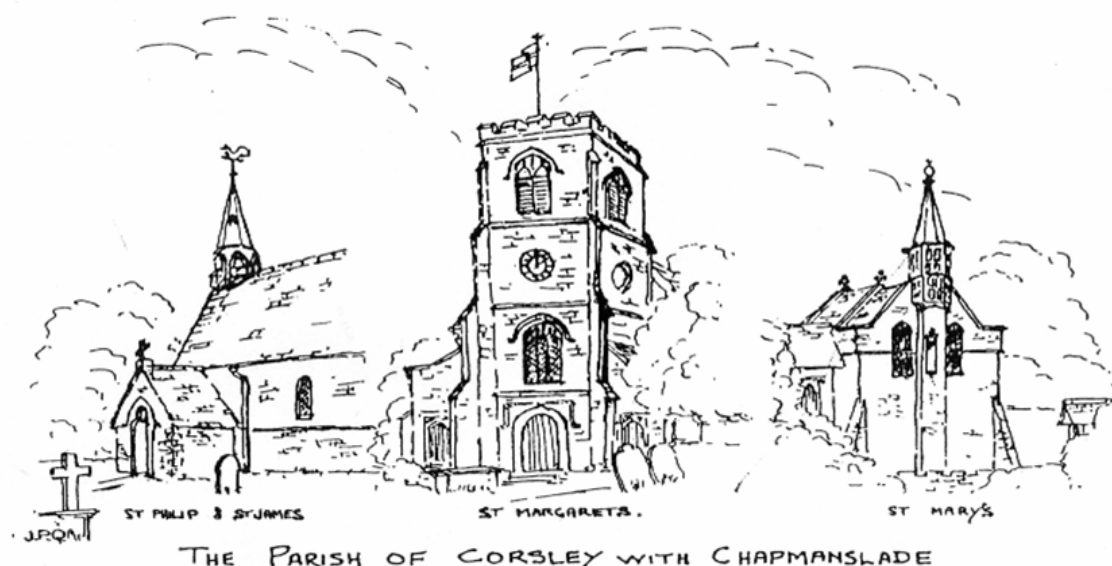


# **Corsley and Chapmanslade**

## **Parochial Church Council**



# **Annual Report**

**for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

**Accepted at the Parochial Church Council  
St Margaret of Antioch Church, Corsley  
March 16<sup>th</sup> 2016**

**Presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
St Margaret of Antioch Church, Corsley  
April 19<sup>th</sup> 2016**

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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 exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

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

<b>Priest in Charge</b>	licensed 1.10.14	Reverend Pauline Reid
<b>Assistant Priest</b>		Reverend Di Britten
<b>Wardens:</b>	St. Philip & St. James	Charles Thackway & John Helliard
	St. Margaret's	Charles Thackway & John Helliard
<b>Deputy Wardens:</b>	St. Mary's	Harcourt Gough
	St. Margaret's	Judith Helliard
	St. Philip & St. James	Janet Aylesbury
<b>Elected members:</b>		1 – Alan Hopkinson (2013)
		2 – Elisabeth Irving (2013)
		3 – Ian Buick (2015)
		4 – Janet Buick (2015)
<b>Co-opted member:</b>	Fundraising	Stella Bayman
<b>Deanery Synod Representatives:</b>		1 - Phil Jefferson (2013)
		2 - Clare Merritt (2013)
		3 – currently vacant
<b>Secretary:</b>		Phil Jefferson
<b>Minute Secretary:</b>		Sue Fear
<b>Treasurer:</b>		Keith Muston
<b>Planned Giving Officer:</b>		Judith Helliard

## **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 in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

## **Achievements and Performance**

### ***Church attendance***

There are 151 parishioners on the revised Church Electoral Roll at the end of March 2016. For the annual census in April/May 2015 we recorded our church membership as 85.

