

CHRIST CHURCH PORTSDOWN



Year Book 2014

A look back at events at Christ Church

Published April 2015

Introduction

This year book gives us the opportunity to look back at the year 2014. No summary like this can ever be complete, but it provides a few snap shots of our life together. A companion document, the Annual Report, contains more formal information and the church accounts.

Vicar's Report

2014 was another good year at Christ Church with plenty happening.

For the 70th anniversary of D Day, we hosted a weekend of activities. We facilitated the bringing together of generations within our community as young people at Purbrook Park School interviewed those who remember the events of 1944. On Friday 6th June we hosted Purbrook Park and Purbrook Junior Schools to create a D Day collage. On Saturday 7th we welcomed our community to a fantastic 1940s style community tea, with displays and music and lots of tea and cake. Finally, on Sunday 8th the Bishop of Portsmouth led us in our Service of Commemoration. It was a great weekend which increased our profile in the local community.

The Summer Festival and Advent Fayre continued to develop. It was a joy that for the first time we were able to put the funds raised at the Advent Fayre towards the building development project – a sign of healthier finances than we have known in recent years.

These major events have shown the usefulness of our new tea and coffee area and the flower team have enjoyed the benefits of the new facilities. We also made improvements to the families' area and it is encouraging to see this being well used.

It was great to share the week at the New Wine summer conference with over 20 others from Christ Church – we will have a similar number at New Wine 2015. It was also special to see another group from Christ Church confirmed in a wonderful service at Bedhampton. To journey together and grow closer to Christ is why we exist as a local church.

We continued to develop our relationship with the other parishes in what is now known as the Portsdown Cluster - consisting of St John's (Purbrook), CoGS (Crookhorn) and ourselves. There is still much more that we can do together and we need to explore this further.

During the year Richard Hutchins was selected to train for ordination and with two others being placed with us while they investigate a calling to ordained ministry, it is a privilege to be involved in the preparation of future clergy.

During the year I took on two areas of responsibility outside of Christ Church. In the summer I was appointed as Chaplain to Havant & Waterlooville Football Club. This has enabled me to include my love of football with my ministry and has given me the opportunity to mix with people outside of the church setting. Then in October, I was appointed Joint Area Dean of Havant, supporting the Bishop and Archdeacon in the leadership of the Diocese with particular care for the parishes in the Waterlooville area.

It's great to work with such a wonderful team at Christ Church. There are many, many people who give their time willingly and sacrificially. I have also been blessed with two special clergy colleagues in Annie and Sandy. We will miss Annie's ministry, but are excited for her as she moves on to her new parish. I am also excited to see what God has in store for us next at Christ Church.

Revd Andy Wilson

Curate's Report

2014 has been another interesting and fulfilling time in ministry here at Christ Church, building on the foundation laid in my first eighteen months in curacy. It has been so encouraging to see signs of God at work amongst our community and in our lives in all sorts of ways.

Particular memories of 2014 focus on:

- The privilege of taking marriage services for the first time: avoiding dropping the rings and trying to negotiate all the legal requirements so that everything was signed in the right place and at the right time! To make sure I had sufficient experience, the Archdeacon asked me to cover some summer weddings at St Mary's Hayling Island. Much to my surprise, one of the couples I married happened to be the man building an extension on my sister's house!
- The weekend of events held at Christ Church to mark the 70th anniversary of D Day provided a moving and life affirming focus for the whole community. The mix of events seemed to strike the right balance between commemoration, celebration and gratitude to God for answered prayer. The mix of young and old, the sounds of George Formby, the seemingly endless mounds of cake and cups of teas, those 1940s nippies, not to mention the 1940s hairstyles....unforgettable!
- The continued joy of welcoming those beginning to explore what it means to be a follow of Jesus and seeing that faith grow. This year six more members of the church family made the step of confirmation and it was great to celebrate with them as we shared communion together for the first time at Christ Church.
- Aside from particular events, the joy in ministry for me lies in the week by week glimpses into the way God is shaping and building us as a community. Seeing people grow in faith and make the connections between what they believe and what they do is inspiring.

Andy's care and expertise in mentoring in ministry- not least in preparing me and all of us for his time away on extended ministerial development leave in early 2015 has made so much difference. And as I come toward the time when I will leave Christ Church, I realise I have been blessed to experience a "Rolls Royce" curacy again this year in terms of the quality of training and the generosity and encouragement of the whole church family.

