

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 11.30am**  
**AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence.
2. Acceptance of Minutes of the meeting on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (proposed and seconded).
3. Matters Arising.
4. Churchwardens' report on Parochial Charities (received, proposed and seconded).
5. Election of Churchwardens.

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at 11.30am**  
**AGENDA**

1. Acceptance of: (1) Minutes of the meeting on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014 (proposed and seconded)  
(2) 2014 Reports (proposed and seconded).
2. Matters Arising.
3. Trustees' Reports and Financial Statements for 2014.
4. Presentation of revised Electoral roll (received, proposed and seconded).
5. PCC Secretary's report (received, proposed and seconded).
6. Rector's Report.
7. Elections:
  - (a) Four Parochial Church Council members.
  - (b) Welcomers.
  - (c) Two Deanery Synod Representatives.
8. Appointment of Auditor (proposed and seconded).
9. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric and Ornaments (proposed and seconded).
10. Safeguarding Report.
11. Deanery Synod Report.
12. Churches Together in West Wickham Report.
13. Missions Outside the Parish Report.
14. Beacon Centre Report.
15. Any Other Business.

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners held in church on**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at 10.00am**

The meeting opened in worship and was followed by a multiple-choice quiz of twelve questions about our church life led by the **Revd Jonathan Ward**, who was in the chair; the quiz a reminder of the year's events and was well received by parishioners.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Lucy and Martyn Daniels, Jeff and Penny Seabrook and Amber and Aston Stockdale.
- 2. The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners** held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2014 were proposed by Jonathan Stockdale and seconded by Paul Showell and were accepted nem. con.
- 3. Matters arising:** there were no matters arising and Jon thanked the Churchwardens, Richard Cienciala and Jonathan Tickner, for their support that they have brought to their roles.
- 4. The Churchwardens' Report on Parochial Charities Best's Gift:** the report on this Parochial Charity was presented by the Revd Jonathan Ward. The balance brought forward from 31st December 2012 had been £996 and the income for the year ending 31st December 2013 had been £224. Five grants had been made to young people going to university or college to assist with the purchase of books. The balance carried forward, therefore, was £1,070. This report was proposed by Jonathan Stockdale, seconded by Paul Showell and accepted nem. con.
- 5. Election of Churchwardens:** **Jonathan Tickner**, proposed by Susan Blair and seconded by Geoff Larcombe, was re-elected unopposed and **Richard Cienciala**, proposed by Sally Munns and seconded by John Munns, was elected unopposed.

Signed..... Dated.....

**REPORT FOR 2014 FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS ON**  
**SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, WEST WICKHAM

PAROCHIAL CHARITIES

Year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014

Trustees: The Rector and Churchwardens

BEST'S GIFT

Balance brought forward	£1,070
Income year to 31st December 2014	£194
Distributions	* £450
Balance carried forward	£814

St John's now only has one charity, Best's Gift, which was originally set up to provide boots for apprentices. These days it is used to provide grants for the purchase of books for young people going to university or college. During 2014 8 grants were made.

\*N.B. The £450 above represents three grants from 2013 which were debited to the account in 2014 plus 3 grants from 2014. The 5 others, totalling £375, were not debited until after the year-end so do not appear here.

**Election of Churchwardens**

NOMINEES	PROPOSER	SECONDER
Richard Cienciala	Alison Stockdale	Stuart Carey
Jonathan Tickner	David Biddle	Anne Edwards

**Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

Note: the reports for 2013-2014 had been published, circulated in advance of the APCM in 2014 and were available on the website.

**1. Minutes 2013:**

The minutes of the APCM held on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013 were proposed by Mary Daniels, seconded by Geoff Larcombe and on a motion accepted nem. con.

**2. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.

**3. The Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer, Christine Blackburn, began by thanking all those who had given her support throughout the year. The 2013 accounts have been audited by Peter Willan and approved by the PCC.

