

## **AGM Report 2013**

### **Background**

The PCC is responsible for supporting the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church – pastoral, social and ecumenical. It is responsible for the maintenance of St. Mary's Church and churchyard, Chilcombe Church, the burial ground in Shipton Lane and the boundary walls of the Rectory.

### **PCC Membership**

The following served on the PCC during the year, either ex-officio or following election in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

**Ex-officio** Reverend Bob Thorn (Team Rector and Chairman)  
Mr. Basil Dent (Church Warden and Vice Chairman)  
Mr. Howard Bongers (Church Warden)  
Mrs Susan Linford

**Lay Representatives on the Deanery Synod** Mr Ian Ibbotson (PCC Treasurer)

**Elected Members** Mr. Peter Broomhead  
Mrs Celia Cummins  
Marion Dewey  
Elizabeth Orza  
Mrs Ann Read  
Mr. Michael Read  
Mrs Audrey Smith

### **PCC Meetings**

The PCC met 5 times during 2013 with an average attendance of 89%

### **Committees and Working Groups**

The PCC was supported by the following:

**The Standing Committee** (the only Committee required by law):

It has the power to transact PCC business between meetings of the PCC subject to any directives that the PCC may have given.

#### **The Fete Working Group**

This organises the annual Church Summer Fete

#### **The Mission Sub-Committee:**

This proposes each year – for consideration by the PCC – a list of charities to be supported through the Church. It has particular responsibility for St. Mary's links with the Church Mission Society and the Salisbury/Sudan Medical Link.

## **Review of the Year**

The Church Electoral Roll- the number on the electoral roll was 93 (95). Three names have been removed from the Roll and one name added.

The average Sunday attendance at services through the year was 53 + 1.25 children (60 + 2.5 children). The attendance on Easter Day was 95 + 16 (121 + 16). The attendance on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day was 152 + 28 (118 + 24). There were 4 (7) Baptisms and 7 (9) weddings during the year.

### **Organists:**

David Woodford continued as our regular organist throughout the year, supported by Julian Piper and Marion Surry. We thank them for ensuring we have organ music for our regular services.

### **Highlights of the year included:**

- (a) An Awayday Meeting was held on 12th January 2012. This is the report from that meeting.

A day to consider various issues affecting the life of St Marys church and look towards the future has taken place. It was titled as an "Away Day" because it was held in the Hall in Litton Cheney rather than in Burton Bradstock.

In spite of dreadful weather 35 people including most of the PCC met together and not only had a chance to speak fully and frankly but also enjoyed coffee, lunch and tea and a good chat together. We were very fortunate to have been joined by the Bishop of Sherborne, The Rt. Revd. Dr Graham Kings, who facilitated the discussions.

The day was spilt into four parts dealing with practical issues and space requirements, leadership, services and looking outwards.

Before Bishop Graham arrived we considered whether we should have better facilities such as accessible toilets, more storage space and perhaps a place for meetings. It was agreed that this could be a project worth pursuing.

Bob Thorn then outlined how the role of the Clergy has changed and will continue to change and how other roles could be developed to support him and the Churchwardens. Bishop Graham noted that it was unusual for a rural church to have the luxury of 4 Sunday Services and it was felt that perhaps some of the morning services could be brought together. It was agreed that ways of doing this (initially on an experimental basis) should be brought forward. It was acknowledged that any changes of timing of service patterns may have to be looked at across the Bride Valley as a whole.

We considered the special attributes of the village including its location, large numbers of visitors and second homes, the school and the music festival and plenty of ideas were put forward of ways to build closer contacts with all these people. The Parochial Church Council will be looking in detail at all these matters and see this as part of an ongoing process to which anyone can, and is encouraged to participate in, whether a regular church attendee or not.

At its meeting on 11 February 2013 the PCC decided to experiment with a combined service at 11am with effect from the 5th May and to implement a feasibility study into the possibility of improving facilities

- (b) The Summer fete which raised £5486 (£4940) in August
- (c) Carol singing around the village was very successful again this year and raised £232.13 for the Children's Society

### **Mission Sub Committee Report for 2013 Annual report.**

The two charities chosen for support by fund raising events in 2013 year were Leprosy and Footprints.