Revd Annie McCabe

Churchwardens' Report

It's inevitable that as our church building continues to age that problems will arise as the ravages of weather and time take their toll. We have issues both outside and inside the building mainly, the vestry ceiling where the original plaster due to damp is spalling off the original lathe and plaster, we are also experiencing problems with the spotlights in the chancel which cause bulbs to keep blowing. Then you have all seen the temporary remedial work that needed doing to the coping stones and part of the flint wall on the North West corner of the building, this has also thrown up problems on the inside of the building. The clearing of the hoppers and roof troughs of leaves during the Autumn and Winter months is an essential part of the maintenance to ensure the gutters continue to disperse the rainwater into the drains and not the church!. Clearing the leaves and detritus from the driveway also needs to be attended to during these months. Renewing the drainage around the church and the resurfacing of the North drive are currently being investigated. However thanks to good stewardship we have the finances in place to address these issues and as soon as time and weather permit they will be addressed in order of priority.

Our church hall continues to play its part in the life of our church and is widely used by the community at large as well as our church family. We experience very little vandalism in our churchyard, the odd theft of flowers or grave furniture but many of us were saddened to see that the angel that was on a grave in the south east corner had been savagely demolished, we don't know who or why but we hope that it is an isolated incident, vigilance on all our parts is the watchword.

The fruition of the plans for the toilet in the church continue gather pace for which we are grateful, but more about that elsewhere in this report. We continue, though, to have much to praise and thank God for; our teams of dedicated behind the scenes workers continue to play their part to ensure that the church both looks good and can continue to play its part in the spiritual life of our surrounding community.

Our Summer Festival and Advent Fayre continue to showcase the part that the church building and its congregation can and does play in the wider world. This is only achieved by the hard work of many of you and with a fair wind and God's blessing these will, in the coming year, continue to do so.

The spiritual life of our church continues to expand both in the set services and at all the one offs and add ons that many of you participate in on a weekly and monthly basis and we feel sure that there is something for all, musically, liturgically and spiritually in whatever service or activity you participate in. Our future looks bright and our horizons are continually expanding, our parish is an integral part of, and participates fully in, the life of our diocese and our voice is heard in the various forums under its umbrella.

We sadly say farewell to Annie our lovely and hardworking curate as she moves to pastures new, it's not goodbye just Au revoir as she is only moving down the road into Portsmouth and no doubt there will be occasions in the lives of both churches when we can meet up and

catch up. God bless you Annie in your new and future endeavours. So as the future unfolds and we look to what we can do to expand the kingdom and, in a small way the life of our church, may we all 'Go out with joy and be led forth with peace'

Dave Fowler and Ismay Doughty.

P.S A final note from me.

As I go out with joy if not tinged with a little sadness after completing my six years as church warden I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been instrumental in supporting and guiding me through the wonderfully varied and enlightening role. I would like to wish the new warden every success and fulfilment in their new role.

God Bless you all.

Ismay

Building Development

Since last year we have made an application to the Diocese for signage and information panels for the war graves, for changes to the AV platform to complete the installation and for a new lock on the vestry door. The Diocese has agreed that we do not need to put a screen in front of the Flower, Tea and Coffee area.

We have made a number changes to the family area including some more attractive furniture. New monitors have been installed to provide screens for the side aisles.

We are planning to purchase one or two attractive wall hangings to improve the look and feel of the prayer ministry area.

Because the lighting installation is causing concern the BDG have visited a number of other churches to view their lighting system designs.

During February the PCC decided to pursue an alternative scheme for the toilets which includes a brand new porch and entrance at the North West corner of the church and new toilets in the existing porch. The justification for this change is that the new scheme is less expensive and can be completed by the end of 2015.

The BDG is working to complete this new scheme requested by the PCC. We very are grateful to those who have contributed to the fundraising effort in various ways but we still need to continue fundraising because there is still a shortfall in funds for the alternative toilet scheme.

Work on the chancel is still planned for the future.

Andy Minchin, Building Development Group

Christ Church Choir

The Christ Church singers meet on a Friday at 7pm in the church. We currently have two bases, two tenors, one alto and two sopranos-seven members in total.