The General Fund stands at £45,918. The Beacon Centre account had money transferred to it for use of the office space totalling £2,500. The total amount of funds is £157,644.

There was a surplus of £9,283 when compared to 2012 with a slight difference in Income of £2,013. There is £55,201 in the General Funds and £36,270 in the Reserve Fund. The Audio Visual Fund has been depreciated by £4,000. The Shirley Raymond Fund stands at £32,068 and the Restoration Fund was given a donation of £13, making the total £5,417.

The Endowment Fund was increased by £1,957 making a total of £19,053, the Churchyard Fund started at £1,360 with expenses of £459 and receipts of £849, making a balance of £1,750. The Beacon Centre Fund property was valued at £95,000. Christine thanked the volunteers who assist with the running costs via purchases; there was a cross-charge of £2,500 for use of the office space, therefore making a surplus of £3,639.

Christine thanked Mary Daniels and Margaret Kingman, the gift aid officers, who claim the gift aid twice a year for their hard work. She thanked the Finance Sub-Committee for their support throughout the year and Barry Turner for his work on the Finance Governance Policy. Christine thanked the home groups for receiving her to talk about the budget using charts that made it easier for everyone to understand the budget and how that impacts on the church.

Jonathan thanked Christine for the commitment and efficiency with which she had handled the very large amount of work as St. John's Treasurer.

The 2013-2014 Reports were proposed by Derek Gray, seconded by Angela Walters and accepted nem. con. with no matters arising.

**4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report:**

Total number on the Electoral Roll in 2013: 173

Names removed: -0

Names added: +9

Total number on the Electoral Roll in 2014: 182

Geoff Batten reminded us that this was a revision of the Roll and the additions were three people who have been in church previously but had only recently added their names and six completely new members to the church family.

## **5. The Secretary's Report:**

An e-mail was received from Penny Seabrook asking that the paragraph about food hygiene and health and safety training be clarified, therefore Ann Gardner explained that in previous years people were trained for the Tent Event activities and that informal training took place with those that needed it but formal accredited training would need to be organised in the future for those that require it as part of their church duties.

## **6. The Chairman's Report:**

The Revd Jonathan Ward said that it was reported that 'Vicars have the highest rate of happiness/job value but poorest rate on marriage.' There is a lot to get us excited over the next three years and it is critical that we continue to be 'outward looking' as a church, whereas previously there was more focus on the 'inward looking.' It is about being a missionary church but we have a lot of tired people. We will need to exercise wisdom as to how to organise ourselves and where we may streamline activities over the coming years.

Jon gave a big thank you that his job is a joy. He especially thanked all of the people that make Sundays happen, the SPAs and Readers who do a lot of work behind the scenes. He thanked the Finance Team for all of their hard work, welcomed Roger Jordon onto the team who is taking over from Barry Turner.

The Teams are going to be re-developed to be more effective.

Jon mentioned that there had been talk in the year about the employment of a Children and Family Worker. The reality with our current financial position was that this was not viable. It was not something that needed to be funded for a number of years and we simply weren't in that ball park currently.

Jon thanked the Children and Youth Teams for all they do. He explained that Jonny and Charlotte are stepping down from leading the 14+ group and thanked them for opening their home over the years to so many of our young people and thanked all those who have helped over the years.

Mary Daniels asked how the interregnum with St Francis and St Mary's will affect us. Jonathan explained that the strategy for ministry is that thirty paid posts are being cut over the next 5 years. However a decision had been made to replace the Revd Merv McKinney, who retires in June. We are invited to collaborate more with the other Church of England churches in West Wickham.

Mary Daniels asked if during the interregnum there will be an offer of help for their services. Jonathan explained that there would be support, they have readers and our readers will also be supporting them.

John Munns spoke of the reduction in clergy for Deanery Mission with one already lost in Shirley.

