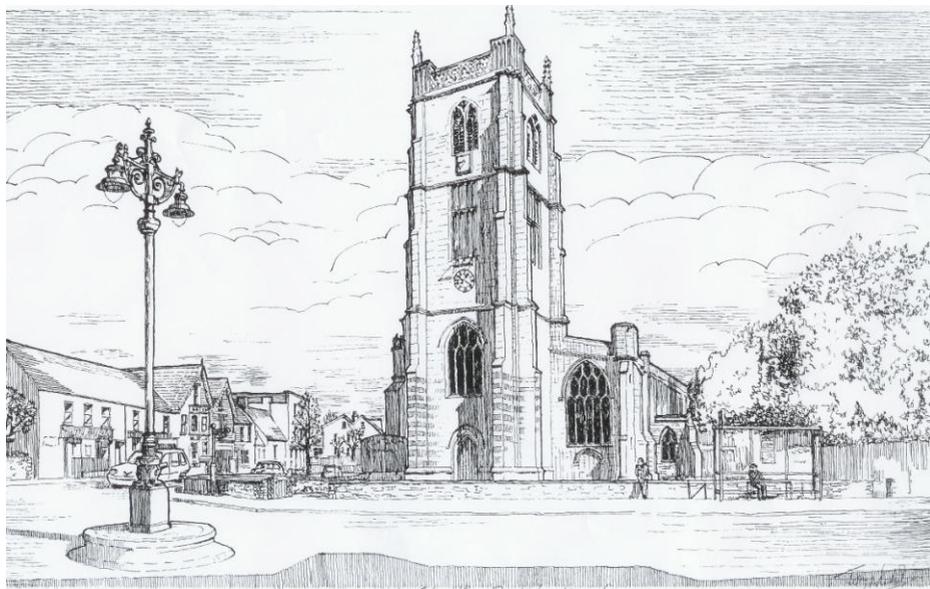


Reports for the
Annual District Church Meeting of

St John the Baptist, Keynsham



Picture courtesy of Tony Nicholson

Sunday 19th April 2015
at approximately 11.45am

**Agenda for the Annual District Church Meeting
of St John the Baptist Church to be held
in the Parish Hall on Sunday 19th April 2015.**

- 1 Welcome - circulation of attendance sheet and apologies
- 2 Opening prayer
- 3 Minutes of meeting held on Monday 9th April 2014, and any matters arising
- 4 a) Nomination of two Churchwardens for Meeting of Parishioners on 21st April 2015
b) Election of two vice-Churchwardens
- 5 Finance – presentation of 2014 accounts
- 6 Recommendation of Accountant for 2015 accounts to the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st April 2015
- 7 Rector's Report
- 8 Churchwardens' report
- 9 Electoral Roll Officer's report
- 10 Reports from organisations (*please see enclosed reports*)
- 11 Election of members of PCC (six)
(There is a list of current office holders for items 11, 12, 13 & 14 on the next page)
- 12 Election of members of St John's DCC (four for three years, one for two years and two for one year).
- 13 Election of sidespeople
- 14 Election of Churches Together Representatives
- 15 AOB
- 16 Closing prayer

Followed by a very short DCC meeting to elect the DCC secretary & treasurer

St John the Baptist District Church Council Members since the April 2014 Annual Meeting:

Clergy: Stephen M’Caw, Ian Rousell and Denise Calverley

Churchwardens: Paul Trueman and Steve Scott

Vice-Churchwarden: Julian Anderson and Lesley Organ

Proposed at this AGM:

Churchwardens: Steve Scott and Lesley Organ

Vice-Churchwarden: Julian Anderson and Julia Nicholson

Diocesan Synod representatives on the St John’s electoral roll (till 2015):

John Bordass, John Bratchel and Sue Lloyd

Deanery Synod representatives on the St John’s electoral roll (till 2017):

Betty Bordass, John Bratchel, Sue Lloyd, Jon-Paul Monks and John Watkeys

The Youth worker assigned to the parish: Dan Crouch

The Readers on the St John’s electoral roll: June Lowe and Rachel Hall
(Rachel Shaw’s preference is not to be on DCC or PCC)

Members on the St John’s Electoral roll elected to the PCC

Julian Anderson, Lesley Organ, Jenny Owen, Richard Pannett, Hazel Powe and one vacancy. (Hazel Powe resigned in January)

Proposed at this AGM:

There are 6 places available for election to the PCC this year for one year, and Julian Anderson, Julia Nicholson, Jenny Owen and Richard Pannett are available for re-election. This means two vacancies.

Those elected directly to the DCC for three years

in 2014: Sarah Crouch, Roger Peach, Sue Robbins and one vacancy

in 2013: Alison Grady, Judy Presland, John Wilkinson and one vacancy

in 2012: Marcia Cohen, John McLennan, Mary Richards and Francis Sadowski elected in 2013 for 2 years.

Those co-opted at 24th June 2014 DCC meeting: Carl Chalker, Laurie Coleman, Simon Bright and Chris O’Hara

At this AGM

Sue Robbins wishes to resign from the DCC and as DCC secretary due to added school commitments.

Therefore there are four places available for election to the DCC this year for three years, one for two years, and two for one year. A total of seven.

Those due for re-election this year and willing to be re-elected: John McLennan, Mary Richards and Francis Sadowski. In addition all the previously co-opted members being elected = seven in total.