However, over the past year these numbers have not always been reflected in our attendance capacity, owing either to illness and/ or unexpected family commitments. We remain dedicated to providing a ministry of music in worship assisting in the more

formal/traditional services and know that some of our fellowship at Christ Church appreciates our contribution.

Currently we sing at 5/6 evensongs a year, three at St John's Purbrook and twelve Holy Communion services. We were unable to assist at Christmas due to illness. We have not been able to sing at Easter or Whitsun for some years.

We love to sing and hopefully enhance the worship of God in our church. Please let us know that this is what we do. It would seem appropriate to end this report with the "Choristers" prayer

Bless oh Lord, us thy servants
Who minister in thy temple,
Grant that what we sing with our lips,
We may believe in our hearts
And what we believe in our hearts
We may show forth in our lives
Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Nicky Marriott

Amen

Deanery Synod

We have covered a number of topics at synod this year including:

- A presentation from Revd Simon Sayers on Ecumenism which is the unity and co-operation between denominations
- A talk entitled 'A Christian Arab in Palestine' by Tanas Al Qassis
- The Deanery Review which has been looking at the deployment of clergy across the Deanery
- The Mission Opportunities Fund which is used for new mission opportunities
- Churchwarden Training
- Speed debating various subjects
- Finances including Parish Share
- Diocesan Synod and General Synod
- Future topics include talks from Victoria James the Diocesan Stewardship Adviser and Charlotte Page on Christian Aid.

Note that our Deanery responsibilities are now shared between two Area Deans. The Revd Andy Wilson for parishes west of the A3M and the Revd Karina Green for parishes east of the A3M including Hayling Island.

Andy Minchin and Ruth Fowler, Deanery Synod Representatives

Evening Wives

We meet monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.

In winter months we are meeting in the afternoons, and during the summer months in the evenings.

We meet socially as we have done now for over forty years and have speakers and discussions. During the past year we celebrated the forty years with a Communion Service in Christ Church followed by lunch at the Hampshire Rose joined by a number of past members.

We always welcome new members or one-off visitors at our get-togethers.

Norma Gibney is the Evening Wives' leader – and we try to plan our meetings and speakers etc in the autumn as a group.

Rosemary Nisbet

Family Service Planning Team

We are a team of volunteers made up of members of the congregation from a variety of age groups. We meet to plan, organise and run occasional family services. Since March 2014 we have led 4 services including the Harvest service and a Family Eucharist. The generosity of the congregation was once again evident at Harvest and we were able to send a variety of gifts both to The Roberts Centre and All Saints, a hostel for 16-25 year olds in Portsmouth. The most recent service that we have led was the Family Eucharist and we used a Eucharist prayer that has been specifically written by the Church of England to be used when a number of children are present.

The team continue to try new ideas at the services that they lead while at the same time incorporating more traditional aspects. If anyone is interested in joining the team please have a chat with Diana or anyone else on the team.

Diana Hutchins

Flower Stewards

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside lead a small group of experienced flower arrangers who oversee the yearly flower rota. This comprises of many parishioners providing flowers in memory of loved ones departed or to celebrate anniversaries during the year. In addition we are fortunate to have a number of loyal helpers who come and assist in arranging flowers at weddings and the Christian church festivals. We would love more helpers who would be most welcome.

The Flower preparation area which was completed last year has made a wonderful difference to our work when arranging flowers for weddings, and especially at Easter, Harvest Sunday and Christmas.

Ros Molloy and Jenny Whiteside

Friday Friends

Friday Friends meet on the first and third Friday afternoons of the month at 2.15 – 3.30 in the small church hall.

The point of contact is the Revd. Andy Wilson.

The group offer warm friendship over a cup of tea with biscuits and a chat – anyone is welcome.

We have a treat in August when we go out for tea, in 2014 we all went to The Pavilion at Stansted.

Margaret Baggs

Gift Aid

How can you help your church financially without it costing you any more money?

Well, you can gift aid your donations to the church. Many of you do so already and, for that, we as a church are very grateful. If you are a UK taxpayer, we can claim back the tax from Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs (HMRC), effectively enhancing your gift to the church by (currently) £2.50 for every £10.00, at no additional cost to yourself. You do not have to commit to a regular payment, although this does help us as a church to plan our expenditure.

