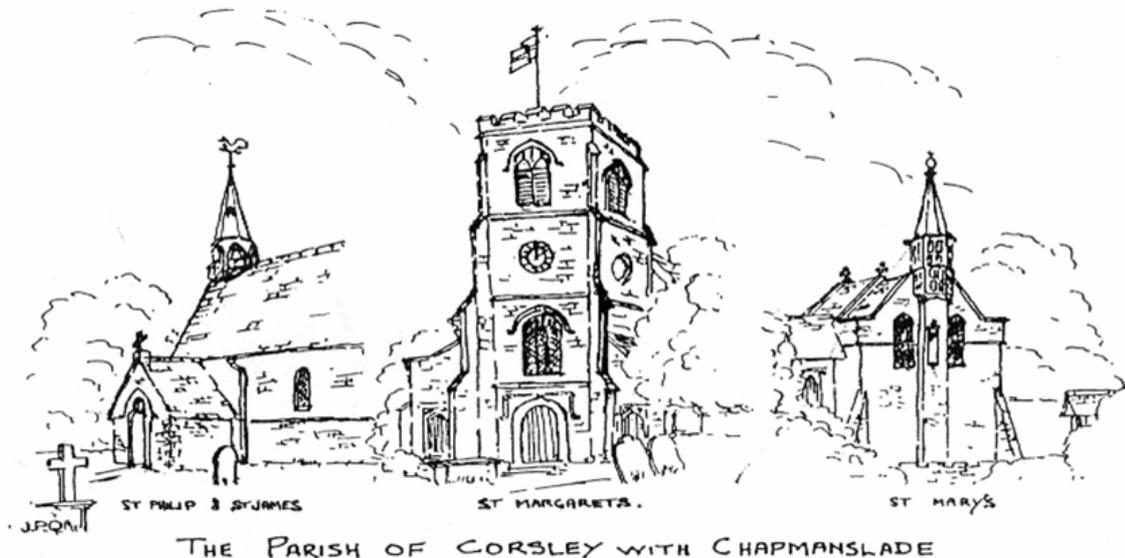


Corsley and Chapmanslade

Parochial Church Council



Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2013

**Accepted at the Parochial Church Council
Chapmanslade School
March 12th 2014**

**Presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
St Margaret of Antioch, Corsley
April 30th 2014**

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Administrative Information

There are three churches in the Parish of Corsley and Chapmanslade. Situated in the High Street, Chapmanslade is the Parish Church of **St Philip and St James'**. In Corsley at the bottom of Deep Lane is the Parish Church of **St Margaret's of Antioch**. At Temple is the Church of **St Mary's** which is a "chapel of ease". All three churches are in the Benefice of the Cley Hill Villages which is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Parochial Church Council members who have served since the last Annual Parish Church Meeting are:

Incumbent (Rector)		Post vacant from October 2013
Assistant Priest		Reverend Di Britten
Wardens:	St Philip & St James'	Post currently vacant
	St Margaret's	Charles Thackway
Deputy Wardens:	St Mary's	Harcourt Gough
	St Margaret's	Judith Helliar
	St Philip & St James'	Janet Aylesbury
Elected members:		1 – Alan Hopkinson (2013)
		2 – Elisabeth Irving (2013)
Co-opted member:		Stella Bayman
Deanery Synod Representatives:		1 – Phil Jefferson (2011)
		2 – Clare Merritt (2011)
		3 – Alan Hopkinson (2013)
Secretary:		Phil Jefferson
Minute Secretary:		Sue Fear
Treasurer:		Keith Muston
Planned Giving Officer:		Judith Helliar

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of Parochial Church Council members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the Parochial Church Council.

Objectives and Activities

Corsley and Chapmanslade Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (currently in an interregnum following the retirement of the Reverend Norma Payne in September 2013) in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance

There were 149 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll at the end of 2013. For the annual census in April/May we recorded our membership as 85.

Review of the year – Reverend Di Britten

Over the past year our Benefice has continued to have a steady stream of people approaching the Church for baptisms and weddings. It is wonderful to be able to have the opportunity to follow young members of our congregation through their journey of faith, from baptism and confirmation on to their wedding day. Many who have been brought up in the parish return to say their wedding vows in the place they knew as children through their primary school and that is why the continuing link with our the three schools in our Benefice is so vital.