Churches Together Representatives:

All the clergy and Alison Bracken, Dan Crouch, Tony Crouch, June Lowe and Wendy Robbins

Sidespeople since the April 2014 Annual Meeting:

Those who have left during the year are in brackets.

At 8am

[Mervyn Batchelor], Greta Bickerton, Betty Bordass, John Bordass, [Alan Byrom, Wendy Byrom], Elizabeth Sims.

Those who have joined during the year: Sue Lloyd, Ian McLennan and Bob Porton.

At 9.30am

Phil Bilner, Naomi Bilner, Anne-Marie Bird, Alison Bracken, Marcia Cohen, Bill Harwood, Wendy Harwood, Marion Moore, Dave Nicholls, Gina Nicholls, Julia Nicholson, Pauline Partridge, Hazel Powe, Morris Powe, Judy Presland, Pat Ryan, Heidi Scott, Jane Stockall, Val Thomas

Those who have joined during the year: Margaret Cadman, Tony Crouch, John Evans, Penny Garrett and John Lye.

At 11.15am

David Biddlestone, Peter Bird, Sue Cains, Andy Cains, Carl Chalker, Laurie Coleman, Carol Hamblin, [Joanne Nall], Pam Sales, Sue Stevens, Tina Stubbs Those who have joined during the year: Fiona Peach, Naomi Trueman and John Wilkinson.

NB Churchwardens and Vice-Churchwardens are automatically sidespeople, and the arrangement according to particular services (8am, 9.30am, and 11.15am) does not preclude a sidesperson acting at any other service.

The Rector's Report will be given verbally at the meeting.

The aim is for his address to go on the parish website with other audio in the sermons section.

He will refer to the following Bible passage: 1 Peter 2: 1-10

1 Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. 2 Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, 3 now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

4 As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 6 For in Scripture it says:

“See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame.”

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone,”

8 and,

“A stone that causes people to stumble
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the message — which is also what they were destined for.

9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

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ELECTORAL ROLL OFFICER'S REPORT

St. John's Electoral Roll 2015 stands at 282, down 1 member from 2014. Sadly, 4 of our members have died and 5 members have moved away. We have welcomed 8 new members to the congregation.

The analysis is as follows :-

St John's Membership 2014: 283

Changes in Membership 2014-2015 after updating the electoral roll:

- 4 Deaths
- 5 members have moved away
- 8 New members

Therefore 2015 Membership total is $283 - 4 - 5 + 8 = 282$ members

Sonya McLennan

CHURCHWARDENS ANNUAL REPORT (including fabric)

The year has been full of events and concerns, thanks go to God for the former and fervent petitions and supplications go to God for the latter!

Finance

Obviously the most major concern of DCC meetings has been to reduce the ongoing deficit, at the start of the year was £9,978. Disappointingly this was not eliminated as planned. Thanks have to go to treasurers Mary Richards (DCC) and Richard Pannett (PCC) for their unstinting efforts in recording and suggesting ways to pare the deficit. Thanks also go to those who contributed after another appeal to raise planned giving, when it was pointed out that it costs £11 a week to keep St John's running at its current level of activity and due to contributors moving away, some to glory, a likely deficit of £5,000 was projected.

Fabric

The new dais and chancel carpet is finally down – the very fetching red coloured material was laid just in time for Christmas! Delay was incurred after investigation revealed that due to heavy rainfall, overflowing water from outside drainage was seeping into an underlying bed of clinker, causing swelling under the altar at the East end, cracking the marble floor.

Sterling attempts by Chris O'Hara cleared the problem sufficiently to allow holes dug under vault and altar to be refilled and the floor re-laid. A solution to the underlying problem of blocked drainage in the churchyard is in progress.

Of the points noted on receipt of the 2013 Quinquennial report repairs were completed to a downpipe causing staining of the wall by the children's corner (SW wall). Diamond panes (plain glass) have been replaced in the two rear North wall windows and windows along the Tower staircase. The other minor points will be scheduled in the next four years.

Dais furniture, especially for the choir and altar kneelers will continue to be discussed in 2015.

The newly fitted parapet wires had their first major test during the fete in June, Only teddy bears slipped through them, as they gracefully zipped down to the west end gates to be congratulated on their flying courage by their owners.

The wardens gratefully give thanks as the new candles burn at all Sunday services, eliminating the need to re-fill and thus save time during the (occasionally hectic) rush to setup for the next service.

The new hymn books are in use, but several others are now shedding their spinal covering. The need for the new projector and screen as the favoured replacement for printed materials is growing acute.

Our grateful thanks go to the Bridges Society/Friends of St Johns for their whole hearted financial support, particularly of some of the bigger fabric expenses required this year.

Services

Groups from the different services have met during the year to discuss service format. A superb method of involving more church members in monitoring and stimulating the life of St. John's.

New faces have continued to grace services with their attendance and several welcome packs have been distributed. Some faces have become regular attendees!

It is also a pleasure to welcome those being confirmed, getting married, or having children (or themselves) baptised, particularly uplifting are those who belong to the church family. Happy occasions.

Music

How our Director of Music, Roger Peach, manages such fantastic heights of achievement on such paltry hours and salary is a modern day miracle. This year's Christmas service music was especially deft at helping people to achieve a sense of the presence of God through the reminder how the Saviour entered the world. Roger is also now rehearsing an augmented choir to perform the Messiah with Keynsham Orchestra next year.