We had two evening events one in March and one in November which were well supported.

During the summer we held three cake and produce sales in the Reading Room.

The total raised for the year was £1354 which was divided between the charities.

The Mission Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their generous support.

#### **Celia Cummins**

Sub Committee member

### **Bride Valley Benefice Council 2013/14**

During the year the Benefice Council has met 6 times; the Council is made up of Chairman (The Rector), Vice Chairman (Lay Reader), Secretary (Parish Administrator) and two representatives from each of the Valley Parishes. In total this could mean 17 meetings at Puncknowle Village Hall every other month to co-ordinate services and consider matters common to all parishes. In fact the number attending rarely rises above 10 and has been as few as 6. There are seldom matters of supreme importance to discuss, but there are always routine issues, chiefly the service rota for the parishes and the dividing up of the available personnel to take the services.

At each meeting there is an opportunity for parish representatives to bring to the Council any particular concerns, items of interest, forthcoming projects, fund-raising initiatives and so forth. Use of the Valley Diary, co-ordinated by Administrator Liz Slater, enables all parishes to be aware of events taking place. During this year Peter Broomhead has given a brief overview of the need for better storage facilities here at Burton and the alternative solutions which are currently being investigated.

The Benefice is responsible for the production of the Bride Valley News. Thanks to the combined efforts of the editor, Will Newell, and the advertising manager, Ian Ibbotson, this publication is now very healthfully solvent and contributes to the Benefice finances. Also to be thanked are the many links in the distribution chain, headed by Irene Piper. Magazines have to be transported from the printers (Creeds) to a distribution hub in each village, then to the individuals who deliver them to every

household in the Valley. It is a tremendous task, done almost anonymously, twelve months of the year.

The Benefice is financed by the parishes, each paying a proportion based on the Diocesan Parish Share. Being the largest parish obviously Burton Bradstock makes the greatest contribution, which in 2013 was £2145. In 2014 this will rise to £2520. The Benefice is responsible for paying all clergy expenses, administration costs and incidentals; currently this is running at around £10,000 per year.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the Benefice Council and how it works is more than welcome to attend the Annual Benefice Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014 at Puncknowle Village Hall at 7.30 pm.

### **Elizabeth Orza & Peter Broomhead**

Burton Bradstock representatives on the BVC Council

### **Lay Pastoral Assistants**

The work of the Pastoral Assistants has carried on throughout the past year. The Chesil Court events have continued to thrive on the second Thursday of the month, alternating between coffee and cake with exercises one month and lunch the next. Anyone from the village is welcome to attend and this year we have published the programme in the pew news and also in the Bride Valley News. The coffee mornings and lunches give everyone an opportunity to meet, chat and socialize. We arranged an outing in the summer and also afternoon tea in August. December we had a Christmas Lunch with festive food followed by carol singing.

During the year we visit people in the village who need support. This may be because of loneliness, bereavement or illness.

LPA work, via the school chaplaincy committee, is centred on pastoral care and building a bridge between school and church in a variety of ways. In December, school pupils were invited to make christingles in school and to take part and attend our Christingle Service in church.

Help with Collective Worship in the school continues. Friday Assemblies in school are led by a team using, "Open the Book" which is a national Christian programme that aims to provide children with a series of Bible stories working from Genesis through to Pentecost.

We take this opportunity to say thank you to those who help with Chesil Court events, without you it would be difficult to continue. To those who pray for us we also say a very big thank you.

### **Christine Lawrence**

## **Lyme Bay Deanery Synod Report**

The Deanery Synod met during the year. The Deanery Synod exists to consider matters concerning the Church of England, bringing together the views of the parishes of the deanery, acting as a channel of communication between parishes and Diocesan Synod and to effect decisions made by Diocesan Synod, raise matters with Diocesan Synod and elect representatives to Diocesan Synod and General Synod. The Revd. Janet Delaney, Vicar of Loders, has been appointed Rural Dean of Lyme Bay.

