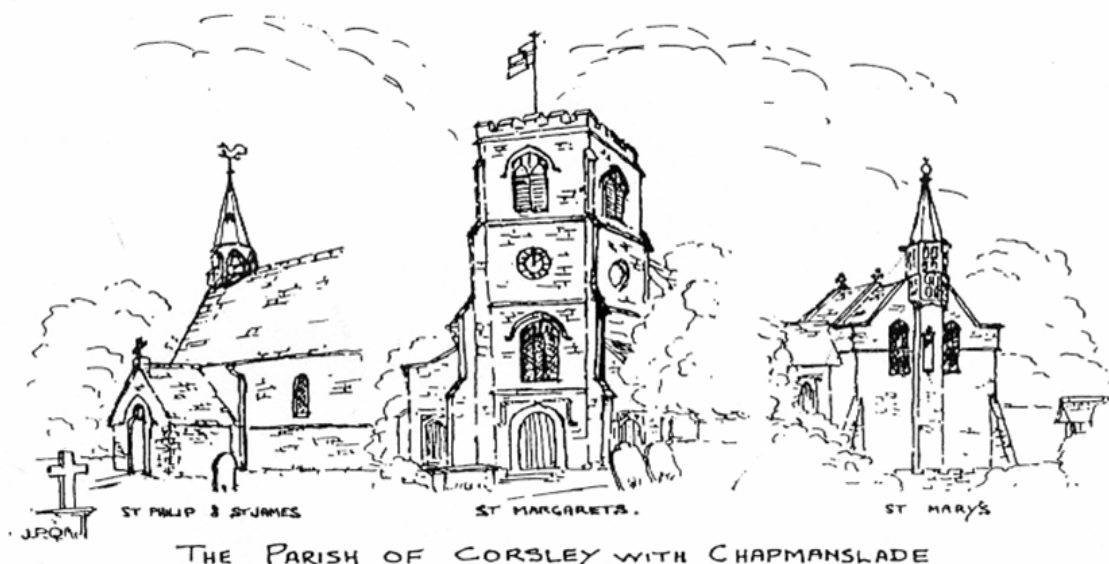


Corsley and Chapmanslade

Parochial Church Council



Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2014

**Accepted at the Parochial Church Council
Chapmanslade School
March 18th 2015**

**Presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Chapmanslade School
April 15th 2015**

Contents

Administrative Information.....	2
Church Attendance.....	3
Incumbent's Annual Report.....	3
Churchwardens report – St Philip & St James.....	4
Churchwardens report – St Margaret of Antioch.....	4
Churchwardens report – St Mary's.....	5
Chapmanslade Church of England VA Primary School.....	5
Light Bites Lunches.....	5
Young Families Report.....	6
Bell-ringing Team.....	7
Home Groups.....	7
Planned Giving.....	7
Fundraising.....	7
Deanery Synod.....	8
Parish Link with South Sudan.....	8
Communications.....	9
Financial Review.....	9

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:

Priest in Charge	licensed 1.10.14	Reverend Pauline Reid
Assistant Priest		Reverend Di Britten
Wardens:	St. Philip & St. James	Charles Thackway
	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 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 2015. For the annual census in April/May we recorded our membership as 85.

Review of the year – Reverend Pauline Reid

I was licensed as Priest in Charge of The Cley Hill Parishes on 1st October 2014. I would like to thank everyone for their unfailingly kind and generous welcome, and for the support and understanding I have received as I negotiate the demands of this new post.

Grateful thanks must first go to Revd Di Britten for her support and for her sharing of her local knowledge which has been invaluable in helping me start to get to know the local community. Thank you to churchwardens, deputy churchwardens treasurer, secretary and PCC for your patience in bringing me up to speed with what has been happening in the church and in the wider community.

I feel very privileged to part of the committed team here and I am so grateful for the wonderful work our Lay Pastoral Assistants do, work that is often done quietly and unobtrusively and is so important in our reaching out to, and caring for, our local community. The monthly community coffee morning is a wonderful occasion that provides an opportunity for people to meet to chat and share news; a real example of the church serving the wider community. Pat Ryan and her team provide an amazing service to the community in the form of the monthly soup lunch which is not only a great occasion to meet people; the soup and bread is delicious too! Great work. The visiting that is undertaken is so valuable as we seek to work out together how we can best look after our more elderly and vulnerable folk. We are also very privileged to have a lively and deeply committed link with our brothers and sisters in Sudan through Richard and Rosalyn and the many others who work so hard to raise funds.

Again, I must express my thanks to Di for her sterling work with Chapmanslade School, both as a governor, which is no easy task, a leader of collective worship, and general encourager and listener to staff and parents. Di has also pulled together a wonderful team of people to work with her in putting on Messy Church events which have been very successful and much enjoyed; thank you so much to all of you involved in this, and those involved in the Open the Book group, which is so enjoyed by the children.