Outreach and Nurture

Dan Crouch is to be commended for his work, not only with the church youth (speaking also as a parent here!) but the establishing of contact with both high schools. Very worthwhile activities, all noted in his report.

Also commended are Marcia Cohen and Judy Presland as they continue to arrange home visits to those requesting them, as well as organising Holiday at Home and a Harvest Lunch.

The Holiday Bible Club swung into action again, with some children returning for a second helping following last year's successful club. A delightful week of action packed mornings following the Scripture Union Megamakers material.

Dads and Toddlers, ably initiated and co-ordinated by John Wilkinson, continues as a support group for Dad's and a monthly morning off for mums! A wonderful way of interacting with the wider community.

Final bits

Thanks go to Simon Howell as he ended his tenure with us in April, in a music filled finale/party/concert. Our prayers continue to be with him, Ruth and their sons in Stroud. Interviews for a team vicar/missioner are imminent.

In the meantime Denise and Ian are now fully embedded in their roles in church life and our thanks go to them for the enrichment thereof, and prayers for their development into fully fledged leaders of God in the Anglican church. Thanks also for Andrew Judge and the lay-readers as they help lead services, providing insightful and encouraging thoughts for the daily Christian walk.

As both warden and parent it seems fitting to give thanks for those activities sustained by youth worker Dan Crouch, so ably supported by Sarah. Presence in a high school via a Christian Union group and the youth evenings in @One require all our prayers for the continuation of vital nurture of the young of this parish.

Undying thanks go to Julia Nicholson who stepped down from a return visit as Churchwarden and Tony allowing her to do so! This gave Steve Scott the chance to shine as fellow warden and my thanks also go to him for sharing the administrative burden and fervent prayers as he continues. This thanks also goes to Lesley Organ and Julian Anderson as they have also shouldered duties and admin. A fine team to continue the service required to keep St.John's marching forward into 2015.

Finally it's been a pleasure being alongside Stephen, watching as he leads all of us, despite a few health problems. His incisive and discerning mind have enabled this church and the whole parish to face facts and produce remedies for budget deficits, organise the future of @One and continue to look to the future of the parish. His sermons have been thought provoking and encouraging and we all look forward to seeing him continue in action. Prayers for him include thanks, the alleviation of a very heavy workload and energy and endurance going forward.

Paul Trueman – Warden

CHEW MAGNA DEANERY SYNOD

The Deanery Synod met on three occasions in 2014.

February

Synod welcomed the Archdeacon of Bath, Andy Piggott who spoke on the themes of:

- Contributing to the common good,
- Facilitating the growth of the Church,
- Re-imagining the Church's ministry.

Then members discussed, in groups, these themes in relation to their own parish life.

June

As this was the first meeting of a new synod, the meeting began with the Eucharist. There was also a presentation to Preb. Jan Knott who was retiring as Rural Dean after over 10 years of faithful service.

September

Synod had the opportunity, at an open meeting, to warmly welcome the new Diocesan Bishop, Peter Hancock. The Bishop responded to the hopes about priorities within the diocese as perceived by this deanery and questions from members.

The Bishop also commissioned the new Rural Dean, the Rev. Jane Chamberlain.

Sue Lloyd - Chew Magna Lay Chair

PASTORAL COMMITTEE

'Pastoral Care is the way in which we show the love of God to one another'.

The Pastoral Team constantly strive to do just that, by trying to keep an overall eye on all church members and helping where there is a need, in any way we can.

Our Pastoral Lunches for the elderly are always very much appreciated and give folks the opportunity to chat and catch up with old friends. The Lent Meeting and Carols in December are again ways in which we can share church events with the housebound in particular.

Several members of our congregation have passed on during the last year to be with our Lord Jesus, and are very much missed, including Marcia's husband and our dear friend Mervyn, who always helped out with lifts for our elderly folk and who did so much practical work around the church and hall. I want to say a HUGE thank you to all who have supported Marcia during her grieving – she has given so much pastorally to our church and it is with love and care that we all support her now.

Home Communion and hospital visiting are continuing, alongside the cheery word or phone call which is so always appreciated.

During the last year we have added two new members to the team: Hazel Fey and Marion Moore, so along with Pauline Partridge, Margaret Gravatt, Marcia Cohen and myself, we are now six strong but we would encourage and welcome anyone from the congregations who feel able to help with our work to join us.

Thank you to all who do unseen pastoral work within our church – we are so blessed!

Judy Presland

PASTORAL VISITING SCHEME

The invaluable visits to older members of our congregations by a loyal band of visitors have continued in earnest through 2014.

This scheme offering friendship and a listening ear is a much needed part of our Church outreach and the positive comments we receive from those who are visited confirms this. There are so many folk for whom loneliness can be such a burden to bear and so it is vital that such people are identified, thus enabling us to make a difference. If you ever hear of anyone young or old, churchgoer or not who is in need of a friendly face then please, please, do let me know.

Each year a service of Holy Communion is held in St John's for all the pastoral visitors. In 2014 this took place in March and as always was a chance to come together for a time of reflection.

I would like to say a huge "Thank you" to all the pastoral visitors who are so dedicated to their role and without whom we would be unable to continue the scheme. Personally, I would also like to thank them for all the love and support they have shown me over recent months.

Marcia Cohen

KIDZONE

At the end of 2014 there were around 25 - 30 children who regularly attend Kidzone, this has been maintained throughout the year.