I know that some of you do not gift aid your donations because you feel that you do not pay enough tax to cover this (particularly if you have retired from work), or maybe you do not pay tax but you have a partner who does. If you feel that this may apply to you, please contact me and I will be able to advise you confidentially as to how you still may be able to help, **without it costing you anything**. If you are a higher rate taxpayer, please contact me for details of how gift aiding can actually be a financial benefit to yourself.

Since 6 April 2013, HMRC has enhanced the Gift Aid scheme for churches by accepting claims on "loose cash" in the collections. This is known as the Gift Aid on Small Donations Scheme (GASDS). However, this is subject to certain restrictions, including a maximum annual amount, and it is reliant on the existence of a significant number of regular gift aiders.

From the claims on donations made in 2014, we have received rebates from HMRC amounting to a total of £14,557.37 (including £1,404.78 from GASDS). This is a significant element of income for our church. As it is all "free money", I urge you to sign up to our gift aid scheme if you have not already done so. Please contact me for more details about gift aiding and/or our regular payment scheme.

The rebates from HMRC for 2014 have continued at a similarly high level as in 2013. Your continued support for additional income for the Building Development Fund (BDF) is highly appreciated. Please be assured that the proportion of the rebate received in respect of the BDF income is indeed allocated to the BDF. In 2014, a total of **£2,765.15** was allocated in this way.

Roger Banks, Gift Aid Administrator

Christ Church Portsdown Good Neighbours



We have had another very successful year with activity up 38% to 650 requests for help, which were all responded to. Our aim is to achieve a positive outcome for each request we receive.

We have a strong team of 30 volunteers from various backgrounds, both church members and non-members. What we know is that each interaction between a volunteer and a client has a positive effect on them both.

The greatest demand is still for transport for medical appointments or social activities, but requests for help with shopping rose considerably.

Social events for both clients and volunteers were very popular, and individual Christmas cakes for clients were once again really appreciated.

The group is in a strong financial position due to the generosity of the donations we receive from clients, a grant from the Good Neighbours Support Service allowed us to finance a promotional event. Our team is always willing and enthusiastic, and is congratulated for the professionalism and kindness that is shown, and the care which is given, to people who need our help. If you are interested in joining us, please speak to me or one of the Management Committee.

Christ Church Portsdown Good Neighbours: 07842 367490

Vicky Stephen

1st Portsdown Guides

Meet 7.15-9pm Thursday, Portsdown Scout and Guide Hut

Contact is Maria Calway-Kennedy

Guiding activities for girls aged 10-14. Weekly sessions in term time, weekend trips, summer camp and Winter Weekend

The highlight of the past year as voted for by Guides and leaders was unanimously summer camp!

Lynne Meechan

Hall Management

The members of the management committee have worked hard in 2014 to maintain the hall, clearing gutters, repainting yellow lines in the car park, digging out the bank on the south side of the hall that was engulfing the damp proof course and making sure larger maintenance issues were dealt with in a timely fashion. During the year we have had the drains cleared, a wasps' nest removed and begun the refurbishment of the Disabled Toilet room. Income was higher than in the previous year, and fuel bills were reduced by participating in the Church of England Energy Basket. We were delighted to welcome our new hall cleaner in September, who is a great asset and has made a big difference to the cleanliness of the facilities. We were also very blessed to have a working party from SSE plc (formerly Scottish and Southern Energy) come and redecorate the halls as part of their community programme – it only cost us the price of materials (and tea and cake to keep them going!). The monthly Neighbourhood Lunches continue to be very popular and during the year Gill Cross who ran the lunches at that time successfully applied for a grant towards the cost of a new cooker for the kitchen. Profits from the lunches together with some generous gifts enabled us to replace the old range using less than £30 from general funds!

All in all the hall produced a surplus of around £6,000, a much healthier position than the previous year and the beginning of a fund towards larger maintenance items in future years (such as a new roof which will be needed at some point.)

Jacqui Wilson, Hall Manager

Homegroups

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you for the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect” *1 Peter 3: 15*

During 2014, the number of home groups at Christ Church has grown. It has also been encouraging to see new members of the church family join and settle in existing groups.

There are now five groups who meet regularly to look at what it means to be a follower of Jesus in practice and how to share our faith with those we live and work alongside. Meeting once a fortnight, these groups provide a time to explore the Bible, pray together and get to know and support each other better.