Ian Ibbotson, Deanery Synod Representative

## **School Report**

### **School Organisation**

At present we have 93 pupils on roll, who are split into four classes as follows:

Sails Class - 20 Reception and Year 1 pupils taught by Mrs Procter.

Boats Class - 23 Year 1 and 2 pupils taught by Miss Sanderson.

Class 3 - 24 Year 3 and 4 pupils taught by Mrs Rattenbury.

Class 4 - 26 Year 5 and 6 pupils taught by Mrs Varndell.

Each class also has full-time teaching assistant support and we have 5 teaching assistants who work with children on a 1:1 or small group basis.

We have a full-time school secretary/finance officer who works in the office as well as two midday supervisors, two kitchen assistants and one caretaker/cleaner.

Since the previous meeting we have welcomed two new members of staff into the school - Miss Hill has joined us as a kitchen assistant and Mrs Brincat who has joined us to support pupils on a 1:1 basis for educational or behavioural needs.

At present 18 children attend the school from Burton Bradstock, 12 children from Shipton Gorge and 63 children from outside the catchment area, ranging from Chideock to Netherbury.

### **Governing Body**

Mr Julian Piper took on the role of Chair of Governors this year and he is supported by Ms Sue Dampney as Vice Chair and the rest of the Governing Body. At present our Governing Body is fully represented with 15 Governors.

### **School Development**

This year the school has been working hard on the priorities in the School Development Plan. These include:

- Raising attainment and progress in Maths
- Developing target setting in Writing
- Reviewing the school's curriculum in preparation for the implementation of the new National Curriculum in September 2014

### **After School Clubs**

The school offers a number of after school clubs through professional providers, school staff or volunteers. This year the range of clubs include Football, Tag-Rugby, Street-Surfing, Multi-skills for KS1, Cookery, Knitting, Scratch (Computer Programming), Gardening, Water-colour painting, Keyboard and Flute.

### Friends of Burton Bradstock School

The Friends of the school continue to work tirelessly to fundraise for the school and to organise community events for the children and their families. In 2012/13 The Friends raised nearly £2,500 through their fundraising events. This year they have donated money to the school to subsidise transport for visits and trips as well as contributing to the redevelopment of the rear playground with the installation of a new gazebo. Some of the money raised has also gone towards our link school in Thailand and has contributed towards the improvements of their school kitchen and to sponsor a child, Jai Muang, to continue with his education. At present the Friends are raising money to develop the small area outside the Reception classroom to enhance the outside learning environment as well as to purchase new IT equipment across the school.

### Links with the Church

We continue to have strong links with the church. Our Friday assemblies are led by the 'Open the Book' team and give the children the opportunity to hear the major Bible stories accompanied by relevant prayers and quiet reflection. We also hold our major celebrations in the Church - Harvest Festival, Christmas, Easter and our Leavers' Service. We have really appreciated the support we have received from Howard Bongers and Basil Dent, the Church Wardens, when we have conducted our services at the Church and they will be greatly missed by the school community.

### Links with Parents and the Local Community

We have weekly Good Work Assemblies where the children lead and share their work and achievements. This year we have held Maths Open Days where parents have been encouraged to come into school and find out how we teach maths to the children. We hold regular events in the village and welcome support from the community. These include our Christmas Fair, The Annual Duck Race and the Beetle Drive. The children also take part in the Remembrance Sunday Poster competition run by the British Legion, the Art competition for the Village Flower and Produce Show and the Photography Competition sponsored by Burton Bradstock Online. At the May Fair the children performed with our Music teacher, Miss Varndell, and David Powell.

### Links with the Wider Community

As a school we continue to work closely with other schools in the Pyramid at both staff and pupil level. School staff have worked together on initiatives in Maths, Literacy and Music as well as having a joint INSET day in January exploring creativity in the curriculum.