The Kidzone Team over the year have delivered a wide range of activities to develop the children's faith and understanding alongside the 'Friends and Heroes' DVD series material.

All the groups in Kidzone (Plus ones – Years 5-7, Waves – Years 1/2-4 and Ripples age 3 - Year 1/2), meet together at the start and then split into their various groups.

During this altogether time, the children have a small collection, and the older children help to decide where to send it, for example 'Send a Cow'.

The children have also been keen to support Ethan Knott, hearing about how he is doing, and making him a card.

The Ripples age group has actually widened over the year, to accommodate any children from 0 to Year 2, this was partly due to the limitations of space and also Leader availability, this has led us to review whether we are able to restart Bubbles, which has previously been for the age group of 0-3 years old, however also acknowledging that families with children of this age should also feel they can stay in church and use the children's corner.

The Friends and Heroes DVD's are predominantly for children around the age of 7 and so for a variety of reasons, children in the Ripples group whilst still focusing on the bible story related to Friends and Heroes, have not watched the DVD's, this has enabled them to do some more energetic activities in the hall before the other groups return!

The children in Waves, appear to have enjoyed the DVD's, and then spending time discussing the topics with their leaders at an appropriate level, and then reflecting this in some amazing craft activities.

After concerns over having enough leaders for Plus Ones we now have a solid and dedicated team of leaders: Rachel Shaw, Anne Hewett and, towards the end of the year, Tina and Trevor Stubbs. Larissa Roberts is a regular 'second adult'. There is a real sense of spiritual growth amongst the young people in the group.

Approximately once a month, Kidzone joins the together at 10.30am service, we have noticed an increase in the number of children coming to this service with their families, Terry has led these services from a Kidzone perspective, providing activities for the children, also Jenny and Becca have been involved

with this on occasions, and we feel that this is a positive development, at Kidzone we have endeavoured to promote the 10.30am service, however it is essential that they continue to be 'family friendly'.

Towards the end of the year we met as a Kidzone team, to plan the programme as from January 2015, which was to look at the Biblelands, we also were involved in the Christingle service, and of course finalised the year with a Kidzone Christmas party, including making edible nativities!!

Kidzone are also looking forward to trying out and adapting some new resource material, when 'Friends and Heroes' is completed.

We ensure that there are the appropriate number of Leaders each week, with a current DBS, and that there are two Leaders/Helpers with the children where required. There have been no safe guarding issues.

Kidzone said Goodbye to Noah and Ruth Howell, with of course a party and some homemade gifts, the children decorated a baseball cap and hoop for Noah, and made a beaded necklace for Ruth, each child choosing their own bead to put on. Thank you to Ruth and Simon for all their hard work and support to Kidzone.

We also said good bye to Gail Hodgkins and Gill Trueman – thank you too for your valuable contributions to Kidzone, and we have welcomed Trevor Stubbs, Tina Stubbs, Carl Chalker, Graham Shaw, Ruth Bright, Jenny Clarke, Simon Ibbunson and Claire Lowe, back to children's activities, all bringing a valuable depth of knowledge and experience.

Another Holiday Bible Club in July entitled 'MegaMakers' was a fun- full time for both children and adults (70 + in total). Together we created a patchwork quilt, built bridges, towers and gliders. Excellent storytelling, drama, games, (water pistols, balloons), amazing machines and famous inventor facts held everyone's interest and reinforced the underlying truth that God's love for us is BIG ... VAST ... WIDE ... DEEP ... STRONG ... GREAT ... MEGA! Thank you to all the 'Team' for your commitment and enthusiasm

Thank you very much to all the Kidzone Leaders and Helpers for all their hard work and of course to the children.

Helen Ibbunson, Rachel Shaw and Terry Sears

YOUTH MINISTRY

2014 was another exciting year for the youth ministry as we faced several challenges while seeing encouraging developments in several areas of the ministry.

This year we have seen **considerable growth** in our engagement with the local secondary schools. In **Wellsway Academy** a lunchtime **Christian Union** has continued with a faithful 8-10 Christian students attending on a weekly basis with representatives from almost all year groups. This group is led by the young people, who take it in turns to prepare and deliver each week, supported by our youth worker and a rota of 4 staff members. Thanks are due to Mrs Yeo-Walker, Mrs White, Mrs Rogers and Mr Moffatt at the school for assisting with this. It is proving to be an important gathering point for Christian students in the school supporting them as they seek to follow Jesus in this context.

A second lunchtime **games and relationship building** session at **Wellsway Academy** also attracts between 20 and 25 young people consistently. This was delivered in partnership with the Methodist Church, although for much of the year their youth worker, Sarah Seymour, was on maternity leave. From this group, three students have begun attending our monthly **Plus Ones Plus** group and we are confident they will join our youth group when they are old enough. This is a real encouragement to us.

In **Broadlands Academy**, I continued to support **one student for half an hour each week** and this has (in part) enabled that student to remain in the school. In **September 2014**, I was invited to increase his time in the school to **a morning and lunchtime and to increase the number of students mentored to three** and did so. This signifies some really important progress in the relationship with the school. I am indebted to the help of Mrs Cottrell and Mrs Brady who I work closely with at the school and am sure that this relationship will continue to develop in 2015.