### ***Review of the year – Reverend Pauline Reid***

A big part of this report must be to say thank you to all of you: for being such a loving, committed and prayerful Christian community. We have so many wonderful people amongst us, people who quietly go about the business of maintaining our church buildings, setting up for services, giving their time to make sure funerals and weddings run smoothly, planning and leading worship, providing beautiful music, raising money, making sure the finances are in order, seeing to the administration, running Messy Church, offering prayer, making coffee, arranging flowers; the list goes on and it would take several pages to thank everyone properly.

The rhetoric around rural churches in the media at this present time is gloomy; little rural congregations are seen as desperate and failing, full of 'older' people who are hanging on for dear life to an institution that is dying on its feet. I want to counter this with another story, a story that celebrates faithfulness, commitment, extraordinary giftedness and love.

So let's celebrate the good things God has given us this last year.

We had a wonderful Lent course using paintings from the Methodist Art Collection to help us reflect on our faith. Messy Church continues to flourish with the help of a wonderful team led by Red Di Britten. With Di's support Lay folk are on occasion helping to lead collective worship in school, and our Open the Book team have been in on a number of times. Members of our congregation continue to work very hard at nurturing and growing our relationship with the school.

We are blessed with a very proactive and hard working fundraising committee and all our fundraising events have been very well supported and enjoyed. Obviously raising money is very important but the sense of support for the church and the feeling of community at these events is something very special.

This year we have had a number of very tragic funerals and lost dear friends. I am so grateful and proud of the way so many people offered help and support to Di and I on these occasions in organising the practical arrangements and in supporting us emotionally in what was a very challenging and draining time. This truly was a fine example of collaborative ministry.

A number of our folk undertook the deanery Lay Worship Leader's course and we are so pleased that Keith and Ian were commissioned in early 2016. The worship team do a brilliant job in leading the monthly Lay led worship.

There are so many faithful people here, last but not least, the PCC and church wardens who have worked tirelessly in enabling our church to flourish and grow in living out our calling to be the Body of Christ in this place. Particular thanks to Charlie for all his years of service; he will 'retire' as churchwarden in 2016, and to John Helliard for taking up the reins in such a superb manner, aided by Judith of course, and to Janet, who quietly goes about doing extraordinary work for us all, not forgetting Harcourt who even from afar on his travels keeps everyone at St Mary's fully informed.

In 2015 Di announced that she would be retiring at the end of July 2016. I know that Di's ministry here has brought so many blessing to individuals and to the wider benefice, particularly in her work with the school, and I am deeply appreciative of the support she has given me since I came here. There will be an opportunity for us to show our appreciation to Di, and to Neil for sharing her with us, at a later date. Suffice it to say she will be very much missed. She will return in 6 months time with PTO – permission to officiate, which will allow her much more time to spend with Neil and her family, and enable her to offer her wonderful ministry as and when she feels able.

So much to be thankful for; praise God for all his good gifts to us, may He lead us ever onward with joy and hope.

### ***Churchwardens report – St Philip & St James – Janet Aylesbury***

The main item to report is that we have gained planning permission for change of use to allow the extension to our churchyard for burials. The new area will allow for approximately forty graves and some ashes so should be adequate for about the next twenty years. We have very recently established that we have space for up to twenty more graves in the old churchyard. We will proceed with necessary work required to prepare the new churchyard for consecration and we anticipate the first burial could take place in 2017.

We are investigating the possibility of installing a water supply into the church which will be of great assistance in keeping the boiler water at the correct level.

### ***Churchwardens report – St Margaret's – John Helliard & Charles Thackway***

We are seeking costings for the remaining redecoration/cleaning of the walls at St Margaret's. The current estimates indicate a cost of c£6,000 and this sum can just be covered by the funds in the Fabric Fund.

The bells are in need of a major service and a repair to one of the bells. The estimates from Whitechapel Foundry is £12,000 for the minimum level of work. To date fundraising and generous donations has raised just over £6,000 (end of March 2016) and we are in the process of making applications to various grant-making organisations.

### ***Churchwardens report – St Mary's - Harcourt Gough***

During 2015 St Mary's drew a regular congregation with an average of 16 at Matins and 14 at Holy Communion. There were higher numbers on festival days such as Easter (with 40 attending), Sea Sunday, Harvest Matins, and Christmas Day. Our services follow the 1662 Prayer Book which is the preference of our congregation.