Last year saw several members of our church attend a training day for a scheme called "Open the Book" which involves telling the Gospel stories to children of all faiths. Here in our Parish several members have now committed to form an Open the Book group, which will work within our schools and preschools and in Chapmanslade, "Opening the Book" to the children of our Parish.

The Chapmanslade community coffee morning held at The Three Horseshoes Pub, started by the Church in 2012, is now well established with numbers and interest continuing to grow. This has been a good opportunity to gather once a month to enjoy a coffee and a chat and our thanks Barbara Hughes who has co-ordinated this, and to the staff at the pub for the welcome they extend.

The regular monthly 'Soup Lunches' together with a Christmas lunch, held in the Corsley Reading Rooms, have given enormous pleasure and raised funds for various charities over the past year our thanks goes to Pat Ryan and her team for organising these events, which reach out into the community.

Towards the end of the Summer Norma prepared for her retirement as our Parish Rector after seven years in the post. As well as carrying on with her normal day to day activities, she made sure that, on her retirement, our weekly services would continue to run smoothly up until Christmas 2013. This has given us the necessary the breathing space to adjust to our new position of being in vacancy. Since Christmas this rota of clergy has been organised by Phil and the Churchwardens. This team, led by our churchwarden Charlie Thackway also spent a great deal of time before the end of the year compiling the Parish Profile to go into one Benefice Profile, which we hope will attract a new incumbent for our parishes. Our thanks must go to them for doing this on our behalf. By the end of the 2013 we had, thanks to Keith Muston, a Benefice website.

Corsley and Chapmanslade parish churches remains a lively church community, striving against the continuing financial challenges to meet the diocesan share and upkeep of our three churches. My thanks to the fundraising committee and the treasurer for their optimism and good planning and to everyone who continues to give their support in so many different ways so faithfully.

Churchwardens report – St Philip & St James – Janet Aylesbury

The main item this year is the start of work on the churchyard extension. The boundary fence has been moved and we now have to go through the legal processes for change of use and then to landscape the area. Only then can we arrange for the land to be consecrated and then once again we can accept burials in our parish.

We received a visit from our insurers this year and our attention was drawn to the poor condition of some of the gravestones in the churchyard. In 2014 we are going to have to contact the families concerned and arrange to have the gravestones made safe.

We thank everyone for all their help in maintaining our church and in particular Ian and Janet Buick who provide the tea and coffee at our family service. We must thank our flower ladies for ensuring that our church is always full of wonderful flowers especially for church festivals.

Churchwardens report – St Margaret's – Charles Thackway

During 2013 there were no major works at St Margaret's but plenty of small works. A major undertaking was the repainting of the front doors. Through the year various repairs to the church electrics have been required and we shall be undertaking a full inspection in 2014. We are in the process of obtaining a faculty to redecorate the interior of St Margaret's which will be a major cost. The first phase is estimated at £10,000 and we hope to complete in 2014 and then we shall seek quotations for the second phase which will probably be more expensive as this will entail painting the walls up to the ceiling.

For most of 2013 the church was open during the hours of daylight but for the winter months the church has been locked. We hope to reopen the church during the summer months in 2014 but we do require volunteers to open and lock the church every day. If you can help in this respect please contact any of the churchwardens.

We are very grateful to the many people who enable the church to operate. There are many jobs that take place behind the scenes which need to be done to ensure that the services take place as expected and we are especially grateful to everyone who makes our church full of colour with wonderful flower decoration at times of festivals. In 2013 we shared in the celebrations of the 450th anniversary of Manor Farm and the flowers for this special event were very special and special thanks to all involved.

Churchwardens report – St Mary's – Harcourt Gough

St Mary's continues to draw a regular congregation of between nine and twenty people throughout the year, with much higher numbers on festival days such as Christmas Day, Easter, Sea Sunday and Harvest Matins. In addition to the regular services, this year we had two funerals and one well-attended thanksgiving service during the year. Our services follow the 1661 Prayer Book which is the preference of our congregation.

While our parish is without a Rector we are fortunate to have the support of Peter Likeman LLM who kindly takes our Matins services, and the Reverend Di Britten our Holy Communion services. Their support is much appreciated.

More than half of our congregation give generously of their time, and as a consequence the fabric of the church continues to be generally in sound order, and no repairs are imminent. We owe all of our volunteers a very big thank you, and in particular David O'Connor who continues to be our organist for Matins, while Robin Chapman, David Carruthers and Michael Taylor look after the interior, the lawns and grounds, and Jane Parsons, Anne Carruthers and others keep the interior immaculate, brass burnished, linen laundered and flowers fresh. Because most of the maintenance, lawns, cleaning, flowers and more are done by our volunteers we are not a charge on the PCC for these things.