We have been active participants in the establishment of a **youth council** for Keynsham – **KeynshamNow**. We have worked in partnership with Keynsham Youth Service to assist in making this happen. It has been important to ensure that there is a faith based representative in this group and

we have been able to achieve this. The youth council is beginning to gather momentum and will increase in visibility and productivity in 2015.

At the start of the summer of 2014 I spent a week with **St John's School Year 6 pupils** on their end of year camp at **Botley**. This was a real highlight and this residential experience allowed a number of positive relationships to develop. The pupils were certainly excited to have this support and several are connecting with the work at Wellsway Academy. I had to leave a day early because the summer also saw our first **'youth group' wedding** with the marriage of Tim Aitken to Caitlyn Kurtzweg. It was a real joy to share in this special occasion and to see so many of the young people back together to celebrate. Many of these young people continue in the Christian faith and are contributing to church communities elsewhere. This is definitely something worth celebrating!

The youth group has **remained stable numerically** and those who are part of this group are growing in faith and engaging with the scripture in a relevant but challenging way. The most significant growth is happening as the young people individually continue to journey in their relationships with God. These young people see the group as an extended family. They are supported by a team of committed and highly skilled volunteer leaders and together we move deeper into God's word, and experience significant encounters with God. Our volunteer team has remained constant throughout the year and I am indebted to each of them for their hard work and commitment. However, we could always benefit from additional help.

In 2014 a small number of young people moved on to university and some on to gap years. As was the case in previous years, all young people going to University were given a gift of the book 'Fresh: Bite sized inspiration for New Students' by Krish Kandiah to encourage them to continue with their faith journey as their lives move onto the next stage. It is always good to welcome our students back in holiday time. In the course of the year the **'Takeaway with Jesus' group** ceased to be a fortnightly group as members moved on to University, into shift-work/employment, or simply couldn't continue to meet regularly. It is hoped that we will be able arrange termly events for this group of young adults in 2015.

In 2014 our **StreetSpace** initiative in partnership with Keynsham Youth Service and Keynsham Methodist Church continued but was significantly affected by the maternity leave of Sarah Seymour and Mark Willcox moving on from his post. Mark was a youth worker in Keynsham for 10 years and was

always open to working in partnership and appreciative of the role of faith organisations. Having worked alongside him for several years I am indebted to him for his support in my role. StreetSpace was placed 'on hold' while the new youth worker, Damien Erangey, settled into his role and in 2015 it is hoped it will resume. In the meantime we have not paid our £500 subscription fee to StreetSpace.

Soul Survivor 2014 as always took a huge amount of preparation prior to five days of fun, fine weather, deepened fellowship, strong teaching and emotional experiences with God. It was a further indication of the journey we have made with our young people, though on this occasion **2 young people** and **2 leaders attended**.

The **Monday Night youth meetings** have covered a wide range of areas in 2014 including using a resource about 'Becoming a Good Samaritan' which we piloted and were able to offer feedback on. The group numbers between **5 and 7**. We have focused on some issue based work around self-esteem and we have also engaged in some project work including renewing and personalising some garden furniture! We held a variety of social events including several BBQ's, bowling, laserquest and held several DVD evenings. We have had a number of guests join us, including our Curates and the Rector and importantly we have nurtured a caring and safe environment for people to bring their questions and concerns.

Discover on Sunday mornings continues to be attended by a faithful group of between **4 and 6** young people, with around 10 who are eligible to join us. This year we have tried a different approach to our teaching with this group, following the preaching series from the 11.15 service which embraced a range of topics including worship, Luke-Acts (for which your youth worker wrote the accompanying house group/youth group materials) and gifts of the Spirit. We also began to build stronger relationships with Helen Ibbunson and Kidzone with the hope of working increasingly closely with the children's work team.

The **youth band** is progressing well under the leadership of Annabel Fisher and Edward Powe and has led worship at 11.15 services on a number of occasions throughout the year. The band enriches our corporate worship and is a passionate group eager to worship.

In 2014, '**Wednesday night at the pub**' an ecumenical group of people aged between 18 and 30 meeting to socialise and think about some of the deeper issues of life has continued and consolidated. There continue to be

representatives from the Catholic, Anglican, and Methodist churches. This is a group of around 16 with between 6 and 8 attending each fortnight.

During 2014 the monthly Saturday **Plus Ones Plus** meetings continued to offer a range of creative and energetic sessions. Caroline Canfield-M'Caw has continued to play a huge role in supporting the group and we have recruited the Rev Ian Rousell to the team. Tony Grady stepped down after many years having made a truly superb contribution. Thank you so much Tony! The number of young people attending is between 8 and 12 and almost 2/3 of this group are not connected to the church.

There are so many more stories and examples from the youth ministry I would love to share but this report is already competing with the Rector's report in terms of length! The youth ministry is a busy ministry, but we are in good heart and good shape for 2015...

Dan Crouch

THE FRIENDS OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH (THE BRIDGES SOCIETY)

"The Friends" is a very small charity dedicated to the preservation of the historic fabric and contents of St. John's church. Although, as an organisation, we have become somewhat dormant - our income is now generally only a few hundred pounds per annum - we were able to make the following donations to St John's during 2014.

Repairs to a window in the nave	£ 168
Security barriers on the top of the tower	£ 300
Repairs to tower staircase windows	£ 150
Repairs to the chancel steps	£ 2, 790

Since inauguration on Patronal Festival Sunday, 24th June 1990, "The Friends" have given almost £50,000 for the maintenance of our beautiful church.