Everyone is welcome to come along. You don't have to be a Bible egghead or someone who can pray out loud. Just be yourself! Groups meet on most days of the week so choose a time that works for you.

- Monday evening (led by Dave Fowler)
- Tuesday evening (led by Annie McCabe)
- Wednesday afternoon (led by Jacqui Wilson)
- Wednesday evening (led by June Ames)
- Thursday evening (led by Pauline Letters)

Revd Annie McCabe

Lighthouse

We meet in church during the 10.30 service in school term time on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of each month (these are usually communion services).

Our purpose is to teach our little ones about the great God who made and loves them, The Bible as God's Book and Jesus as God's Son.

The material uses stories, prayers, crafts and music in simple lessons. The target age is 3-7 years.

We start the service together in church before walking the children to the church hall for our activities, later rejoining the main congregation in time for the Communion or Blessing.

When appropriate we have stayed in church to do simple crafts with the children and involve them with the theme of the main service.

Last April we held an open morning of Family Fun activities which was well attended and helped both children and parents experience what we do.

Kelsar Do'urden has now joined the team as a regular Adult Leader.

Jackie Quinn

Mighty Youth

During 2014 the Christ Church senior youth group met on the second and fourth Sunday evenings of the month in term time from 6pm to 8pm at the vicarage. The members are young people from school year 9 upwards, and we meet for friendship, fun and Christian teaching and discussion. On the third Sunday of the month members are encouraged to attend the informal evening service, and on the first Sunday of most months they are invited to join with Mini Youth attending 'Sunday Night Live' at Costa coffee shop in Cosham. Every six weeks or so we also attend 'The Gathering' – a joint meeting of small youth groups from other churches in the local area. With larger numbers of young people coming together we can enjoy worship, examine what being a Christian is all about plus get to know other teenagers over games and refreshments.

Jacqui Wilson

Mini Youth

Mini Youth meets on some Sundays from 6.00 to 7.00pm. It is for young people in school years 7 and 8 and is led by the Vicar. It is an opportunity to discuss anything relating to the Christian faith that the young people want to discuss. Occasionally we meet with Mighty Youth and on the first Sunday of the month we go to Sunday Night Live at Costa in Cosham.

Diana Hutchins

Mission Support

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’ *Matthew 24: 40*

We continue to support a range of Christian missions working both at home and abroad. That support comes in the form of prayer and financial giving. In 2014 the mission charities supported were:

Barnabus Trust	Leprosy Mission	Simeon’s Trust
Christian Aid	MAF	Street Pastors
Church Army	Mission to Seafarers	Tearfund
CMS	Scripture Union	The Children’s Society

In September we said farewell to our longstanding CMS mission partner, Isobel Booth-Clibborn who has returned to the UK with her daughter Sheisa. Plans were put in place to find a new CMS mission partner for 2015 from Latin America.

Giving for mission has come in other ways as well. At the Harvest and Toy and Nativity Services in October and December, members of the church family donated lots of toys, toiletries, pyjamas and chocolate to be distributed in the city by the Roberts Centre & All Saints Hostel. At the Lent Lunches in April, money was given to support the work of AFIA as well as Tearfund.

In so many quiet acts of kindness, members of the church family have given ongoing support to:

AFIA	Portsmouth Food Bank	Royal British Legion
Havant Women’s Aid	Southampton Seafarers Centre	Traidcraft

Revd Annie McCabe

Mothers' Union Portsdown Branch

The purpose of the Mothers Union is to demonstrate the Christian faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide, through the nurture of family in its many forms. Other aims cover supporting & promoting marriage, encouraging parents in their roll to develop the faith of their children and maintaining a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.

Programme

- Each meeting usually has between around 20 people
- Meetings take place at 2:15pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month (Except August) at Christ Church hall.
- The last Wednesday of each month, we meet at 10am for communion, with intersessions led by the Mothers Union.
- The commencement of each term we have a Church service followed by refreshments, we also have guest speaker nearly every month.
- Lent Lunches are held every Saturday in Lent from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. in the hall with home-made soup, rolls and butter, tea and coffee. Proceeds from these lunches support the work of AFIA and Tear Fund.
- In the month of May we have a coffee morning and various stalls to raise funds.
- At Christmas time we invite deanery members to our Christmas tea for readings and carols
- 2014 Highlights: Pat Hatchard, being commissioned as branch leader of the Mother Union at the 10:30 service, conducted by the Rev. Andy Wilson.