David Biddle spoke about the Children and Family Worker post and urged people to pray about it as churches that invest in this post grow and develop, whereas those that do not decline. Looking at the number of people on the Electoral Roll, if everyone gave £30 a month that would pay for the post; it is so vital that we invest to grow. Jonathan added that it grows and is an opportunity to pass on the baton of faith.

## **7. Elections:**

**(1) PCC:** There were five candidates for four vacancies: with two members standing for re-election. The following were elected: Christine Blackburn, Esther Farah, Roger Jordon and Aston

Stockdale. The Tellers were Jonathan Tickner and Roger Jordon. Jon thanked those who had stepped down for their three years of service.

(2) **Deanery Synod:** there was one candidate for two vacancies: Sybil Andrew was elected on a proposal from John Munns and seconded by Sally Munns.

**(3) Welcomers:**

Jonathan thanked those retiring from their duties: Mary Dooley, Mike Watson and Sue Watson for their years of invaluable service as Welcomers. The following were elected or re-elected en bloc on a motion proposed by Paul Showell, seconded by Jonathan Stockdale and accepted nem. con.

Sybil Andrew	Sarah Fletcher	Penny Seabrook
Anne Biddle	Michelle Fox	Wendy Sears
David Biddle	Val Hollanby	Jonathan Tickner
Stephanie Brehcist	Felicity Mason	Robert Weel.
Brenda Carrington	Jeff Seabrook	

**8. Appointment of the independent examiner:**

Peter Willans had appeared to be thorough and was re-appointed on a motion proposed by Christine Blackburn and seconded by David Biddle.

**9. Churchwardens' Report on Fabric and Ornaments:**

Derek Gray asked if there were any extra items on the five year Quinquennial Report. Jon explained that overall the report was not too bad, the drains needed attention and the five year plan outlines the regular maintenance required.

Stephanie Brehcist commented that the brass lists of Rectors and Curates had not been updated. Jon acknowledged that this still needed to be done.

**10. Safeguarding Report:**

Michelle Fox and Sarah Fletcher are the new Parish Safeguarding Officers. Anne Ford and David Biddle were thanked for keeping pace with the changes that have an impact on our church.

**11. Deanery Synod Report:**

Seven or eight churches meet monthly and the Diocese is looking to use the Deanery to step up on Mission.

**12. Churches Together in West Wickham Report:**

An e-mail was received from Penny Seabrook asking whether the Cafe Church is still running. Ann Gardner clarified that during 2013-2014 it was still running but they are renaming it to attract younger people.

Another point raised in the e-mail was the Mission Academy. Ann clarified that the Academy is to equip young people in the missionary field to serve and share their faith both locally in their churches, local communities and abroad.

**13. Mission Outside the Parish Report:**

There is a monthly focus on the Missions supported by prayer and financially. Sally Munns and the team decided in November 2013 for the 2014 allocations from the income received in 2013. There was a surplus of £1,000 to give away so there were two extra Missions that received money:

1. **Pitstop** an after school provision for years 5 and 6 at Parklands Nursery.
2. **Overseas Children of Madagascar** where there is the greatest amount of poverty and the money will be used for furniture for an empty school.

**14. Beacon Centre Report:**

The centre will be re-developed with a change of identity.

**15. Any Other Business:**

Geoff Larcombe thanked Jon for his leadership and prayers leading us into the future with the changes ahead.

Derek Gray commented that the number of young people is wonderful at St John's but there are also people in the older age groups and they are a little bit left out where there could be some old style services. Jon commented that Holy Communion, 8am Holy Communion and some evening services are have a more traditional format but there are options which we will discuss further.

Barbara Bassott commented that this is an 'all age' area with a lot of elderly people so there needs to be more outreach and mission to these people. Jon commented that all three local residential homes are visited on a monthly basis and offered pastoral care.

Alison Stockdale commented that the Beacon Centre is used by outside agencies not just for St John's work.