John Lye

ST JOHN'S MUSIC AND WORSHIP TEAM

Some highlights of the year:

1. In March we cancelled one of our worship band practices in order to take a small team to help out at the **Bristol Crisis Centre**, serving food to homeless people. "Keep us from just singing, move us into action..." (*God of Justice*, Tim Hughes).
2. **Tenebrae** – an ancient moving service for Lent, featuring plainsong and candlelight, conducted by Alison Howell.
3. **Special services at Easter and Christmas**, featuring a large number of people singing and playing in various groups.
4. Being part of the **Queen tribute band** for the Howell's leaving event was a personal highlight!
5. **Junior choir** performance of *Jonah-man Jazz*; the juniors have grown numerically, musically and in confidence during the year.
6. **Joint choir concert** with New Harmony Choir, Bristol in June.
7. Another successful series of **lunchtime concerts**.
8. **500 churches project**. A mad idea which far exceeded our expectations! 40 choir members and friends split into teams and hurtled around the Somerset countryside, singing and praying in 509 churches in 5 days at the end of October. It was special for us to pray in so many churches, many of them small and remote, all over the Bath & Wells Diocese, providing much-needed encouragement and in the process raising over £2,000 for our forthcoming choir tour to Holland.

I'm pleased that particularly the first and last of these are fulfilling the Music and Worship Team vision of "Releasing Worship", not only to St John's but to the local area beyond our walls.

All this is in addition to the regular worship featuring the Choir, the Worship Band, Youth Band, Folk Band, and All-age Orchestra. Once again it's been a great team effort – many thanks to all involved.

Roger Peach, Music Director, St John's Church

BELLRINGERS

Membership of Keynsham Church Bell Ringers remains relatively static at twelve. Although we didn't organise any specific recruiting activities this year, we still managed to attract a few interested people; we plan to be more proactive in this regard in 2015 as we still struggle for Sunday service ringers. Nevertheless, either the bells were rung or the Ellacombe Chimes were played – with only a few exceptions in each case – regularly for Sunday morning and evening services and Wednesday morning Holy Communion; similarly for Ascension Day Holy Communion, the First World War Centenary Vigil at the Memorial Park Gates (half-muffled), and the usual range of school and special Christmas services.

Fourteen weddings requested bells, and for all but two we were able to ring all eight bells, thanks in no small part to ringers coming in from other churches. In a new initiative a bell was tolled prior to eighteen funerals, a custom which was already being recognised within the community by March. Non-service ringing once again took place on St George's Day – part of the national "Ringing for England" campaign – and for Keynsham Winter Festival (formerly the Victorian Evening). We didn't ring specifically for the St John's Fête in June, having already rung for a wedding earlier the same day, but our guided Tower Tours contributed a healthy £79 to church funds. Three visiting bands of ringers were welcomed in May, June and September, the latter two bands each attempting a peal; both peal attempts were unsuccessful, but the September band did achieve a half-peal.

We have maintained the local tradition of attempting a quarter peal before Sunday evening services, augmented by a Sunday afternoon attempt in August (half-muffled to commemorate the First World War Centenary) and another for the Crib Service on Christmas Eve. A total of twenty-two quarter peals were attempted of which sixteen were successful, again relying heavily on outside support, but with our own quarter peal ringers continuing to make good progress throughout the year.

A complete replacement simulator system – a significant improvement to our training facilities – was donated to us at the beginning of the year, and fully commissioned by July. This has allowed us to teach bell-handling with the bells silent outside the tower and computer-generated bell sounds inside, which has proven invaluable both for our own ringers' development and for

two visits by groups of Scouts in September and December: on each occasion we rang a demonstration piece and then taught the visitors the basics of handling a bell. A third visit in March saw us welcome the St John's Junior Choir Club, making what use we could of our old (and failing) simulator. On two Thursday evenings, in July and October respectively, we were able to hold our regular practice using the new simulator despite having been asked not to ring the bells (in July for "Opera in the Park", part of Keynsham Music Festival, and in October for the St John's Choir CD recording session); also in October the Gloucester & Bristol Diocesan Association of Church Bell Ringers made good use of it for an entire Saturday as part of their annual Autumn Training Day.

Martin Pearson

ST JOHN'S WIVES FELLOWSHIP

We have enjoyed talks by various speakers culminating in a demonstration of chocolate making, with samples, by Nicola Eaton who has set up "The Really Expensive Chocolate Company" locally.

We were pleased to welcome the Rev Ian Rousell to our Lent meeting and to hear his Christian road to faith.

In June at the Church Fete, many members helped at various stalls and in the kitchen. Later in the month we had a 'Pimms & Puddings' evening – different puds made by members of the committee.

The sun shone on us in July for our outing to Swanage – some of us swam and paddled in the sea.

We were happy to welcome Rev Stephen M'Caw to chair our AGM in November, ending with an unusual quiz.

At Christmas we had a 'Fish & Chip Supper' followed by a 1950s film – "Roman Holiday" starring the delightful Audrey Hepburn and the equally delightful Gregory Peck!!