In addition to Pauline and Di we are fortunate to have the support of Tony Watts who sometimes takes our Holy Communion services and of Peter Likeman who kindly takes our Matins services and David O'Connor who continues to be our organist. The support of all our clergy is much appreciated. Fifteen of our congregation actively participate in reading lessons and carrying out sidesman duties.

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 few repairs are needed, although we will need to do some repairs to the tower in the coming year. We owe all of our volunteers a very big thank you as they contribute many hours to look after the lawns, hedges and grounds, keep the gutters cleared of leaves, 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.

### ***Lay Pastoral Team – Alan Hopkinson***

The purpose of the Pastoral Group is to establish who in the Parish is in need of a visit or help and to organise a team of visitors to meet the requirement. At present some thirty people are being visited. The Group has also organised a system whereby individuals in different parts of the Parish let us know when new people move into their area, so that a welcome visit can be made.

### ***Chapmanslade Church of England VA Primary School – Tessa Hibbert***

2015 was an exciting year for Chapmanslade School. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Frances Chapman as Headteacher. Mrs Chapman brings a wealth of experience and ideas to develop our school as well as preserve and protect our ethos of love, hope, and trust for each and every individual child.

Other positive headlines from last year included:

- ≡ The parent/ carer survey undertaken revealed that 95% parents feel that school ethos has a positive effect on pupils (*parent survey 2015*)
- ≡ An India Day and Brazil day provided invaluable opportunities for children to learn about other countries and about these communities within the UK
- ≡ The stunning World War One commemorative music project provided a focus for Redwood Class' enquiry into the experiences of those fighting and at home during the war, and an opportunity for parents and children to mark the anniversary together.
- ≡ Stepping out on the Journey Days were led by members of the local church community to offer exciting ways for children to learn about Jesus' teaching and what it means for us today.
- ≡ Significant development of the school grounds took place, with opportunities for the children to design and implement their own gardening ideas and spiritual reflection.

Foundation Governors play a crucial role in leading the distinctive Christian ethos of the school. I would like to thank all the Foundation Governors for the hard work they have put into the school over the last year. The school currently has a vacancy for a Foundation Governor: if you are interested in this role please do contact me on [chair@chapmanslade.wilt-sch.uk](mailto:chair@chapmanslade.wilt-sch.uk).

### ***Light Bites Lunches – Pat Ryan***

In 2015 we held our usual Soup Lunches at the Reading Rooms culminating in the very successful Christmas Lunch in December. We raised £879 in donations which resulted in us making donations totalling £1,200 (after addition of Gift Aid and topping up) to various local and international charities.

None of these activities would be possible without the marvellous team of helpers so thanks to Dot, Laura and John for making the soups, and to everyone who helps out at our very special Christmas lunch which is always a great occasion attended by around forty people.

## **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, school assembly and Messy Church are just two ways in which we are in touch with the young families within our parish.

We introduced Messy Church into the parish two years ago now, thanks to the hard work of a great team, it has now become well embedded into our church community.



### **Messy Church** (to quote the official Logo)

**Is** a way of being church for families involving fun

**Is** a church, not a craft club, that helps people encounter Jesus as Lord and Saviour

**Is** found across the world

**Values** are about being Christ-centred, for all ages

**Is** based on creativity, hospitality and celebration

In 2015 **Messy church** held a Pancake party on Shrove Tuesday - an Easter workshop on Good Friday – joined the school with 'A Stepping Out Day' on the theme of Pentecost - were invited to join the Chapmanslade Village BBQ - held a walk during the Autumn Half term and finishing 2015 with a **Messy Church** Advent and Christmas workshop.

On Candlemas Day in 2016 a **Messy Church** Christingle workshop and service took place in St Philip and St James. All ages of our church family came to make Christingles learn about Candlemas and worship together. **Messy Church** is for the whole family and offers a different and more informal way of worshiping and exploring our faith together. To find out more please visit our website and to see the programme for 2016. [www.cleyhillchurches.org](http://www.cleyhillchurches.org)

## **Bell-ringing Team – Marion Moldon**

We continue to ring for the services at St Margaret's. Our team is showing signs of increase in numbers which is a great relief. We will be seeking funds for the repairs to the bells and will hopefully plan to create a bell fund so that some money is put aside each year to enable essential maintenance to take place at regular intervals. The last recorded major service was in 1966!