Angela Walters commented that the Friends of the Churchyard could be used for maintenance, bring in funding and organise 'clean up' days. Also St John's have a stall during the Bank Holiday and are looking for helpers; there is a 'Friends and Heroes' theme but is also for promoting other church-related events.

Jon thanked Ann Gardner for taking over as PCC Secretary.

The meeting ended in prayer at 11.50am.

Signed:.....Date.....

## **REPORTS FOR 2014-2015 FOR THE A.P.C.M. ON SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

### **4. Electoral Roll Officer's Report 2014-2015**

Total number on Electoral Roll in 2014:	182
Names removed:	-6
Names added:	+9
Total number on Electoral Roll in 2015:	185

A roll revision was undertaken this year; the changes recorded above are to be expected and it is good to see new names added. The names added were:

Miss Agatka Cienciala  
Miss Alexandra Daniels  
Mrs Elizabeth Jenna Elliott  
Mrs Ann Helen Fisher  
Mr Jeff Hooton

Miss Alice Jaffray  
Ms Joan Roberts  
Mr Stephen Westray  
Mrs Fay Lorrane Westray.

Geoffrey Batten & Paul Kingman

### **5. PCC Secretary's Report 2014-2015**

The PCC met eleven times during the year from April 2014 – March 2015; two meetings were with the PCC members of St Francis and St Mary's Churches to explore working more collaboratively.

The PCC has focused this year on restructuring our Ministry Teams, the usage and proposed refurbishment of The Beacon Centre, considering different venues for day retreats to give parishioners the opportunity to take time out to refresh and re-energise and exploring group ministry with St Francis and St Mary's churches. This is an exciting time of change and in November, at the Assembly Rooms, the Church Teams were established with Parishioners committed to join the team(s) of their choice. The sermon series of being 'Mobilising for Mission', '(Re)New: How the Gospel Changes Everything', 'Stories Jesus Told', 'Consider it Gain', 'Christmas Presence' and 'Difficult Questions' have enabled us to focus on who we are as people, how we use our spiritual gifts, how we live our faith and what it means to be Jesus' disciples every day so that we are able to engage more fully with those around us and work more closely with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The impact of this is the continued strength and popularity of the 'small groups' enabling a deeper friendship and more supportive relationships in smaller, less threatening environments.

The budget for 2015 and the Beacon Centre budget were discussed, approved and audited. We owe great thanks to our Treasurer, Christine Blackburn, for making the budgets and accounts easier to understand and keeping the finances on track and to the Finance Sub-Committee for giving us important quarterly updates.

Safeguarding: the PCC has received a detailed report and action plan from Sarah Fletcher and Michele Fox; we thank them for their work in ensuring that our church is a 'Safe Church'.

The PCC are grateful that the MOP Team put together the successful MOP weekend giving us an opportunity to meet with our mission partners who we regularly pray for and support financially; hearing how their work shares the gospel of Christ and makes an impact on people's lives.  
The PCC thank the people involved in organising the social events so that we can celebrate and enjoy each others' company; the annual BBQ at the Vicarage, quiz night and the Harvest Supper at the

Assembly Rooms. The Harvest collection raised £615 that will be used to set-up the 'Ken Gaved Bursary Fund' to support scouts who do missionary work.

There has been some difficulty with the hearing loop being patchy and this has been checked so it should now be more effective.

Ann Gardner

## 6. Rector's Report 2015

We began 2015 with a focus on John 15 and the importance of abiding in Jesus if we are to bear fruit that will last. Of course that stands true at all times, but it feels especially apposite when we are going through periods of change – as we are at St John's.

I don't see that change happening at break neck speed, but as a church family we must continue to be aware that developments can stir unsettled feelings. All the more important to ensure we have anchor points, where we draw strength from each other and God. To that end, I once again encourage as many of you as possible to consider joining a home group, if you are not yet part of one.

### **Developments**

The formation of our Teams and their leadership has been one of the most noteworthy developments of the past year. It was a faith building exercise to witness what could have been a convoluted process work through with relative ease.