A very enjoyable year,

Jean Morgan - Leader

ST JOHN'S MOTHERS UNION

Our branch is part of a worldwide organisation supporting marriage and family life and we meet on the first Wednesday of the month (excepting August) at 7.45 in the Parish Hall. We continue to support MU projects in this country and abroad. These include the collection of Boots and Morrisons vouchers for the Women's Refuge in Bath, non-perishable foods for the 'Loaves & Fishes' scheme and fund raising for overseas projects. One of our members knits the white teddies given to each baby that is baptised in St John's and delivers a card on the first and second anniversary of their baptism. Another member sends a MU wedding card to couples getting married in the parish. A second-hand book stall is run at our monthly meetings and hand made greeting cards are sold to raise funds. This year we have provided the usual catering, providing coffee and then lunch, for the participants in the Marriage Preparation Day. This is always well received. For the future we are hoping to set up a rota to serve refreshments at the Tuesday Mother & Toddler sessions. Our annual 'Wave of Prayer' service brings the Deanery branches together and raised £156.70 for the Worldwide Fund. A travelling nativity scene was produced (all hand knitted) and was hosted by families with young children during the advent period.

We have had a variety of interesting speakers this year, including Rachel Shaw on Archaeology, Rachel Hall on beekeeping, Rev'd Andrew Judge on the Beatitudes, Rev'd Ian Rousell on 'his story', Vi Francis on the work of the Women's Section of the British Legion, and a fascinating talk on the architecture of Arnos Vale Cemetery.

Other events were - taking part in Cathedral Prayers in Wells, meeting our Worldwide President in Bath, providing refreshments at St. John's Fete, a Deanery Summer Tea Party for past and present members, our summer outing and meal, an Archdeaconry service at Midsomer Norton, and finally a Deanery Advent Service at which a second knitted stable scene was the focal point.

Visitors are always welcome, please join us.

Pauline Partridge, Branch Leader

ST JOHN'S MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

The St John's Mother & Toddler Group meets in the Church Hall on Tuesday and Thursday mornings during term-time between 9.45am-11.30am.

We aim to provide a friendly, indoor environment where children aged 0-4 years can play with a wide range of toys, interact with other children and take part in craft activities and singing every week. The Group is run by a small Committee of volunteers all of whom currently attend the group with their children.

We held a number of special events throughout 2014. At Harvest and Christmas Rev Denise Calverley kindly provided church services especially for the children. We had Under the Sea Airflow Tunnels and ice-cream at our Summer Party and for Christmas we had a disco, crown making and a visit from Father Christmas.

We also had visits from Inspirations fingerprint jewellery and hand-painting ceramics, Tulip Professional Photography, My Toy Story and Pinky Promise.

In 2014 the children helped raise £56.25 for the British Heart Foundation, £341.00 in June for Barnardo's with our Space themed Big Toddle and £135.25 for Children In Need. We were also please to fund sweets for St John's Christingle and craft supplies for Kidzone.

Our hope for 2015 is to continue to forge links with the church and to continue to increase our attendance.

We would greatly appreciate and welcome any support people feel they could offer the group and would ask you to please contact Natalie McOmish on 01179 867056 if you are interested or would like any further information. Thank you.

Natalie McOmish (Chair)

ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

St John's Church of England Primary School is located in the heart of Keynsham, within walking distance of St John's Church. The Headteacher is Dr Matthew Cottrell. The school has a strong Christian ethos and achieved outstanding status in its last SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) in June 2013. All aspects of school life are underpinned by

the School Values of wisdom, respect, fun, family, creativity, positivity, trust, freedom and peace and the school maintains excellent links with the church:

- The whole school meets together for Collective Worship every Wednesday morning, which is often led by a member of the clergy of St John's Church.
- All children attend the annual school Easter Service held at St John's Church - in 2014 this was on 3 April.
- Each year the school marks St John's Patronal Festival with a short service at school, led by the clergy. In 2014 this took place on 24 June. After the service the children played games and ate fish and chips for lunch. The celebration concluded with an outdoor service attended by parents and children and the school day finished at 2pm.
- On 11 September all pupils in Years 1-6 attended the annual Start of Year service at St John's Church. At this service all Year 3 children were presented with a bible.
- The 2014 Keynsham Schools' Carol Service took place on 5 December at St John's Church. This was organised by St John's School and all Keynsham primary schools were invited to attend and participate.
- The final school event of 2014 held at St John's Church was the Christingle Service on 18 December, which was attended by the whole school.

A small number of the governors of St John's School are Foundation Governors – these are elected by the DCC. The Foundation Governors are members of the Church-School Link Group, which supports the Christian vision and foundation of the school and plans the events listed above. The school also has an ecumenical School Prayer Group for parents, grandparents, governors and staff, which meets 3-4 times per year to pray about various aspects of school life.

Pupils at St John's School are encouraged to act in a Christian way at all times and to support and care for one another pastorally. The school has recently commissioned the carving of a bespoke wooden Friendship Bench, which will provide a quiet place where children can sit and chat. This is being funded by St John's School Association and a grant from Keynsham Town Council and the project will hopefully be completed in early 2015.

Claire Lowe

Foundation Governor, St John's School

MEN'S MINISTRY / MEN'S BREAKFASTS

There are currently no Men's Ministry/Breakfast events organised. Although there was an obvious desire and early commitment to reforming an active men's group last year, unfortunately nothing came of it. If there is anyone who feels a calling to get involved in this vital ministry area, then please come and have a chat with me.

Rev Ian Rousell

WOMEN'S BREAKFASTS

Women's Breakfasts usually have around 45 women of all ages and from across congregations attending, including some from other churches and some who do not attend church regularly. Our motto is "Encourage and Encounter" as we seek to encourage one another in encountering God in our everyday lives.