## **Home Groups - Phil Jefferson and Richard Dean**

Time to Think, one of our two home groups, meets fortnightly, on Monday mornings. Normally seven or eight of us come together for a cup of coffee and a chat, some bible study and then prayers, where we ask God for help in the case of family members, parishioners and friends who are in need of support. We also thank God for things in our lives that have gone well.

Throughout most of the year we carried out an in-depth study of John's gospel, marvelling at the way John tells us in no uncertain terms that Jesus Christ is God. John's Gospel presents Jesus as the eternal Word of God, who "became a human being and lived among us". It was written so that we might believe that Jesus is the promised Saviour, the Son of God, and that through our faith in Him we might have life.

During Lent we paused so that we could join Pauline's Lent Course "Creative Spirit" where we enjoyed looking at and discussing a number of paintings from the Methodist Art Collection.

The other home group meets fortnightly in Corsley on Tuesday evening and follows a similar pattern to Time to Think.

Both groups are always pleased to welcome new members to the group so why not give us a try if you feel this might be a way to learn more about the bible and strengthen your faith? After Easter the Time to Think group we will be studying an Old Testament book – the Book of Esther.

Contact Phil 832845 or Richard 832594 for more details.

### ***Planned Giving - Judith Helliard and Keith Muston***

Always a challenge to ensure Planned Giving keeps pace with the demands of the Share. The Share calculation is that our recorded 85 members need to contribute £30,342 or £6.86 per week each. We currently have 48 persons paying doing Planned Giving via the bank and they are giving £6.50 per week. Some people give generously via the collection plate and of course we now benefit from all these monies attracting Gift Aid tax relief. We have a two pronged target:- Encourage more people to do regular Planned Giving and for everyone to perhaps raise the amount they give. Having said all this, we offer our thanks to everyone who does give on a regular basis whether by Planned Giving, one-off donations or via the collection plate.

### ***Fundraising - Phil Jefferson and Stella Bayman***

2015 was yet another successful fundraising year, with a number of events taking place which made a healthy profit but which, at the same time, were hugely enjoyed as community events. It is an important part of our mission that we should put the community at the heart of our church and it is through organising events such as this that we are able to do this.

The Auction of Promises, held in February, was a massive success. Chapmanslade Village Hall was filled to capacity and, under the expert guidance of Dennis Barnard, a large number of items were auctioned, raising over £4,600 for church funds. An excellent supper was provided and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone present.

At our May Fayre, held in the garden of Corsley Manor Farm at the kind invitation of Chris and Claire da Costa, we were blessed with a warm, sunny day. Members of the choir from Chapmanslade School entertained us as we enjoyed a cream tea and browsed the various stalls. We raised £1,200 which was well above our expectations. Many thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the event a success and to everyone who came along to support us.

Fine weather was certainly not the case for Corsley Show. However, our loyal band of volunteers were not deterred by the wind and the rain and we were delighted that our stall, with the theme of Upstairs Downstairs, together with the raffle, raised £1464.50. This was an incredible amount for a day of such dreadful weather.

Just before Christmas we held our Christmas Coffee Morning at Godswell Grove, in the depth of Black Dog woods, courtesy of Annie and Andrew Campbell. Many people ventured

along the long bumpy track to Godswell Grove and we had one of our most enjoyable and successful coffee mornings for many years. The total amount raised was £415.60.

The 50/50 Club continues to be a useful form of fundraising. We conduct the draw at each May Fayre and Christmas Coffee Morning with a top prize of £200 on each occasion. We now have 118 members in the club, which means that our annual income from the scheme is £1416.

