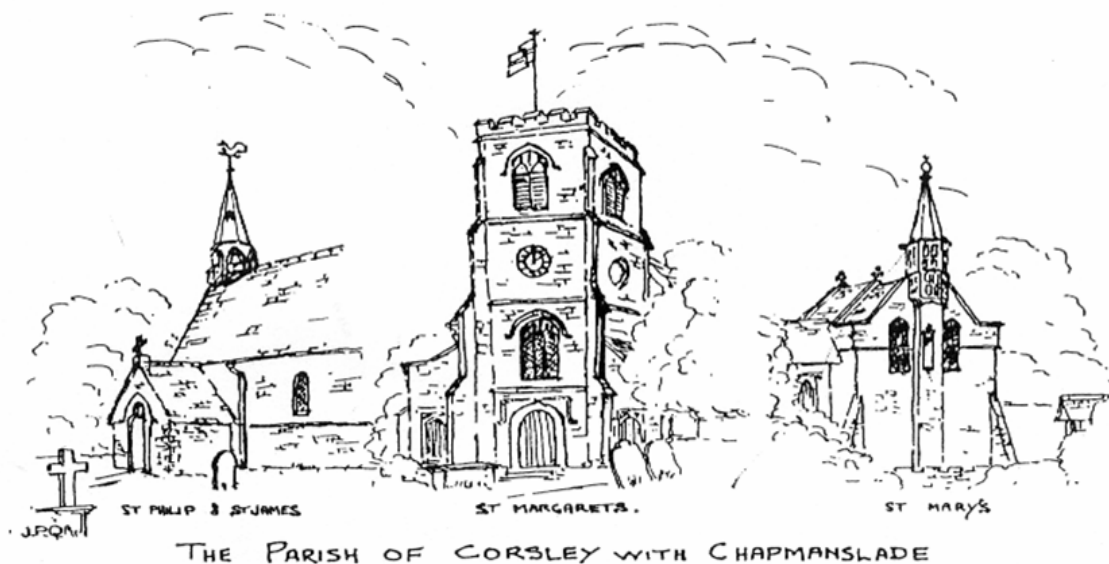


Corsley and Chapmanslade

Parochial Church Council



Annual Report

for the year ended 31st December 2016

**Accepted at the Parochial Church Council
St Margaret of Antioch Church, Corsley
March 22nd 2017**

**Presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting
St Margaret of Antioch Church, Corsley
April 27th 2017**

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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 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		Reverend Pauline Reid
Wardens:	St. Philip & St. James	Ian Buick (elected January 2017)
	St. Margaret's	John Helliar
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)
		3 – Ian Buick (2015)
		4 – Janet Buick (2015)
Co-opted member:	Fundraising	Stella Bayman
Deanery Synod Representatives:		1 - Phil Jefferson (2014)
		2 - Clare Merritt (2014)
		3 – currently vacant
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 & 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 152 parishioners on the revised Church Electoral Roll at the end of March 2017. For the annual Share census in April/May 2016 we recorded our church membership as 85.

Review of the year – Reverend Pauline Reid

It doesn't seem long since I was writing the report for the 2016 APCM. I am privileged to serve these parishes as Priest in Charge but feel that leadership is very much a joint enterprise with a team of hugely talented and hardworking people.

We are very blessed in our Licenced Lay Ministers in the shape of Richard Dean as Licensed Lay Minister, Claire Tanner and Barbara Hughes as Lay Pastoral Assistant's and Keith Muston and Ian Buick as Lay Worship Leaders. Richard, Claire and Barbara visit our vulnerable elderly folk regularly, and Ian and Keith along with sidekicks Trudy, Phil, Marion and Pat are to be applauded for their wonderful work with the monthly Morning Family Worship. Similarly, their dedication, along with Janet Buick and team in putting on the Messy Church events is something we are so grateful for. Here I must also thank Revd Marian Curtis for her sterling work in developing and leading our Messy Eucharist, which I think we have all enjoyed. We are most grateful for Alan Hopkinson's work in organising the pastoral visiting team and making sure that those in need are cared for.