Chapmanslade Church of England VA Primary School – Sue Fear

This was a very busy year for the school, with lots of new ideas introduced by Mr Basinger-Adams. The classes were given names, Blossom, Willow Oak and Redwood, chosen by the children. The school has started to hold Acts of Collective Worship in the Church, once every term. The older children had tag rugby coaching from Bath Rugby and they went to Bath to play tag rugby during the half time at a Bath match. The use of the new piece of land was finalised and the school now has a large playing field, complete with new adventure play equipment. The PTFA continued to grow, organising social and fundraising events for the school.

Light Bites Lunches – Pat Ryan

We would all like to thank everyone who once again has contributed towards making these lunches successful; to Dick and Rosemary at The Reading Rooms for their continuing hospitality, the soup makers, the washer/drier ups, those who help clearing away, and those who arrange to give lifts and bring friends and neighbours who otherwise may not be able to come and to everyone for coming along and hopefully enjoying the food and company.

In 2013, we were very sorry to have to say good bye to Gay as she left to carry on her spiritual journey, studying for her future vocation. A very big thank you to Gay, who helped start this venture; we all miss her as she continues her walk with God and we wish her God's blessing. We are very lucky to have Laura Gates join us and she is a breath of fresh air with her wonderful smile and happy nature, it is impossible to 'down in the dumps' with Laura and Dot about! We continue serve on average about 20 -25 people. In December 2013 we held our second Christmas Lunch, and once again there was a wonderful gathering of about 35. Our thanks to all - from Chapmanslade and Corsley - who generously gave their time to help and to those who came along to spend time with friends and neighbours.

From January 2013 to December 2013 contributions of just over £1200 have been donated and these are some of the charities that have benefitted; Mission Aviation Fellowship, Samaritans Purse, Water Aid, Farm Crisis Network, Maridi Diocese, Warminster Food Bank, and The Children's Society.

We will be having a break during the summer months – July, August and we will be restarting in September.

We would like to thank Keith for his work in administrating the monies to the appropriate charities each month.

The three of us very much enjoy providing the lunches, but if anyone would like to join us on either a 'one off basis' or a more regular commitment, we would welcome any contribution - just let us know. Perhaps you would like the donations to go to a Christian charity that is close to your heart, so why not invite some friends to make the Lunch extra special, again have a word with one of us we would love to hear your views.

Young Families Report – Reverend Di Britten



Attracting young people into our churches on a Sunday morning is not easy. Sunday for many of our young families today is a time of recreation, when many sporting activities take place. However, 'doing church' is something that can take place on other days of the week and today many of our children 'do church' in many different ways. It may be by attending the weekly collective worship within our school or by joining in with one of the many workshops that take place during the course of the year. As a church, our aim is to encourage and welcome families into all our services by providing hospitality, activities and a warm welcome.

Thanks to an energetic team of helpers 2013 saw a variety of different activities which were enjoyed by our younger members. The year began with Pancake Fun and games during the spring half term in the Reading room, when copious amounts of delicious pancakes were devoured. At the end of term 4, the school invited a team from the parish to illustrate, through story telling, the events of Easter and Jesus journey to the cross and the resurrection of Easter day. This was followed on Good Friday by the annual family walk along the byways of Corsley around St Margaret's. Instead of the usual summer holiday club, a family trip to Salisbury cathedral was organised and later a picnic on Cley Hill.



On Sunday 22nd September 2013, 23 intrepid teddy bears, watched by their brave owners, abseiled from the dizzy height of St Margaret's church tower in Corsley. This was just one of the special services we have held for the younger members of our parish in 2013. By the way, I am pleased to report that every bear landed safely and was returned to its owner at the end of the morning. As young families continue to bring their children for baptism we hope that this service and others similar will help us to keep in touch and encourage our young families to become active members of our church community.

The weekly collective worship in our school and story telling in our two pre schools also gives us a vital link. In 2014 we are looking ahead to introduce, 'Open the Book', a way of sharing the gospel message through drama and story telling, which we shall take into the school and pre schools of our parish.

My thanks to all who give their time and energy to our work amongst the young families in the parish - we are always looking for more help, so if you are young or just young at heart, and want to join in please let us know.