Our fundraising team, under Stella's leadership works very hard to secure essential funds to help keep our finances healthy and robust. We owe a debt of gratitude to them and to everyone in the community who supports us by making or donating items for us to sell and to everyone who comes along to our events and is so generous in the support they give. We are always on the lookout for new fundraising ideas and volunteers to join the fundraising team. Suggestions or offers of help to Stella or Phil, please.

### ***Deanery Synod - Phil Jefferson***

Heytesbury Deanery comprises the benefices in the Warminster, Westbury and Mere areas and acts as the link between Salisbury Diocese and the benefices. We have provision for three of our congregation to serve on synod. Alan, Clare and Phil were elected in 2013 to serve on the Synod. Alan has subsequently resigned so we currently have one vacancy. Pauline is our Rural Dean, Robert Shuler is Lay Chairman and Keith and Phil serve as Deanery Treasurer and Deanery Secretary.

Bishop Nicholas, Bishop of Salisbury, has issued a challenge to congregations across the diocese to "Renew Hope" and to "Pray, Serve, Grow". He has asked that we let him know how we are responding to his challenge. In recent synods we have been exploring the Church, picking out the many positive aspects of a church that may not be growing in numbers but is certainly growing in depth. Bishop Nicholas wants to see the Church flourish and for there to be a thriving Christian presence in every parish. Synod is now exploring "Prayer" and next year will consider "Serve".

One way in which the modern Church is growing is through training lay church members to take on some of the responsibilities previously held exclusively by the clergy, as the number of ordained priests declines. This has been a slow evolution and for a number of years we have happily accepted the role that Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) now have. Here in our parish, for a few years, a number of us have been experimenting with services led by members of the congregation. And now, several of us from the parish attended a deanery-organised course at the end of last year which resulted in Keith and Ian being commissioned as Lay Worship Leaders (LWLs). A total of 15 people from across the deanery were commissioned by the Bishop of Ramsbury at a service in The Minster church so we can truly say that the church is in a strong position to cope with the demands of the future.

Bishop Nicholas will be visiting the deanery on 14<sup>th</sup> June and will speak at a meeting to be held that evening, to which everyone will be invited. So do watch out for details.

### ***Parish Link with South Sudan - Richard Dean***

The Parish continues to help with receiving sponsorship monies in respect twenty-eight children at four church primary schools and adding Gift Aid tax relief so that this sponsorship is increased to allow us to offer greater help in this war-torn country. In 2015 this help also included other parts of the Diocese in sending monies to South Sudan.

### ***Communications – Ian Buick and Keith Muston***

**Website:** The site had been suffering from little use, but with Messy Church activity and the Lent course, usage has improved. There is still a big job to do in order to make it more interesting and relevant.



**Seven Open Doors:** Revamped to show Benefice details and contacts.

**Through the Open Doors:** Very pleased to have feedback demonstrating that the newsletter is read on a regular basis. We currently distribute our newsletter to 120 households on e-mail each week.

### ***Financial Review - Keith Muston***

In 2015 we managed not only to pay the 2015 Share of £30,342 and also paid the shortfall of £2,000 from the 2014 Share. Our Share for 2016 is £29,553, a slight decrease for the same number of members.

As is now customary I have made re-allocations and provisions that relate to 2015. I have provided for an income of £2,500 from HMRC in respect of Gift Aid tax refund relating to 2015. This sum includes the amount for planned giving and the small donation scheme. The insurance for the Parish was £5,617.11 and I have reallocated 66% 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.

I am pleased to report that with very good control of costs we have a very small deficit of £99.20 on our total funds which is an excellent improvement on the deficit of £5,009.19 at the end of 2014. The results of the fundraising in 2015 has resulted in the General Fund returning to positive which is a great relief to all but provides us with a challenge for 2016.

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.

I am required to formally comment on our reserves policy. The fabric funds contain sufficient funds to meet the expected outlay during 2015 (although the St Margaret's Fund will be very reduced if we proceed with phase two of the redecoration), but our General Fund has a very low credit figure which is needed to balance the shortfalls in two other Funds. The guidance from the Diocese is we should have in the General Fund sufficient funds to cover at least the next three months running costs which requires a balance of at least £2,500 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 David Edmunds who again has examined the accounts for the Parochial Church Council.