It has been a delight to witness the growing confidence of our Lay Worship Leaders's and the involvement of a team of people to go into school to lead Collective Worship. With regard to the school we are profoundly grateful to Keith, Phil and particularly Ian for your hard and sometimes frustrating work trying to resolve the land issues.

Our two churchwardens Ian Buick and John Helliar, work tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the church and it's really good to welcome Janet Aylesbury our dedicated deputy churchwarden back onto the team and likewise to acknowledge the work our other deputy Churchwardens Harcourt Gough and Judith Helliar. Keith Muston is our treasurer extraordinaire to whom we owe grateful and heartfelt thanks for his superb management of our finances. I am immensely grateful to Janet Buick for organising the rota for intercessors, readers and chalice assistants and for the arrangements for refreshments. Where would we be without our superb secretary Phil Jefferson who keeps us all organised, and Marion, our benefice administrator. Marion is an administrator par excellence in that she just gets on with all that needs doing regarding wedding admin, fees and organising things. I think I am right in saying that until she started she had no idea how much admin there actually was! I am very grateful indeed for all the work she does and her work with the choir. And at this point I need to thank Geoff Titt for his commitment as organist. When a funeral or wedding comes in I know I only have to ask Geoff and he will be there, which is great blessing to all involved.

Thank you all of you who serve on the Parochial Church Council, sometimes I know it seems a bit hard going but you are all contributing so much to the life of our church as do our coffee makers and servers, cleaners and flower arrangers. I must single out Eileen Shimwell here for her dedicated and tireless service, thank you Eileen.

When I drive over to St Margaret's it is a great joy to hear the bells as I make my way in, what a marvellous welcome, thank you Maz to you and your team for making this possible.

I've probably forgotten someone somewhere so I apologise now if I have missed anyone out. We are blessed in enjoying the services of several retired clergy from time to time. Tony Watts paid you all a great compliment, he told me how much he enjoyed coming to St Margaret's for the 9.30am Eucharist every other month and what a friendly lot you are. Showing hospitality and welcome is a real sign of God's love so it's really important that we do this well.

The rural church gets a lot of bad press these days and I want us to feel proud of the work God has called us to do, to tell a different story of love, care and commitment. May we never forget we do it all for his glory.

Churchwardens report – St Philip & St James – Ian Buick

We continue to progress the work necessary to have our new churchyard extension consecrated. We are required to have a hydrological survey undertaken to give assurance to the Environment Agency that the burial of bodies will not pose a hazard to local water courses. This work will be carried out in the school summer holidays and we will have the whole site surveyed so that this requirement is met for the future.

We are in the process of discussing with the School the subject of the leases relating to the Church land currently used by school as a playing field and Busy Bees. We are hopeful that we can proceed with new leases in the near future which will provide all parties with security for the future.

In early 2016 Janet Aylesbury had an accident which resulted in her being unable to carry out her normal activities at church. We very quickly realised how much Janet did and not only are we so pleased to see her back in church but a huge thanks for all she does! Our thanks to everyone who rallied round to keep things going.

Churchwardens report – St Margaret's – John Helliard

It was a relatively quiet year, more work was done in both churchyards. In the old one the guards around two tombs have been removed, the fence along both sides of the pathway were removed then trimmed by Oliver Hares which made it much more attractive to anybody visiting our church. We will continue to keep it trimmed at regular times.

In the new churchyard the bushes and brambles inside the gate and along the wall by the road have been removed exposing three old graves. More work needs to be done next winter to the hedges.

The Fund for repairing and overhauling the church bells has reached £7000 so with some grants we are almost there.

When the organ was tuned in December it was advised that we should take a closer examination to obtain its condition. It was last overhauled 40 years ago. The quote we have just received is £8000, so it will have to be discussed at the next PCC.

A big thank you must go to Eileen Shimwell for many years faithful service cleaning our church every week for (she thinks about 8 years), happy retirement Eileen. We are very lucky a team of volunteers has come forward to clean on a fortnightly basis, thank you one and all.