Bell-ringing Team – Dick Collins

The small but dedicated team normally rings for two services each month. Additionally we ring for other occasions such as weddings and funerals. The team will always welcome new members, experienced ringers or novices. Practices are usually held on Friday evenings from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Home Groups – Richard Dean

Home Groups come in various shapes and sizes – evenings, mornings, during Lent, Home Communion ... One Group was formed out of the Alpha Meetings in the Parish six years ago. This Group, led by Richard Dean, meets fortnightly, on Tuesday evenings, circulating around various homes. 'Time To Think', which has been going for 30 years, is currently led by Phil Jefferson. This gathering, also fortnightly, is on Monday mornings. Both groups have a very relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Passages from the Bible are studied – this year one group majored on St Luke's Gospel, whilst the other looked at St Paul's letter to the Romans which followed the life of Daniel in the Old Testament. It is amazing how a familiar story comes alive, providing guidance and helpful insights. After studying the Word of God like this there is a time of quiet for prayer. Prayers are led in different ways and generally focus on the things that concern us most. God is with us and listens to whatever we pray.

Bishop Bismark from South Sudan joined us one morning in June sharing some of his experience of how the church can grow in the midst of trials.

Planned Giving – Judith Helliard and Keith Muston

We are in the process of moving our bank accounts from the TSB plc to the Charities Aid Foundation Bank and this presented the opportunity to ask all our supporters to renew and review their bank standing order. We thank everyone for their continued support as we continue to have what seems to be a never ending challenge to meet the financial demands of the parish. We have now paid the "Share" in full for 2012 and 2013 but it is going to be a real challenge to meet our "Share" in full unless we can attract more financial supports or persuade those who already give so generously to increase their planned giving.

Fundraising – Phil Jefferson and Stella Bayman

Once again, the fundraising committee worked hard throughout 2013 raising much-needed funds for our churches. It is gratifying to note that, at a time when we *really* needed to raise funds, we had one of our most successful fundraising years.

As ever, however, our aim has also been to provide opportunities for the community we serve to meet together and to enjoy each other's company. We describe this as putting the "fun" into fundraising and it helps the church fulfil its role and responsibility to be at the heart of the Chapmanslade and Corsley communities.

The year got off to an excellent start in February with a Silent Auction held in Chapmanslade. The village hall was absolutely full and everyone present had a thoroughly enjoyable evening. Over £3,750 was raised, which gave a tremendous boost to our funds. Many people put in a huge amount of work to make this possible, and we thank them for that, but we owe a particular thank you to Dennis Barnard for his skill and expertise in organising such a wonderful event. Dennis, you provided an occasion that we will remember for many years ahead. Thank you so much.

We returned to Chapmanslade Village Hall in May for our May Fayre, which this time we combined with our Bargains in the Barn event. We were fortunate to have excellent weather and there was a large attendance, particularly youngsters and their parents from Chapmanslade School, many of whom had entered our "miniature garden on a tray" competition. Overall, the Fayre was a huge success but, despite the large number of people being present, the amount we raised – about £1,100 – was no more than at previous May Fayres.

Although strictly speaking it was not intended as a fundraising event, the Flower Festival, which was timed to coincide with the celebrations marking the 450th anniversary of Corsley

Manor and as part of the arrangements to say thank you to Norma for our service as our rector, was well attended and raised over £450. The Festival involved a huge amount of work by so many people and we particularly must thank Judith Helliar for co-ordinating the event, which was well received by everyone who marvelled at the wonderful displays in St Margaret's church.

Our presence at Corsley Show gives us the opportunity to reach out to a much wider community than just Corsley and Chapmanslade in terms of the church's mission. It is also an important source of revenue for us through our and of course the raffle. The theme of our stall was "The Farmhouse Kitchen", where we sold produce and "kitchenalia" We raised over £1,300 at the show, less than in some years but a pleasing amount, nonetheless. Stella Bayman and Judith Helliar led a great team of volunteers, who worked hard to ensure the success of our stall and raffle.

Our Harvest Suppers are an important part of the life of a rural parish and, although their primary purpose is not to raise funds, this year each of them raised a profit of about £230. Claire da Costa, with Laura Gates, and Ann Good were the main organisers and our thanks go to them for all their hard work.

Finally, our Christmas Coffee Morning was held in December at Sandhayes. We are grateful to Andrew and Laura Gates for hosting the event and for their warm welcome and hospitality. Attendance was a little on the low side but we raised a useful £362.