I am thrilled that we have a lay team of worship leaders who take morning prayer once a month; it is really important, I think, that we continue to communicate to everyone that this service is an expression of our commitment to share ministry here as a team of lay and ordained people working together. I hope that in 2015 we will be able to offer our worship leaders further training and support.

Thank you to Marion for choosing the hymns and organising our choir; hopefully we might see some more people joining in in the future.

As I write this report I am aware that there are so many people to thank as there are so many people doing things! We are lucky to have a team of people willing to offer prayer support after the monthly Eucharist; this is a very valuable resource. We have intercessors, readers, flower arrangers, cleaners, coffee and tea makers, welcomers and jam makers, fund raisers, servers and a dedicated and talented organist; thank you to you all. I am also very grateful to our team of bell ringers; it is so nice to hear the bells before the service.

We have a wonderful team; a strong committed team, I hope that together we can embrace a vision that continues to look outward and keep asking the question; how can we put the community at the heart of our church? How can we better serve our neighbour and thus God? How can we speak a language that others outside our church community understand? How can we deepen our faith and our relationship with God? How can we learn to draw closer together as a benefice so that we can share strengths and skills? How can we better communicate what we are about and what we are doing to those around us?

We are beginning to address some of these questions; we are well on the way to setting up our benefice office and administrator and we are most grateful to Marion Muston for taking this on. Ian Buick is doing great things in developing our benefice website. We are in the very early stages of developing our idea of a children's library in St Margaret's.

I am very excited about what God is doing amongst us and I hope you are too. I feel very humbled and proud when I see the commitment and faith in those around me, I hope you will join me in joyful commitment to pray, to grow, to laugh, to share and to encourage one another over the coming year as we continue this amazing journey that God has called us to.

Churchwardens report - St Philip & St James – Janet Aylesbury

The main item to report is that we continue to progress the development of the new burial ground and we are hoping that we can have this new graveyard consecrated in 2016. As well as obtaining planning permissions we will also have much work to do to plant new shrubs and trees in the boundary and to erect a bridge across the ha-ha. The heating system does keep the church warm and dry but does use rather more heating oil than we would have wished.

Churchwardens report - St Margaret's – Charles Thackway

St Margaret's has continued to enjoy a regular congregation of between 20 and 40 for Sunday worship and it was wonderful to see the church nearly full for special services such as Remembrance Sunday, the Carol Service and Harvest Festival. The highlight of the year was Pauline's licensing service last October when a packed congregation, visiting clergy, the Archdeacon and Bishop of Salisbury licensed Pauline as our new vicar in charge. The church was redecorated during the summer in time for Pauline's licensing service, which was funded largely by the Fabric Fund, plus a grant of £1,000 received from the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

My thanks go to Reverends Di Britten, Margaret White and Liz Smith and the Worship Group for continuing to hold the service schedule particularly during the interregnum, where we enjoyed a healthy variety of services. Musically St Margaret's continues to be privileged to enjoy the superb talents of Geoff Titt the church organist and the choir led by Marion Muston. The Festival Choir has continued to use St Margaret's to deliver its superb performances twice a year, and last year's performance of Handel's Messiah was a real treat. Our thanks go to Dick Collins and his dedicated team of bell ringers for ringing at Sunday Services and special occasions and for ringing in the New Year. We also made the most of St Margaret's fine acoustics by holding a charity musical evening.

Lastly my thanks to all those who have helped to maintain and clean St Margaret's, welcomed and provided refreshments at each service and have arranged the lovely flowers. It is great to have been part of such a dedicated team that makes St Margaret's work so well.

Churchwardens report - St Mary's – Harcourt Gough

During 2014 St Mary's drew a regular congregation of between 10 and 24 people throughout the year, with higher numbers on festival days such as Easter, Sea Sunday and Harvest Matins, and 37 on Christmas Day. In addition to the regular services we had one baptism with a congregation of 88. 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 Peter Likeman who kindly takes our Matins services. The support of all our clergy is much appreciated. 15 of our congregation actively participate in reading lessons and 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. Our noticeboard recently disintegrated and David Carruthers has rebuilt it in oak. 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 lawns and grounds, Jane Parsons and her team keep the flowers fresh, with Anne and David Carruthers and their team keeping the interior immaculate, brass burnished and linen laundered. 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 – Tessa Hibbert

The school has gone from strength to strength this year. In July national assessments in Reading, Writing and Maths, our KS2 leavers' results were above – or significantly above – the national average in these subjects. Results at the end of KS1 were also above national average. We are very proud of the children's success. At the Matravers' 'Sports Personality of the Year' Awards Evening, Chapmanslade was presented with the 'Primary-Secondary Link School Sports Award'. Our commitment to providing outstanding sporting opportunities for our children included stimulating and exciting visits with expert outside coaches from Matravers School, African and Brazilian Dancers and Arsenal football team; a wealth of sporting clubs and fixtures; and inter-house sports tournaments. The summer's fantastic sports day event showcased the amazing range of talents the children hold.