I have said all along that this is a long work. On the surface it is a structural adjustment, but beneath the ordering, the heart of this venture is about blowing the sparks of mission into flame. It will take time for what the Teams are about, how they will operate, etc to gain traction. However, I am excited at the discussions I am having with Team Leaders and the fruit that I hope will emerge from their life.

In the past six months, our leadership has dedicated a fair amount of mental energy in considering closer collaboration with our nearest Anglican brothers and sisters. Contemplating the possibility of bigger shifts in our gathered life has been a revealing process – exposing our collective instinct sometimes to be more insular than we might like to think.

Nevertheless, I believe that not leaping into a Team Ministry was a wise decision.

We should not, however, understand this as an indication to pull up the drawbridge and think no more about what working more closely together looks like, as if it were an unhelpful diversion. The process revealed an appetite in many to engage in more strategic mission across West Wickham and I think the conversation should continue apace when Hazel O'Sullivan has found her feet at St Francis & St Mary's.

The upshot of the current position means we are left with some challenging questions; not least over building constraints, and our approach to our children's and youth work on a Sunday.

Closely related is our use of the Beacon Centre. Feeling our way into the best use of this resource has been a slow process and the PCC will shortly be considering the latest proposals for its development as a flexible, multi-use space. In turn, the church family will have to decide how much capital they are prepared to plough into an update.

These are not straightforward matters with right and wrong solutions.

Amidst these broad issues, I have been encouraged to see plenty of other signs of life bubbling away in the church family – greater involvement of our young people in aspects of church life not ring-fenced as for the youth, the renewal of the Men’s Group, organic growth in our mid-week youth groups, and incredible care for one another in the face of bereavements/difficult circumstances, to name but a few elements.

### **The Future and Challenges Ahead**

All that we do as a church has to be funded.

It is worth noting that this is the last year in which the diocesan Fairer Share Scheme is in place. We move to a system where we will be asked as a church family to make a pledge to the diocese at the level we think is generous and fair. In reality, this is unlikely to change the outlook for our finances for the immediate future.

Diocesan contributions aside, I am more interested in us all becoming more extravagantly generous, in keeping with the nature of our God. This isn’t simple to measure, but there are indications that we can exercise greater trust in this area.

Another area which will demand we step out in faith lies with evangelism. In the autumn we will focus in a more concentrated way what it means to be a witnessing community. The cultural milieu makes this task ever more urgent and I suspect remains an aspect of our life in Christ that we find less than comfortable.

Such endeavours need to be underpinned by prayer and a vibrancy of relationship with Jesus. I hope that we will continue to avail ourselves of the various (and growing) opportunities to pray together and be stirred.

We are at a suitable juncture to assess how we are doing with the vision that emerged from of our Listening to God process. The PCC will meet in early summer to evaluate our current position and consider whether we need to refine our vision/priorities. I will also invite them to reflect back to me how they consider my time might best be used.

Within that appraisal we will have to confront some of the hard realities of sustainability and what we are realistically able to resource as a body of people (as recently evidenced when we profiled some of the needs with our Youth Work).

It’s probably worth mentioning at this juncture that I am due a 6 week sabbatical in the coming 12 months. I am yet to work out quite what I am going to do with it (and when), but this will enable me to step back from the fray and think about the big picture for a while.

### **Thank You**

As always I sign off with the most important aspect of my report, which is to extend an enormous thank you to everyone in the St John’s family. This report can only give some of the main contours of the St John’s life, and for that, it will always be an inadequate reflection of all that goes on and the hard labours that lie behind it.

So thank you.

But thank you perhaps most of all for being a group of people who return to the question ‘what does God want us to do here?’, even when that’s not easy.

Jonathan Ward

7. (a) PCC Members 2015

Ann Gardner, Anna Seabrook, Heather Showell and Mike Slatter have stood down.