Throughout the year, our 50/50 Club generates income for our churches and twice a year, in May and December, we learn who are the prizewinners, with on each occasion the top prize drawn being £200. The income for our churches in 2013 was £1300. We currently have 110 members in the scheme and always welcome new members to join. Our warm thanks to Neil Britten, who organises the club for all his hard work.

Our small team of fundraisers (Stella Bayman, Jean White, Barbara Oakham, Annie Campbell, Judith Helliar, Jane Parsons, Clare Merritt, Keith Muston, Sandra Hoskins, Dennis Barnard and Phil Jefferson) work very hard to help keep the church's finances in good order. We are constantly on the look-out for new fundraising ideas and new recruits to our team so any suggestions or offers of help would be much appreciated.

Deanery Synod – Phil Jefferson

Heytesbury Deanery Synod met on three occasions in 2013. The synod provides an opportunity for parishes to connect to the diocese and the Anglican community nationally. It also provides the chance for Anglicans from parishes in the Warminster and Westbury areas to meet together to debate current issues concerning the Anglican Church.

At our March synod, Ruth Worsley, Archdeacon of Wilts, gave a presentation on Bishop Nicholas' invitation to "Let Us Talk". Following his arrival in the diocese the bishop had invited parishes to respond to a presentation he had made at Diocesan Synod the previous November. This was an opportunity for us to talk, engage, think and articulate our priorities as local church. The responses from all the parishes in Wiltshire and Dorset are now being used to help the diocese find better measures of the quality and impact of church life.

In June, synod met at the end of a day in which Bishop Edward Condry, newly appointed as Bishop of Ramsbury, had conducted his "visitation". This was an opportunity to show him the diversity of our deanery, ranging from the busy towns of Westbury and Warminster to the sparsely populated rural areas to the west and south. He visited the Crosspoint centre in Westbury, and in Warminster he visited The Wessex MS centre, the Food Bank and the hospital. He also learnt about the work of the Warminster street pastors. At Corton he met representatives of farming and other rural activities and discussed with them current challenges being faced by people who make a living in the countryside.

After Evensong at Mere, synod was held in Zeals, where Bishop Ed shared with us his thoughts on Ministry. He referred to the changing relationship between the clergy and the laity, with the clergy having to take on responsibility for benefices much larger in area than in the past, offering leadership but with the laity taking on a wider management role. He encouraged us to be positive and not negative, to look for the opportunities for mission and ministry and for the church's growth; to recognise the potential that exists, to celebrate all that is good, especially links with church schools.

At the November synod the main topic for discussion was Heytesbury Synod's five mission areas. These comprise Warminster; Westbury and Dilton Marsh; the Upper Wylve valley; Mere and the Upper Stour valley as well as our benefice. It was a useful opportunity to share information about our Mission Areas, to focus on the ways in which the clergy and laity teams in each mission area are meeting challenges together, and on lessons which can be learned from what other mission areas are succeeding in achieving.

The deanery's links with Maridi diocese continue to flourish, with fundraising activities taking place to support the education of displaced Sudanese women now living in the new country of South Sudan. We also were privileged to receive visits from a number of Sudanese bishops who were attending the Lambeth Conference last summer.

At our Annual Parochial Church Meeting we will have the opportunity to elect three representatives from our parish to serve on the deanery synod for the next three years.

Parish Link with South Sudan – Richard Dean

Serious ethnic violence between the two largest tribes in South Sudan erupted in December as a result of which many British ex-patriots were evacuated. It is against this background that the Parish has continued to support the church in its relief work and educational work.

The provision of bursaries for orphans at 4 primary schools in Juba has been organised by Richard Paul. The senior class at the Steiner School in Corsley has established a link with one of these schools in Juba.

Juba Diocesan Secondary School saw the opening of a Boarding House for 40 girls in October. This wonderful facility will provide accommodation not only for local girls but for some whose schools have been destroyed outside of Juba in the conflict. A skilled dressmaker in Corsley, Fiona Johnson, made up some very useful sewing kits for the boarders, which Richard Dean took out in October when he went for the annual prize-giving.

In the 2013 School Certificate results, the Juba School came second in the whole of South Sudan. Eighteen students at this School receive bursaries from sponsors in the parish.

Heytesbury Deanery has a link with the Diocese of Maridi. News of this link is given regularly in the parish e-letter and teaching English to incoming refugees in Maridi has been supported through collections made at our Lite Bite lunches.