Also this year, significant development of the school grounds has taken place, with opportunities for the children to design and implement their own gardening ideas and spiritual reflection. Children developed their confidence by taking part in amazing performances on stage: from the school nativity, to the Tudor Rose, to the 60's extravaganza put on by Redwood children, as well as 'Chapmanslade's Got Talent'. We also held lots of exciting trips including visits to 'The Matthew', the Dorset coast, and Osmington Bay residential centre.

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.

We continue to serve on average about 20-25 people. Our third Christmas Lunch, saw a wonderful gathering of about 35. We all enjoyed the quiz set for us by Bob Maynard, many

thanks Bob, and we had our usual Christmas helpers coming along to give us a bit of extra help, again, many thanks to all who come and support this at such a busy time of the year.

From January 2014 to December 2014, contributions of just over £12,000 have been donated and these are some of the charities that have benefited ; Samaritans Purse, Warminster Food Bank, The Children's Society, Warminster Street Pastors, South Sudan Fund, Farm Crisis Network and Toys for Smiles.

We will be having a break during the summer months of June, 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 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 an Act of 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 2014 saw the launch of 'Messy Church'. The aim of Messy Church is to create the opportunity for parents, carers and children to enjoy expressing their creativity, sit down together to share a meal, experience worship and have fun within a church context. During this past year we have held five sessions, which have included, a Messy Pancake Party, Messy Easter workshop, Messy Midsummer Madness Morning, an Autumn Walk, and an Messy Advent Workshop. Each of these events have been well received and well attended by many of our primary school children and their mums and dads.

The weekly collective worship in our school and story telling in our two pre-schools also gives us a vital link with the younger people our community. In 2014 we introduced, 'Open the Book', a way of sharing the gospel message through drama and story telling, which we currently take into the school about once a term. At the end of the summer term the Open the Book team was involved in a day of storytelling and workshop at Chapmanslade School. The subject was Noah's Ark and it ended with a grand performance of the story acted out by the storytellers and the children. It was great fun and we all learnt something new about Noah's story.

On 28th September 2014 following a Baptismal Renewal Service, over 20 intrepid teddy bears, watch by their brave owners, abseiled from the dizzy height of St Margaret's church tower in Corsley. I am pleased to report that every bear landed safely and was return 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.

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 continues to provide bells for services at St Margaret's. We are indebted to ringers from the Minster who join us at St Margaret's whenever they can, but if service times clash our small team has to ring a smaller number of bells. If you want to join the team, be you experienced or a novice, please contact me. You will be very welcome. We practice on a Friday evening.

Home Groups – Phil Jefferson and Richard Dean

Our two home groups. Post-Alpha and Time to Think, continued to meet throughout 2014. The post Alpha group meets fortnightly, on Tuesday evenings and Time to Think also meets fortnightly, on Monday mornings. We meet at the home of one of our members and after coffee and a chat we spend an hour or so reading and discussing a short section of the Bible. Last year Post Alpha enjoyed studying those giants of the Old Testament, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and their families before moving on to a study of Mark's gospel. Time to Think concentrated on the New Testament, studying the Acts of the Apostles and then John's Gospel. Our sessions end with a few minutes spent in prayer, after we have contributed the names and concerns we wish to share. We always have room in our groups for new members. Over the years we have forged strong and lasting friendships in our groups, so if you are looking for companionship in a stimulating yet relaxing environment do come and join us.

Planned Giving – Judith Helliard and Keith Muston

Our planned giving has a small increase on last year. The changeover from the TSB bank to the CAF bank did result in some people increasing their giving. We do of course also have some contributions cease when people move or sadly pass away. Planned giving on a regular basis is important not only to provide essential income, but does give us information about the regular income that we can reasonably rely on. If you wish to support us financially, or review the amount you currently give, please contact either Judith or Keith.

Fundraising – Phil Jefferson and Stella Bayman

The Fundraising Committee has worked hard throughout the year to raise funds to help keep our finances in good order. Just as important, however, is our responsibility to make sure the community remains right at the heart of all we do as a church. *Fun* is an important part of fundraising, too, and we always aim to organise events which the community enjoys coming along to.

Our events in 2014 included the May Fayre, which for the second year was held at Chapmanslade Village Hall, our stall and raffle at Corsley Show and the Christmas Coffee Morning. The first two of these were the usual success but the Christmas Coffee Morning, held at St Margaret's was not very well attended.