Pat Hatchard

The Music Group

The Christ Church Music Group, more commonly known as "The Band" play on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th and 5th (if necessary) Sundays.

We also play for the Informal service between 6 and 7pm on the evening of the third Sunday. We practice between 5 and 6pm on the Saturday before the Sunday service.

Richard leads the worship during the service. Stuart usually sets up the equipment and sorts the music out.

Included in the band are a dedicated team of singers who lead the congregation from the front. I also include the AV. Operator as one of our members as the service would not be possible without their contribution.

Our numbers were gratefully increased in 2014 by the welcome addition of Stephen and Katie. We welcome anyone of any age or ability who would like to join us. We ensure that our contribution to the worship is to the glory of God.

Stuart Davies

Neighbourhood Lunches

Take place in the Church hall on the 4th Friday of the month at 12.30pm.

Contact; Linda Hoole

We provide a nutritious lunch for, at present, 45 community members.

The highlight for the last year was the amazing work of the team and.....THE NEW COOKER!

I would like to thank the team for making me so welcome and facilitating my ability to carry on the wonderful work that Gill started.

Linda Hoole

Open Church

Open church continues to be a disappointment to those of us who are committed to making the church more accessible to both the church family and the wider community. It is still a hit and miss affair with only the faithful few ensuring that our church is at least open on some of the days we say we are. Those of us who do open the church have had some great experiences interacting with not only visitors from far and wide but also with our own church family and in many ways this helped us get to know people we perhaps only smile at on a Sunday morning. Because we don't get any feedback, or very, very rarely, we will never know how many people turn up on the days we say the church is open only to go away disappointed because it's not. Our current and much enhanced web site is doing a power of good promoting and showcasing our church, and you have to realise that it's not just in the local area that people access our website to find out about us, it's looked at worldwide because of our D-Day connections. Once our Commonwealth War Graves Site gets more publicity, and it will, with the war graves commission including us in their website and them putting up signs on our church site directing people to us and, eventually, there will be an information board about our war graves in our cemetery. So you can see how it will be even more important to ensure our church is open in more ways than one. Please consider if you can play a part in being an ambassador for our church and see if you can spare a couple of hours one morning keeping it open.

Dave Fowler

Open the Book

Open the Book is a national scheme that offers a way to share the Bible in school in a lively and engaging way as children participate in telling the story. In our second year, the Open the Book team has continued to lead assemblies once a month in Purbrook Junior and Infant Schools.

Both schools have continued to make us very welcome and the children genuinely seem to look forward to our visits and have a remarkable capacity to remember the Bible stories. We have seen that God's word speaks for itself.

New members have joined the team this year and we continue to enjoy working in partnership with St Johns.

Revd Annie McCabe

PCC Report

The PCC usually meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month, and has occasional additional meetings. Members are trustees of the church and responsible, with the Vicar, for all aspects of church life. The majority of the PCC attended a Vision Day in October 2014 led by Rev Charlie Peer, the Diocesan Mission Adviser, and were inspired to consider the future priorities of the church. The leadership provided by PCC members is an essential part of our life as a church and members serve for a three year term of service.

Graham Olway MBE, PCC Secretary

Portsmouth Post

Survives to this day thanks to the dedication and hard work of people who deserve a mention in this Year Book.

Ros Molloy, for distributing to all the deliverers of the magazine.

The Deliverers themselves who tramp the streets of our Parish and beyond, every month year in year out in all weathers, distributing the Portsmouth Post to people who can't, or maybe just don't attend our church.

Margaret & Martin Baggs who collate and fold the pages for me to a very high standard.

Rita Drake, who also helps me collate and fold the remaining 140 magazines.

Finally to all the people who contribute to help make the Portsmouth Post a unique publication for our church.

Ruth Fowler, Editor of Portsmouth Post

Prayer Group

A faithful few meet on the first Thursday of each month to pray for the needs of our parish and the people who live in it.

Anyone who can spare half an hour will be very welcome at 40 Hillside Avenue at 10.30 am for half an hour of prayer followed by refreshments and fellowship for those who wish to stay on.

We hope to see you on the first Thursday of next month.