Communications – Keith Muston

The main item is that in conjunction with The Deverills with Horningsham PCC we now have a website – www.cleyhillchurches.org. The impetus to create the website was the recruitment of our new Priest-in-Charge and in this modern world any potential candidate would find out about the Parish/Benefice by looking at the Parish/Benefice website. To date I have acted as "webmaster" but if anyone out there is a website "expert" and would be interested in taking on our website please contact anyone on the PCC.

Our monthly "Three Open Doors" and weekly "Through the Open Door" continue and from feedback are welcomed as a source of information. Contributions are always welcome!

Financial Review – Keith Muston

In last year's Report I began with the bad news that we had defaulted on the Share for 2012. I have to report that in 2013 we did pay the full share of £29,101 but we have not been able to pay any of the outstanding arrears of £12,000. (Writing this report in early April 2014 I can confirm that we have now paid all the arrears of £12,000 but have not paid any of the 2014 Share). We shall have to make heroic efforts if we are to pay our 2014 Share of £31,013 in full. Although there are different views on the "Share" we cannot ignore the fact that these monies are used to pay for the clergy and other related costs and are not discretionary and the money owed to the Diocese does have to be paid at some future date.

As is now customary I have made re-allocations and provisions that relate to 2013. I have provided for an income of £4,066.12 from HMRC in respect of Gift Aid tax refund relating to 2013. There is a new scheme, Gift Aid Small Donor Scheme, and this allows us to claim Gift Aid on all the loose monies in the collection. I hasten to add that there are conditions attached to this generosity. I shall be making a claim in early April in respect of the 2013/4 tax year and anticipate a refund from this new scheme of £800.

The insurance for the Parish was £4946.56 and I have reallocated £3256.16 of this cost across the three fabric funds as the major part of the insurance cost relates directly to the actual fabric of the churches. In accordance with the guidance from the Diocese the interest on our deposit funds, £244.03, has been reallocated across all the restricted funds. Apologies if you have a mortgage but a bank base rate of 0.5% has resulted in a reduction of over £8,000 in interest received over the last four years. This equates to the current deficit in our General fund!!

As in previous years the Parochial Church Council has agreed that we should put monies from our cash income into our deposits until we have sufficient funds to fully cover the restricted funds. At the end of 2013 the total of restricted funds was £50,415.32 and the funds in the CCLA deposit funds and war stock totalled £45,206 which leaves a funding gap of £5,208.33 which we will aim to reduce in 2014.

The use of restricted funds is a carefully regulated use of monies for a particular purpose. Over time we have developed a situation where funds are being put into a restricted fund without declaring the final use of these funds. Restricted funds are expected to be used for a specific purpose and are usually of a short duration. It is perfectly acceptable to maintain the church buildings from the General Fund. As it is the General Fund that very much requires an increase in income I do ask people to seriously consider if they would contribute to the General Fund instead of specifying a restricted fund. We will always make proper use of restricted funds and we can also make use of designated funds to assist in the smooth running of the parish.

The deficit of £7,360.94 in the General Fund is a concern. This situation is not satisfactory and we need to increase our income to the General Fund and turn the deficit into a surplus as soon as possible. It is essential that we make every effort to increase the General Fund income by all means open to us, preferably by methods that will be sustainable for future years.

I am required to formally comment on our reserves policy. The fabric funds contain sufficient funds to meet the expected outlay during 2014, the only planned major expense being the redecoration of St Margaret's, the first phase of which will cost an estimated £10,000. Our General Fund remains in deficit and it is this situation that needs to be addressed. The guidance from the Diocese is we should have in the General Fund sufficient funds to cover at least the next six months running costs which requires a balance of at least £5,000 in the General Fund after taking into consideration the regular income from planned giving and collections! We do need to increase our income so that we are able to meet our running costs but I do appreciate that the economic situation is not favourable. The view of the Parochial Church Council, to which I concur, is that we have very little leeway to reduce our

costs. It is therefore of the greatest importance that we pursue all opportunities to increase our income and ideally in a robust and sustainable manner. As well as increasing income from fundraising and similar activities the biggest challenge is to increase the Planned Giving income year on year.

My thanks to Alan Hopkinson and Clare Merritt for their ongoing assistance with the financial administration. Special thanks to David Edmunds who again has examined the accounts for the Parochial Church Council.