The fundraising highlight of the year, however, was the Evening of Light Music, which we held in October. Brian Martin, a talented organist, and his friend Dennis Gardner who played the saxophone, delighted a large audience with their choice of music as they enjoyed a glass or two of wine. A local star was born, too, in the form of Bertie Thackway, who with a young friend entertained us with their selection of popular songs. The highlight of this was Bertie's dramatic rendition of "The Phantom of the Night", from The Phantom of the Opera. A night we will remember for a long time!

The 50/50 Club continues to provide a useful source of income and the committee continues to look for new ideas on how we can raise essential funds. We thank everyone who has supported us in 2014, in whatever way, but we would welcome your input into new fundraising ideas or offers to join our committee.

Deanery Synod – Phil Jefferson

Heytesbury Deanery includes our benefice and seven more in south and west Wiltshire. Deanery Synod's role is to act as the link between the parishes and the diocese. It also serves as an opportunity for parishes to get to know each other and to share good practice as well as concerns. Synod meets three times a year. Our parish has three representatives on it, who serve for a period of three years, but we are very well represented as Pauline is our new Rural Dean, Keith is Deanery Treasurer and Phil is Deanery Secretary. The Lay Chairman is Robert Shuler, from Kingston Deverill.

An important task for synod every three years is to elect representatives to the Diocesan Synod: Diocesan Synod has the responsibility to elect representatives to General Synod at national level so there is a direct link between our parish and the highest level of the Church of England.

The past 12 months have been a time of great change in the deanery, with a number of vacant benefices, ours being one of them until Pauline's appointment in October. Also, as a consequence of elections in the parishes at their annual meetings, many new members joined synod in the spring.

Our meetings in 2014 aimed to introduce new members to the work of synod and to prepare everyone for the years ahead when there will be fewer clergy available to work in our parishes. In Salisbury Diocese there are strong links with the Diocese of Evreux in France, where new working relationships between the clergy and the laity have had to be formed because of a fall in the number of priests. We have benefited from learning about how they have coped and have every confidence that we will survive in the years ahead.

Parish Link with South Sudan – Richard Dean

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the welfare of the school. Your concern is so diverse and so appreciated. The school benefits from marmalade, chutney, bags and books, letters and prayers and direct financial aid and the knowledge that people in England care about what is happening in South Sudan.

The past year has been calmer in Juba and JDMSS has had a good academic year despite the school certificate examination being taken late and marked much later. The results were excellent with 100% pass marks. The Government decided to increase secondary education from a three to four year course!. To accommodate 200 extra pupils a new four-classroom block has been built, more staff employed and more desks purchased. This latter by the PTA which is very encouraging. It is also very encouraging to see the well attended after school Christian Union and to share in the vibrant worship at morning assembly.

Sponsorship of students is vitally important and we are deeply grateful to those in this parish who support a student by gifts, letters and prayers. For South Sudan to become a stable, viable nation this generation needs to be well educated, well disciplined and envisioned. Our prayer is that this will be at least partly accomplished during their years at JDMSS.

Richard Paul organises the sponsorship of 26 junior school children handling the finance and letters and gifts. Richard Dean always holds a party for these children when he visits Juba. Pass the Parcel is a favourite game. We trust that some of these children will pass the entrance examination for JDMSS when they reach secondary school age.

Communications – Ian Buick and Keith Muston

Website: We are very pleased that Ian Buick has agreed to be the webmaster for our new website. The site is attracting many people and has been well received.

Three Open Doors: Revamped to show Benefice details and contacts.

Through the Open Doors: This weekly newsletter has also been revamped to include information relating to both Parishes. Currently this newsletter is circulated to 110 email addresses each week.

Financial Review – Keith Muston

In 2014 we paid the £12,000 shortfall from 2012 and paid £28,013 of the 2014 Share leaving a shortfall of £2,000. This outstanding amount of £2,000 was paid in January 2015. 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 2014. I have provided for an income of £1,825.33 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. The claim for the tax year 2013/4 was 671.55 and I shall be making a claim in early April in respect of the 2014/5 tax year and anticipate a refund from this new scheme of £1,000.

The insurance for the Parish was £5,553.11 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. In accordance with the guidance from the Diocese the interest on our deposit funds, £398.87, 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 £10,000 in interest received over the last five years. This is more than the current deficit in our General fund!! I do not foresee any significant rise in interest rates!!

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 2014 the total of restricted funds was £33,240.14 and the funds in the CCLA deposit funds and war stock totalled £28,230.95 which leaves a funding gap of £5,009.19 which we will aim to reduce in 2015.

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 £6,871.47 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 2015, but 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.