NOMINEES	PROPOSER	SECONDER
<b>Heather Showell*</b>	<b>Nana Adusei</b>	<b>Tony Holloway</b>
<b>Anna Seabrook*</b>	<b>Heather Showell</b>	<b>Ann Gardner</b>
<b>Stuart Carey</b>	<b>Richard Greenhalgh</b>	<b>David Biddle</b>
<b>Janet Baine</b>	<b>Sally Munns</b>	<b>Ann Gardner</b>

Joining Jackie Barter, Christine Blackburn, Esther Farah, Richard Greenhalgh, Camilla Johnson, Roger Jordon, Martin Pinnell, Aston Stockdale, Penny Seabrook (SPA) and Sally Munns (Reader).

(b) Welcomers 2015

Sybil Andrew	Tim Harris
Anne Biddle	Val Hollanby
David Biddle	Felicity Mason
Stephanie Brehcist	Jeff Seabrook
Brenda Carrington	Penny Seabrook
Charlotte Faint	Wendy Sears
Sarah Fletcher	Jonathan Tickner
Michele Fox	

(c) Deanery Synod 2015

NOMINEE	PROPOSER	SECONDER
<b>Ann Gardner</b>	<b>Sybil Andrew</b>	<b>Lorna Carey</b>

Joining Sybil Andrew (SPA) and Lorna Carey.

9. Churchwardens' Report 2014-2015

This report covers areas of church life which are a particular responsibility of the churchwardens. The main aspects of the role are:

- ensuring "good order" in the church building and churchyard (e.g. welcoming, heating)
- ensuring the church building and its contents are cared for and fit for purpose
- supporting the Vicar in the leadership of the Parish.

This has been Jonathan's 3nd year and Richard's 2<sup>nd</sup> as churchwardens here.

As far as “good order” is concerned, we believe that St John’s continues to be a pleasant and welcoming place in which to worship and do the Lord’s work. We want to thank all the teams and individuals who support the churchwardens and serve in the practical functions of St John’s – in the church building and grounds, for our services at the Assembly Halls, and on various occasions through a busy year:

- the team of Welcomers who warmly welcome us at each service, who count the offering and who tidy up for us afterwards
- the audio-visual teams, coordinated by Bill Derham and Stuart Carey who carry out their duties so faithfully
- the people who dust, polish, clean and arrange flowers, and whose weekly work make this House of God a lovely place to be
- Peter Brien and John Barter, who carry out repairs and maintenance. This involves both inside and outside work. We have John and James Barter to thank for much of the outside work
- the teams from home groups who make thousands of hot drinks every year
- Margaret Kingman, our Parish Administrator, ever efficient and willing to help out in an increasing number of areas
- And last but not least, a big thank you to our wives, who have supported us so much in our role as churchwardens.

On the church building front, we have made progress on a project to improve the look and use of the church building. The toddlers’ room now has new floor to ceiling storage (a big thank you to all those who took part in the team effort to get this in place), we have completed a clear-out of the office ahead of making better use of storage space here, and we are making plans for a refurbishment of the main entrance lobby. We are also planning for work on the drainage to the east side of the building, the most pressing recommendation in our last “Quinquennial” inspection report, and are waiting to hear the outcome of an application for a grant to help meet the costs of this.

We have continued to meet regularly with Jon Ward, our Vicar, to talk through live issues and support him in his leadership of the parish. We have been involved, along with other PCC members, in the planning for Ministry teams within St John’s, refreshing our outreach through the Beacon Centre and exploring the possibility of closer partnership with St Francis’ and St Mary’s, West Wickham.

We thank everyone for their prayers, encouragement and support.

Jonathan Tickner and Richard Cienciala, March 2015

#### 10. Safeguarding Report 2014-2015

The PCC takes very seriously the requirement to safeguard children, young persons and potentially vulnerable adults who attend any activity organised by the church. Accordingly it continues to actively monitor the application of the Dioceses Safe Church policies and procedures. Part of this monitoring process is a Diocesan self audit and the production of an annual action plan to ensure that the policies and procedures are being implemented.