Churchwardens report – St Mary's - Harcourt Gough

During 2016 St Mary's drew a regular, although smaller, congregation to both Matins and Holy Communion. There were higher numbers on festival days such as Easter (with 25 attending), Sea Sunday, Harvest Matins, and Christmas Day (with 23 attending). Our services follow the 1662 Prayer Book which is the preference of our congregation.

In addition to Pauline 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 participated 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. 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 much 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 team meets every three months to review the pastoral needs of the Parish and to co-ordinate pastoral visits, including the welcoming of new residents. Some forty people have been visited this year. Of these some thirty have been on a regular mainly monthly basis, with some weekly and a few less frequently.

Chapmanslade Church of England VA Primary School – Tessa Hibbert

During 2016 Chapmanslade School continued to thrive as a caring, vibrant village school community with Mrs Chapman and her team at the helm. Academic results are, of course, extremely important and I am proud to say that in the summer 2016 exams, 67% of Key Stage 2 pupils met the expected standard in reading writing and maths, compared to a national figure of 53%. But results don't make up the whole picture and this year we continued to offer a rich and varied curriculum to all pupils.

Our school is small enough to allow an exceptional level of pastoral care, yet big enough to be vibrant and energetic. We provided many opportunities for children to develop their sporting skills and enjoyment over the year - all pupils enjoyed two hours of PE a week; KS2 took part in specialist rugby, hockey and football coaching from Warminster, Matravers and Kingdown Schools; all children in Redwood had the opportunity to take part in a number of football tournaments; and all KS2 pupils were involved in at least one external cross country race. For the majority, this was their first experience of competitive athletics, and the theme continued across the year. The summer's fantastic Sports Day showcased the amazing range of talents the children had developed. In addition, lots of exciting trips and learning outside school offered rich opportunities for learning, including Year 6 girls' participation in the now annual Girls in Science Day at Bruton School and trips to the SS Great Britain and the East Asian Art Museum.

All pupils have had the opportunity to join the choir and many took instrumental lessons with our peripatetic teachers in piano, voice, brass and strings. There were many opportunities for public speaking and performance in assemblies, church services and other formal occasions throughout the year. Particular highlights were Redwood's impressive routine in the West Wiltshire Dance Festival in February in front of hundreds of people in Bath; and the wonderful production of Joseph put on by KS2 in the summer.

A highlight of the year was the visit by the Bishop to bless the memorial to James Dredge outside the school gates: many thanks to those in the Parish who worked on this exciting project.

The school's success was externally recognised in November with a visit by Ofsted, who found the school to be 'good'. Congratulations to all the school staff and governors who worked so hard to achieve this.

Young Families Report – Ian Buick

In January 2016, the Messy Church Team held the first activity, which integrated Messy Church into an all age service, with Christingle at Candlemas. This brought young families into the church, and together with our broader congregation, we were able to join together in worship in a really inclusive way. Through the year, partly due to the unavailability of the School premises, we have developed this concept with other similar combined activities and services, using the Church in a much more flexible way. We have an ambition to develop this further using the second Sunday service in Chapmanslade. We have also been using the Tuesday School assembly and social media as a way of reaching out to families, but it is true to say, we have more detailed forward planning to do, and more work to encourage an increased attendance at times which do not clash with other family activities.

Lite Bites Lunches – Maureen Willcox

We have held the usual Soup Lunches through the year with a break in the summer months. We have raised a grand total of £1700 for good causes from donations with the Gift Aid and a top-up added to the donations. The attendance at the Christmas Lunch was excellent and much enjoyed by all. Please do come along and support us. It is a pleasant hour enjoying many different and delicious soups in good company and raises a lot of money for good causes.

Bell-ringing Team – Marion Moldon

This year we have five new potential bellringers all of whom are making great strides in learning our art. Very soon I hope to have a band of nine ringers on whom I can call to ring for services and occasions such as weddings and funerals. Due to the generosity of the community and the PCC our fund for the repairs to the bells has reached in excess of £7 000 and I am now in the position of being able to apply for grants to augment this to the £11 000 needed to refurbish the bells. I am hopeful of getting the work carried out towards the end of 2017.