June Ames

Rusty Cutters

We meet every Wednesday morning, officially 10 am to 12 noon, unofficially 9am till we have finished the morning's set tasks. Peter and Penny Thurgill

We, and our volunteers which number 3 at the moment, keep the grass cut, hedges trimmed, bushes kept a reasonable height and width and whatever else we are asked to do within the Church grounds.

The highlight of 2014 has to be the complete removal of over two years' worth of spoil from the back of the churchyard.

I would like to take this opportunity to advise you that this coming year will be our last, we do not want to retire but health issues are forcing us. Hopefully, we will see this year through but then we will have to hand over the baton to someone younger.

Penny Thurgill

Sanctuary Guild

More volunteers to help with the cleaning of the church would be most welcome. Please contact Fiona Wheatley if you are able to join the team on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the evening. On the other Wednesdays two of us usually meet at 13.30.

Ros Molloy



72nd Portsmouth Scout Group



72nd Portsmouth (1st Portsdown) Scout Group City of Portsmouth Hampshire
Established 1930 A Registered Charity

Scouting offers young people between the ages of 6 and 25 the opportunity to grow through a progressive badge scheme, the outdoors, the community and above all by having fun.

The 72nd Portsmouth Scout Group meets in the Scout & Guide HQ.

Beaver Scouts	6 - 8 years	meet	Tuesday	5:00pm to 6:15pm
Cub Scouts	8 - 10½	meet	Wednesday	5:30pm to 7:00pm
Scouts	10½ - 14	meet	Friday	7:30pm to 9:30pm
Explorers	14 - 18	meet	Monday	7:00pm to 9:00pm
Network Scouts	18 - 25	meet throughout the City of Portsmouth		

During 2014 the 72nd Portsmouth Scout Group and Pinnacle Explorer Unit have continued to develop scouting in Widley.

All sections have had a busy year, the highlight for the Scouts, Explorers and Leaders was a return visit to Kandersteg, an international campsite in Switzerland. The activities ranged from hiking in the mountains, rock climbing, white water rafting, high ropes, overnight in a mountain chalet and more to swimming in a glacial lake! A fantastic ten days and we're already looking forward to the next time.

Contact Elaine Isaac on 72ndportsmouth@live.co.uk

Elaine Isaac

Sidesmen

14 people have been included as volunteers to carry out the duty of Sidesman at our regular Sunday services & at additional services during Easter & Advent during the last year. This is a simple duty of helping the Duty Wardens by giving out Pew Sheets & Service Booklets & greeting visitors & congregation as they enter the church. They also assist to take the collection & tidy up the church after each service. Two sidesmen are required at each main

1030hrs Sunday service & one sidesman is required to assist the duty warden at the 0800hrs Holy Communion service on Sundays. 3 Sidesmen have asked to be taken off this duty at the end of April 2015, so volunteers would be appreciated for this important task. Please speak to Keith Fisher if you would like to help at the 0800 or 1030 Sunday services.

Many thanks to all who have assisted over the last year.

Keith Fisher

Summer Festival and Advent Fayre

The Summer Festival, assisted by fine weather, saw an astonishing 800+ people from our community attend. The combination of activities in and around the church, the church hall and the scout and guide hall provided something for everyone, whatever age. We also raised significant funds as well!

The Advent Fayre was adjusted to be on the same basis, although we are restricted to everything being indoors of course! Success continued with 600+ people attending and more important funds raised.

Our thanks to the 90+ people who helped in advance and on the day, for both events, everyone worked as a big team while enjoying the happy and fun atmosphere.

How wonderful it is to welcome so many people from our community to Christ Church for these events, and to see some of them again at church services and activities afterwards.

Due to our success we are continuing with the same format for 2015, again with free admission. We always welcome more helpers, so if you would like to be part of either or both of these events, please speak to one of us. There will be opportunities for everyone!

We want to say a very big thank you to Annie for her leadership, guidance and encouragement as we have worked to move these events forward and to make them so successful. We aim to continue this work with your support.

The Planning Team, Revd. Annie McCabe, Sue Hicks, Sandra Togwell, Vicky Stephen

Christchurch Toddlers

The Christchurch Toddlers group meet each week (in term time) on a Wednesday morning from 9.45 to 11.30am. The group is held in the church hall.