All persons who have direct contact with the above groups are required to obtain a clear Disclosure and Barring Scheme (DBS) report and are now interviewed by an independent member of the church who is not directly involved in activities for the above groups. Detailed records are kept and confidential documents are filed in a locked facility. Church Officers continue to attend training provided by the diocese. Leaders of various groups are regularly briefed on the safeguarding practices set out in the diocesan documents. All volunteers are encouraged to take seriously the whistle blowing procedures displayed both in the church and The Beacon Centre.

Members will be aware of the enormous damage allegations of abuse can inflict on any organisation and they are encouraged to bring forward any concerns they may have. Please take time to read the Safe Church folder available at the rear of the church and in The Beacon Centre and the whistle blowing policy also displayed in the church and The Beacon Centre.

Sarah Fletcher and Michele Fox, Parish Safeguarding Officers

11. **Croydon Addington Deanery Synod Report 2014-2015**

The Synod met twice with the third meeting, originally scheduled for February, postponed until 25th March (after the date of submitting this report).

In June Ann Coates, the Lay Chair of Dulwich Deanery, talked about ways in which her deanery works collaboratively. They hold training sessions, run a Deanery Away Day to set priorities and organise joint activities such as Messy Church, Food Banks, Credit Unions and Debt Advice. Ann emphasised the need for a deanery website for ease of communication and publicity. Group discussions were then held to identify priorities for our Deanery which Stiv Knowers agreed to present to the Pastoral Working Group for consideration.

In October Dr Stephen Hance, Canon Missioner, spoke about Mission Action Planning as a response to the numerical decline in church membership. Evidence shows that churches with a clear sense of mission and purpose enjoy a higher proportion of growth.

Reports from the Diocesan and General Synod were received at meetings. The host church gave a brief presentation on news from their parish.

The Deanery Mission and Pastoral Working Group also met and discussed the expected loss of the post of Vicar of St John's Shirley upon the retirement of the present incumbent. The Working Group agreed to recommend that this post should not be lost due to the relatively large number on the Electoral Roll of St. John's Shirley. The merits of Team Ministry were also reviewed with reference to the current vacancy at St Francis and St Mary's West Wickham. After discussing the role of non-stipendiary ministers, a recommendation was made that they should be licensed to the Deanery as a whole.

Our dear friend John Munns represented St John's on Deanery Synod for many years. He was also a very valued member of the Deanery Pastoral Working Group. Thank you John for representing us so faithfully. You are sorely missed.

Sybil Andrew & Lorna Carey

12. **Churches Together in West Wickham (CTWW) 2014-2015**

The Good Friday Procession of Witness and the outdoor service at the Swan demonstrated our faith to the people of West Wickham. It was followed by a joint service at St. Francis for all the churches with activities for children in the St Francis hall was organised by the Children's Link and was well attended.

Community lunches hosted by Emmanuel Church, St. Mark's Church and Hawes Lane Methodist Church enabled Churches Together to continue to meet with local organisations and individuals serving the community. Starbucks Youth continue to take the Good News out into the community by meeting at Starbucks fortnightly on Friday evenings.

The Churches Together Christian Aid collection raised £7,205.32. Of this sum, £1,794.95 was raised by St. John's collectors ably organised by Ann James & Anne Ford; Ann James is standing down from these duties after nine years of service and Jeff Seabrook is taking over these responsibilities. On 13 August more than 25 children enjoyed a 'Fun and Games' afternoon at Sparrow's Den.

During this year the Revd Merv McKinney retired from St Francis and St Mary's Church and Alison Judge is doing a sterling job co-ordinating provision for both of the churches; during the vacancy it has opened up discussions between St John's, St Francis and St Mary's Churches of how we can work more collaboratively and we are considering Group Ministry.