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 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.

Last year we spent a considerable number of weeks studying the Old Testament book, the Book of Esther. The events in the book take place in the winter residence of the Persian emperor and centre around a Jewish heroine who by her great courage and devotion to her people saved them from being exterminated by their enemies. We found true inspiration from considering Esther's determination and saw many parallels in the plight of Jewish people in Nazi Germany.

As a complete contrast we are currently studying those parts of Luke's Gospel which do not appear in the other Gospels. We are finding this quite fascinating as we dig as deep as we can into Luke's interpretation of the Good News.

During Lent we paused so that we could join Pauline's Lent Course. The other home group, the Post Alpha Group, meets fortnightly in Corsley on Tuesday evenings 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? 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 for 2017 is that our recorded 85 members need to contribute £30,451 or £6.89 per week each. We currently have 48 persons supporting us with Planned Giving via the bank and they are giving on average £6.83 per week. You will see from this snap-shot that those who give are "on-target" but if we are to be able to provide for the running costs we really need all 85 members to be contributing £6.89 each week. We need more people to give on a regular basis. We also have some generous people who make irregular contributions to our funds. Some people also give generously via the collection plate and of course we now benefit from all these monies attracting Gift Aid tax relief. In May this year the Diocese will be introducing a new Parish Giving Scheme and this will present the opportunity to encourage those persons not already giving regularly to agree to do so by direct debit, and to ask those who already support us to review their future support.

Fundraising - Phil Jefferson and Stella Bayman

2016 was yet another busy and successful fundraising year. A number of the events that we put on were successful financially and, as ever, they were very much enjoyed as community events. It is an important part of the church's 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.

Our first event of the year turned out to be one of the highlights of the year: "A Little Light Music for a Spring Evening". This was an opportunity for church members to show off their musical talents. We owe a huge debt to Geoff Titt for organising the evening and for the programme of organ pieces and songs that entertained all of us, culminating in our own version of the Last Night of the Proms. Geoff showed us just how versatile St Margaret's organ is as he took us through a selection of melodies "from the shows". The church choir, Robert Thackway (singing), Helen Buick (oboe) and Laura Oakham (harp) performed beautifully and Andrew Campbell and Pauline Reid rounded off the evening with poems and dramatic readings. There was a very good attendance and everyone present enjoyed a pleasant and relaxing evening. We must do it again, soon!

At our May Fayre, held once again at Corsley Manor Farm at the kind invitation of Chris and Claire da Costa, the weather was less kind than it had been on previous occasions and so we moved the stalls to the church, with cream teas being served in the barn. Undeterred by the weather plenty of people turned up for an enjoyable afternoon.

In July we enjoyed Cream Teas and Pimms at Job's Mill Garden, Crockerton, by kind permission of Lady Silvy McQuiston. Again, this was a thoroughly enjoyable occasion which raised valuable funds for the church and we all agreed it was good to be able to add a new event to our range of fundraising activities.

The weather was kinder for us at Corsley Show than it has been in recent years. This is an important occasion for us as our stall and raffle are patronised not just by Corsley and Chapmanslade residents but also by people from outside the parish. Although much hard work is involved in organising our stall we all agreed that the effort had been worthwhile.

In 2016 we repeated the £10 challenge that we had tried a few years ago. Although the take-up of people accepting the invitation to make the £10 we had given them to grow by organising their own events was less than it had been previously we agreed that it had been a successful venture. Those who participated enjoyed the activities they had organised and a decent amount was raised.

To round off our fundraising events for the year, we returned to Godswell Grove, in the depth of Black Dog woods, courtesy of Annie and Andrew Campbell, for our Christmas Coffee Morning. The attendance this year was disappointing but everyone who turned up enjoyed the occasion.

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, but there is always room for plenty more!