In **March**, Rev Denise Calverly spoke on the "**The surprises of God**" and shared some of her journey of faith, mission and ministry.

In **June** we had a session called "**8 women, 8 lives, 1 God**" where eight women from one Housegroup describe their differing walks with God. This was a brave move for some in taking their first opportunity to speak about their faith. It promoted lots of discussion was very well received.

November saw Revd Karen Jones speaking, entitled "**the X-Mas Factor**". Karen is an artist, writer, singer/songwriter, currently working in a parish in North Bristol. She has written "Babe's Bible", a trilogy (Gorgeous Grace, Sister Acts and Love Letter), interweaving stories from the Bible with modern day characters.

These sessions were much enjoyed and 2015 Women's Breakfasts are already planned. For more information contact Fiona Peach or the Parish Office.

Fiona Peach

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid in Keynsham is organized by Churches Together. A variety of events have been held throughout the year raising awareness as well as money to help with Christian Aid projects. Christian Aid and its partners are working to bring an end to poverty around the world - tackling its root causes as well as its effects.

In 2014 a Mini Market and door to door collections were held in May, a High Street collection was held in September and a pub-style quiz was held at the British Legion in October. Over £10,000 was raised in Keynsham, including money for Syrian and Philippines appeals.

Christian Aid daily reflection booklets 'Count Your Blessings' were made available at our churches during Lent and a united service was held in May.

During the year Wendy Robbins and Tina Stubbs took on the joint role of being representatives for Christian Aid at St Johns. We would like to express our thanks to Mary Lake and Jan Harding for the work they have done over the previous years helping to organize events and raising the profile of Christian Aid. Help is always needed with 2015 events; please get in touch if you would like to be involved.

Wendy Robbins and Tina Stubbs, St. John's Church Representatives

ALPHA

The 2014 Alpha course was successfully completed, led by Simon Howell prior to his departure last year.

Alpha 2015 has recently finished. It took place between January and March, and was held at the Ship Inn Keynsham. The initial sign up was positive with 12 people due to take part.

Unfortunately two days before the course was due to start we had a number drop out due to family and work issues, which left us with 6. Those 6 enjoyed the time spent getting to know each other, and hearing the sessions each week. The course concluded with the Holy Spirit Day, which was held at St Margaret's Church, Queen Charlton.

Rev Ian Rousell

**FELLOWSHIP GROUPS
IN HOMES 2014/15**

**Roger & Fiona
Peach's
Housegroup**

**John & Claire
Lowe's
Housegroup**

**Des & Celia
Wallace's
Housegroup**

**Paul & Gill
Trueman's
Housegroup**

**Ian Rousell &
Rachel Shaw's
Housegroup**

**Margaret
Herbert's
Housegroup**

**Anne Hewitt &
Robin Harvey's
Housegroup**

**Les Herbert's
Housegroup**

Specialised Fellowship Groups
Contemplative Prayer Group (Rachel Hall)
Alpha/Post Alpha [Housegroup in waiting]
Grace Group (Bereavement) (Penny Garrett)
Meditation Group (Penny Garrett)
Wives Group
Mothers Union Groups
Chewton Home-Communion Group
(Complemented, of course, by our Youth, Children's and
various Music Groups – see separate pages in this document.)

**Gill Roberts'
Housegroup**

**Carl Chalker's
Housegroup**

**Alison Bracken's
Housegroup**

**Martin & Sally
Burton's
Housegroup**

**Bill & Wendy
Harwood
and Paul Jenkins'
Housegroup**

**Geoff Richards'
Housegroup**

Living Water - our regular Parish evening service meeting at St John's at 6pm on the third Sunday of the month, to which all are invited. A conglomerate of house-groups across the Parish - under the leadership of Roger & Fiona Peach - for whom their Christian discipleship is stimulated by Renewal (spontaneous prayer and worship, space for God's Holy Spirit to minister corporately and individually, exercising of the Biblical 'spiritual gifts, public testimonies etc).

Evening Quiet Worship - our quarterly Parish evening service meeting usually at St Francis' at 6pm on the second Sunday of the month, to which all are invited. Often inspired by Franciscan and Taize traditions, the members of this Wellspring meet for services rich in liturgy that are inherently peaceful- a setting intended to create an atmosphere of holiness. Led by Rachel Hall & Rachel Shaw.

Wellsprings 2014/15

Larger pastoral groups for those sharing similar spiritual paths, the ripples from which extend throughout the Parish

The Chewton Eco-Congregation - a regular Parish morning service meeting at Chewton Church at 9.30am on the first Sunday of the month, to which all are welcome. Incorporating the elements of creation spirituality, and geared for environmental action in the local community, the Chewton congregation - swelled to around 40 folks - meets for Café Church once a month. Visiting speakers in the field of creation-care/Christian environmental action are a regular feature. This is led by Robin & Suzy Harvey with Denise Calverley.

The Celtic Mass - currently meeting quarterly at 6pm - usually at St Margaret's Queen Charlton (on 4th Sunday) - all welcome. Incorporating the Northumbria Community's sung liturgy into an entertainingly thoughtful & peaceful Celtic service with an emphasis on musical worship in the folk tradition, we gather to draw inspiration from those saints that have gone before us in these Isles (and indeed in this county of Somerset). Our Folk Band, directed by Gill Trueman, are central to the Celtic Mass.