There are a number of opportunities for the children to come together in different events such as the Kenway Cup Football Tournament, Tag Rugby Tournament, Key Stage 1 multi-skills festival and Able and Talented Workshops.

**Mrs Claire Staple**- Head Teacher

### Sacristan's Report

The job of Sacristan at this Church entails looking after the communion linen and the white altar cloths, together with the laundering of these along with the smaller cloths used on the credence tables.

Also preparation for the services of Holy Communion; that is to say putting ready the wine and wafers and the water and the necessary linen, trimming and renewing the candles as needed and preparing the hymn boards.

The Sacristan also looks after the altar frontals, which are changed according to the liturgical seasons, along with the matching bible ribbons.

This year all the altar frontals have been dry cleaned and look much improved. This is the first time and some of them were made 40 years ago!

The curtain in the South Transept and the two from the main entrance door have also been cleaned and are some shades lighter! Again it is thought that they had not been cleaned before and they were probably hung at least 25 years ago.

I have now been Sacristan for 7 years and it is good to be able to report that all is currently in good order.

**Jane Stubbs - Sacristan**

### **Fabric.**

We are fortunate in having a Church which is in such good condition as our St Mary's. This is due to the vigilance and care which your PCC exercises over the condition of our Church and in particular the fact that our Fabric Fund is in a healthy state. This enables us to carry out any work needed before it becomes a major problem.

Because of that, it only remains for me to do the usual "thank-yous". Although they may be "usual", that does not make them any the less sincere. To Gary Parsons, for the work he does, to the sidespersons, the lesson readers, brass cleaners, Pat and her fellow flower arrangers, the holy dusters, the coffee makers and servers, to David and our other organ players and anyone and everyone else who in any way has contributed to the life of our St Mary's.

Finally, and by no means least, special thanks to our Sacristan, Mrs Jane Stubbs, for her dedication and care in carrying out her duties.

**Basil Dent – Churchwarden**

### **Bells**

Once again it is with pleasure that I can report that our bells are in very good order. This is in no small measure due to the diligence and regular work on inspection and maintenance by our Steeple Keeper, Mrs Jane Stubbs, ably assisted by one of our regular ringers, Roger Brown.

All services have had the bells rung for them, as have festivals and other special occasions, nothing has been missed. Apart from our own weddings, we have rung at Shipton Gorge and Abbotsbury, special occasions there too. We also ring regularly at Toller Porcorum for their monthly Evensong, on a rota with Beaminster and Bradpole. We are also at present teaching a group of young female students to ring as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. However, if you fancy learning to ring, don't

let any of the above deter you, you will be most welcome. Just come along any Thursday evening at 7.00 pm or have a word with any of the Ringers.

**Basil Dent** – Tower Captain

### **Church Fete**

The 2013 Church Fete was again very successful - we were very lucky with the weather in the one sense as it was a fine day however having had several wet days beforehand this seemed to send many of the visitors to the beach! In spite of this we still raised just under £5,500 which was about £200 up on last year. As in the past the funds were raised for the benefit of the Fabric Fund of the Church.

Sadly the fete co-ordinator Jim Rogers was taken critically ill just before the fete but we all rallied round and ensured the day was a success. We are however pleased to report that an admirable replacement has been found in Peter Tompkins. This year's team is the same as last year's with the exception of the change of co-ordinator.

Plans are well ahead with the preparation for the 2014 fete which will be on Thursday 7th August when the theme this year will be "Music" and with this in mind we are also arranging a musical evening in the Church on Friday 8th August. Many of the games have been renovated and repainted during the winter with a view to having a brighter set of games at this year's fete; hopefully these will then last for some years to come!

**Ian Wigglesworth** – Fete Co-ordinator

### **Flower Arrangers Report 2012/13**

St Mary's Flower Arranging Team have had another enjoyable year helping to make the Church look beautiful and well cared for, especially for festivals and special events.

We have had many kind comments in the Visitors Book reflecting the general love of St Mary's.