The total we raised through fundraising in 2016 was £5575. Details of the amount raised at each event are set out in the financial report. 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. It meets three times a year. We have provision for three of our congregation to serve on synod. Clare and Phil are our current representatives. We will need to appoint new representatives at the APCM to serve for the next three years. 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. Throughout 2016 we looked at the role of prayer in our Christian lives. We had some excellent speakers to inspire us. Brother Sam, from the Hilfield Community in Dorset gave our first talk and this was followed later in the year by presentations from Bishop Nicholas, Bishop Ed and Alan Jeans, our Archdeacon, whose subjects were "Prayer Through Art", "Prayer Through Poetry" and "Prayer Through Icons" respectively.

Synod members enjoyed these sessions and certainly saw signs of renewing hope in our own churches and in our Christian lives. In 2017 we are continuing to delve into Bishop Nicholas' challenge by investigating what we mean by "Service". Our synods are open to anyone who wishes to attend. The next one is on 17th May and will be held in the primary school in Bourton, just over the border in Dorset.

Parish Link with South Sudan - Richard Dean

Since December 2013 South Sudan has been beset with inter-tribal conflict with a quarter of the population of 12 million being forced to flee their homes in order to save their lives. Crops have consequently been neglected and the UN has now announced a state of famine in the land, with children suffering starvation. The parish has responded generously to this humanitarian need through 'Christian Aid.'

The need for education in South Sudan remains vital and our parish has continued to provide help. This is focussed on Juba, the capital, where the situation has remained relatively calm, (though all the schools were closed for a week in July, amidst widespread fear, when fighting erupted, and 150 people in the town were killed.)

2016 marked the 10th anniversary of Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School, (JDMSS). Over this period, a 'Support Group', under the chairmanship of Richard Dean, has helped to establish the school, raising the necessary funds from Trusts, Churches and individuals. In June Richard handed over to Charlie Thackway, with technical oversight of the buildings to Ian Curtis, both members of our parish. There are now 750 pupils at the school. Standards are very high. In the School Certificate results this year JDMSS was the second best secondary school in the whole of South Sudan. Furthermore, the top ten girls nationally all came from JDMSS! Some of the 100 bursaries, provided for students who otherwise could not afford the fees, are generously donated by people in Corsley and Chapmanslade.

There is also a scheme to help primary school children in Juba; this is being led by Richard Paul of Corsley. Thanks to sponsors here, 30 children are receiving bursaries. Links have also been forged between five Juba schools and five primary schools in Salisbury Diocese, one of these being Chapmanslade School.

Communications – Ian Buick and Keith Muston

Website: During the year the website has been extensively revamped. We do show details of Messy Church activity, family friendly activities, as well as service details and details of locations.

Seven Open Doors (monthly in the Bridge): Now shows Benefice details and contacts.

Through the Open Doors (monthly by e-mail): We continue to have useful feedback demonstrating that the newsletter is read on a regular basis. We currently distribute our newsletter to 124 households on e-mail each week.

Financial Review - Keith Muston

In 2016 I am pleased to report that we paid our 2016 Share of £29,553 in full. The Share for 2017 is £30,451 and I would predict that we shall pay in full but in regular instalments as our cash-flow permits.

As is now customary I have made re-allocations and provisions that relate to 2016. The accrued figure for Gift Aid for the final quarter of 2016 is an actual calculation of the amount due, not an estimate. The insurance for the Parish was £5,408.70, slightly less than 2015, 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. Where the Chapmanslade Churchyard Fund and the Flower Fund both had negative balances I have reallocated monies from the General Fund to zero these balances.

We continue to exercise careful control of our costs and the General fund shows a small surplus, with the accumulated balance of this fund at the end of 2016 now standing at £1,859.11. This has been achieved in part by allocating some costs to Restricted Funds when we should be allocating them to General Fund as they are running expenses, an example being grass-cutting and building insurance. In the future I would like us to move towards more of the running costs being borne by the General Fund but to some extent we are constrained by donations that are made specifically to a Restricted Fund. To some extent this may be due to the complexity of church funds (general/designated/restricted) but it would certainly simplify accounting and present a clearer picture of our financial position if we could make this change in presentation.

I am required to formally comment on our reserves policy. The fabric funds contain sufficient funds to meet the expected outlay during 2017 (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. 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 PCC.