Contact: Amanda Kind

Parents, grandparents & carers bring their children (from birth to 4 years old) for play, activities & social interaction. Snacks & refreshments are provided.

It has been a lovely year in 2014 for the group. We have had some very willing and keen volunteers to assist in the running of the group. On average about 35 parents (& several mice) attend each week.

One highlight for 2014 was the very successful Christmas Party & crib service at the church, all the parents agreed that it was a really enjoyable occasion & was a fitting end to our successful year.

Mandy Kind

Traidcraft

Goods on the stall include toilet rolls, kitchen rolls, facial tissues, tea, coffee, sugar, chocolate and some very good cookies of various flavours. This past year has seen a slight decline in sales on the stall possibly as a result of the relocation of the coffee area. This has meant that the consumable stock when reaching its best before date has had to be given away as it can't be sold. Therefore I have not restocked with cocoa or drinking chocolate but would be happy to reorder if there is call for it. Tea bags and pineapple pots are the most popular and again this year Advent calendars and Easter eggs have been sold to order. If you wish to buy any of the goods on the stall please put the money in the cash box or put in an IOU. If there are other goods or products you would like to see on the stall I would be happy to order them.

Having a Fair Trade stall in the church is a not a profit making venture; we are trying, as a Church to make a difference and helping to fight poverty through trade. Thank you to all who have supported this aim during the past year; this support is very much appreciated.

Linda Banks

Christ Church Visiting

Christ Church Portsdown
Pastoral Care



The Pastoral Visiting scheme was re-launched in October to become **Christ Church Visiting**. The scope of visiting has been widened to include anyone from the Christ Church family, of any age, whether they are able to attend Sunday services or not and our visitors will happily come and share time with anyone who wants someone to talk to – you don't have to have a particular problem or issue, although our visitors would be very happy to listen if you have; maybe there is some good news you would like to share or something said in a church service is on your mind that you would welcome the opportunity to talk about or maybe you would just like some company. A new team of 16 visitor volunteers were recruited and inducted with some initial training. Karina Golledge became the Visitor Coordinator in January 2015. Since the re-launch to date, we have completed about 20 visits. Ongoing support will be provided for all volunteers.

The Clergy were able to **follow up on a number of Funerals with a visit to the relatives** about a month afterwards with a gift of a plant and information about what other support, including social opportunities, might be available. Jacqui Wilson continues to offer **Bereavement Support** as required.

The Clergy continued to provide **Home Communion** to a number of people who were not able to attend Communion Services in Church and who welcomed being able to receive it at home.

Volunteers were able to support one family with a new baby under the **“Extra Helpings” Scheme** last year by providing suppers for the family over a two week period after the second parent went back to work.

A huge thank you is due to everyone who volunteers to support our Pastoral Care work.

Sheila J Gill – Pastoral Care Coordinator

Who Let The Dads Out?

Who Lets The Dads Out? is a group for Dads and male carers and their children up to age 5 (Year R). It meets on the third Saturday of each month (in the Church Hall at 9am) and is part of a network of groups operating under the Who Let The Dads Out? 'brand' (see www.wholetthedadsout.org). The group has been running for over a year now and has a core group of about 5 dads with others that come along when they can. It is free and offers time for dads to spend with their young children – as well as bacon butties, coffee, papers and conversation. We are always keen for new members – and look forward to meeting some new (expected) children amongst our current dads later this year!! Some dads have started meeting in The George on the Friday evening before WLTD0? for a bit of a bloke's social and we are planning a families' barbeque in May.

Richard Hutchins

Women's Breakfast

This is a joint venture with the Church of the Good Shepherd, Crookhorn, and we hope to also involve St John's Purbrook in the future. We start with a continental breakfast and a chance to chat and get to know each other, then we have a time of worship, followed by an inspirational speaker and time to pray for each other. We aim to meet once each term, at alternating venues.

Our first meeting of 2014 was in March at Christ Church hall where we were blessed to hear Lindsay Wheatley speak challengingly on communication with God. For various logistical reasons we then only managed one other meeting in the year – at Crookhorn in September where we heard Heather and Sandy speak movingly about the life and faith of our late friend Nicola Howard.

The first meeting of 2015 was in January at Christ Church and the next one is at CoGS on April 25th, starting at 9am - all women of any age are most welcome to attend.

Jacqui Wilson