We have 24 ladies on the rota all donating their flowers.

We held a gathering for coffee and cake to say thank you to everyone for their commitment and kindness.

The church funds cover the cost of oasis (floral foam) and extra candles for the Carol Service.

The flower displays mounted at the time of the Church Fete raised well over £100.

The theme was the birth of the Royal Baby Prince George

Joyce Hyde has retired from the rota and now lives in a home in Weymouth. We are most grateful to her for many years of flower arranging on behalf of the British Legion and have sent her a card of best wishes and thanks.

We have decorated the church for numerous weddings in the last year but it is with regret that I will not be able to continue this practice. It will be necessary to ask brides to make their own arrangements in 2015.

**Pat Broomhead** - Organiser of Church Flowers

### **Tiny Tots Pram Service**

It has been a delight and a privilege to meet an increasing number of pre-school children and babies along with their parents each month. We now have more than twenty tots on the register and others hoping to join later. During the last year the number of children attending ranged from three to fourteen.

The school has continued to be very supportive, advertising the Tots' Service in their newsletter and having a poster on the school gate.

Audrey, Ryder, and Heather are very grateful to all those who come once or twice a year to serve teas to the parents and lend a hand with practical activities. We could not manage without you! Also we wish to thank the bellringers who ensure the church is warm, the bell available for the Tots to ring, notices are on the notice board, and that Postman Pat's letterbox is out.

We hope that you have enjoyed seeing the Tots' Easter Garden with the stone rolled away.

Finally, please encourage any parent with pre-school children, babies or bumps, to join us on the second Friday of each month (except August) at St Mary's Church at 2.15pm

**The Tots' Team**

### **Children's Society**

Thank you to those who have supported the work of The Children's Society. A total of £845.06 was raised during 2013. Home boxes remain an important part of this and contributed £523.55. If you know of anyone who would be willing to take a box to put loose change in after shopping please let us know.

The well attended Christingle Service was led by the Rev.d Sue Linford with a surprise visit for the children by Hattie, the clown, alias Sue Brown. Children helped by saying prayers for the Society, reading Bible verses and explaining what a christingle represents. They then lit their christingles and formed a cross of light by standing along the aisles singing and doing the actions to 'Shine, Jesus, Shine'. The collection, together with the candle boxes from the school, amounted to £76.68. After the service we went across to the Village Hall for a party starting with delicious food (thanks to Lesley Dove and her team in the kitchen), followed by games and a visit from Father Christmas.

Carol singing around the village resulted in a record amount of £232.13. We finished up in the 'Shoes' where our last carols were sung by hoarse voices which were revived by mulled wine and mince pies kindly provided by Will and Mandy Hay. Many thanks to all the singers and those who donated money.

**Pauline Woodford** – Local Representative for the Children's Society

## **Church Brass Cleaning**

Thanks to all those who continue on the brass-cleaning rota, contributing to the beauty and peace of the church and the dignity of the services. It is much appreciated both by the regular congregation and by visitors. There will be some room for new helpers in 2015; two people work together, so the job takes under an hour, once a year; it is very satisfying when you've finished and everything is gleaming.

## **Mary Ibbotson**

### **Holy Dusters**

After many years of looking after the Holy Dusters rota, Ann Read asked if I would take on the task. I have agreed to do this in the interim but if anyone is (or knows anyone else who is) happy to take it on then please let me know. The team is still performing a wonderful job of keeping the church clean.

Volunteers have a different area of the church to clean usually once every other month or (very occasionally) 30 mins once a week for a month. With the current 11 cleaning areas we need another 4 people to get to a full one-month-on-one-month-off rota and are keen to hear of anyone else we can invite to join us. We are considering any alternatives to the present 11 area system which would spread the load more evenly, and allow for a complete one-month-on-one-month-off rota with the current number of volunteers. Any ideas would be welcome.

Many thanks go to all those who share in this much appreciated task and special thanks to Ann for all her hard work and organisation in the past.

## **Irene Piper**