The 'Big Christmas Sing', organised by St Francis Church and the Christian Aid representatives of 'Churches Together', and led by the choirs of St. Francis, St. Mary's, Emmanuel and the Pickhurst Junior Academy choir, raised £1,169.96 for Christian Aid.

The Week of Prayer for 'Christian Unity' services were varied in structure, hosted by a different CTWW church each evening and well supported this year. Children's Link: the February half-term special with lunch for the under-elevens accompanied by carers/parents included activities and a Bible story puppet show about creation at St. John's was a great success, with the church full of 60 lively children and 40 chatting adults.

The Women's World Day of Prayer held on the 6 March was hosted by Coney Hill Baptist Church and focussed on different voices from around the world; Christian women from the Bahamas produced the order of service and it was a super day.

The Work Club continues to support job seekers Monday evenings at West Wickham Library from 4.00-6.00pm and run Ignition Courses Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9.30pm to equip people with the skills to find suitable employment; it is very popular with 80 clients on their books to support so if you have two hours to spare on Monday evenings why not get involved.

At one of our many united CTWW services, West Wickham and Shirley Baptist Church announced that they have established a 24/7 prayer room, with a key-pad entry system, where churches or organisations can go on-line to book a prayer slot.

Ann Gardner & Penny Seabrook

### **13. Mission Outside the Parish (MOP) Report 2014-2015**

The MOP team has altered somewhat over the last year in accordance with the new Team Ministry Vision. Several of the members who were part of the team before have remained as part of the team, they have invaluable knowledge and experience. The new MOP team is now led by Elzbieta Cienciala & Camilla Johnson

MOP benefits from an established history and has already worked successfully with the guidance of Sally Munns to raise the profile of the missions we support as a church. God really blessed the Mission Weekend in September when the majority of the missions and charities were represented by a person directly involved over the weekend. The aim was to promote awareness of who they are and what each individual mission works to achieve. Through the weekend tangible links were reinforced and it is hoped that these will continue to be supported with renewed vigour.

With the PCC's approval, the amount of missions supported on a monthly basis, has been significantly reduced, in accordance with the agreed criteria. This has enabled the monthly giving to be upped.

The MOP notice board has had another makeover, and now consists of a large world map, with photos and a brief description of each mission supported by St John's, linked by ribbon to the country it is working in. There is also now a folder available for people to look at, which contains many current letters from the missions and charities.

As a team we are excited about the further possibilities of promoting MOP within the church and

community, and want to support those that feel led by God to step out and get involved in Mission in some way.

Elzbieta Cienciala & Camilla Johnson

#### 14. **Beacon Centre Report 2014-2015**

The Management Team (Jon Ward, Lorna Carey, Penny Seabrook, Sybil Andrew) with David Biddle overseeing the finances, continues to monitor the day-to-day running of the Centre, but much discussion and prayer has been going on over the past year concerning the future of the Centre.

Following the discussion and presentation at the Assembly Halls in May, the small team appointed has continued to examine the various possibilities put forward, at the same time discussing with volunteers, the groups currently using the Centre and other interested people, what God might be saying regarding its future. Various ideas have been considered, always bearing in mind that the Centre was of limited size and needed to be “multi-purpose”.

At the time of writing, a survey has been carried out and will be followed by design proposals, which will be submitted to the PCC for discussion and consideration. In the meantime, it was decided that after Christmas 2014 the Centre would only be open for specific activities – Wednesday morning for mothers and toddlers, Thursday afternoon for the Over 60’s group, Friday morning for craft and the hearing aid clinic. It is continued to be used on Sunday for the Grill and 18+ and other specific church activities like PCC meetings. Amber Crisis Pregnancy Care continues to use the Centre on a regular basis.

While the physical refurbishment is carried out the Centre will have to be closed for a time and other venues will have to be found for the regular groups meeting there.

Sybil Andrew