



**St Martin's Church**  
**Annual Parochial Church Report**  
**Liskeard**



**ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16**





**ST MARTIN'S CHURCH LISKEARD  
ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

**Sunday, 3 April 2016  
St Martin's Church Upper Hall**

**A G E N D A**

**10.00 am Holy Communion Service**

*Coffee break*

**11.00 am Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2016**

**Prayers**

Welcome and apologies (**please sign the attendance sheet**)

**Vestry Meeting**

1. Approval of minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 29 March 2015
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Nomination of Mayor's Warden

**The Vestry meeting is open to all parishioners**

**Incumbent's Report**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

1. Election of Deanery Synod Representatives (4)
2. Election of Parochial Church Council
3. Electoral Roll Report
4. Term of service for PCC Members
5. PCC Report
6. Report on Fabric
7. Financial Report and Statement of Fund
8. Appointment of Sidespersons
9. Appointment of Independent Examiner/Parish Auditor
10. Appointment of Electoral Roll Officer
11. Appointment of Child Protection Officer
12. Appointment of Health & Safety Officer
13. Vote of thanks (by Churchwarden)
14. Other matters
15. The Year Ahead

**Parochial Church Council Meeting**

1. Appointment of Vice Chairman
2. Appointment of Treasurer
3. Appointment of Parish Secretary
4. Resignation of previous Secretary

Following this meeting there will be a **Lent Lunch** which you are all welcome to attend

## Priest in Charge Report for 2016

Messy Church is the first outstanding (not 'stand out!') parish event recorded in my diary for 2015. It demonstrated that Dobwalls United Church was concerned to reach out into the community. From a weekly congregation normally totalling fewer than thirty there were some eighteen who came and committed to play a part – reception, projection, staffing one of the activity tables, cooking or serving the simple meal – in the once-a-monthly messy church. Families came along, at first in huge numbers and then smaller but very significant, as it continues now into its second year.

Ignoring the diary I move immediately to Open the Book, where a team of adults present Bible Stories dramatically but very simply in schools. This again is a great team effort and one of the signs of hope for the Church. The original two schools (St Martin's and Dobwalls) became three in 2016 as the team were invited into Hillfort School.

Of course ABC is still a jewel in the St Martin's crown though the team has gone through a transition.

That word team reminds me how many teams are active in our church life. In addition to our ministry to families and young people there are teams of servers, worship leaders, ringers, the team of sidesmen, hospitality teams serving festive drinks after Christmas services or tea and coffee with biscuits or cake week in and week out, the Lunch Club Team and Lent Lunch Teams.....

Much of our worship is led by teams, and especially our music. When I think of the number of people involved in leading and resourcing our worship I am so glad that the one-man-band is neither our worship nor our music style.

We are, of course, part of larger teams: the Deanery, the Diocese and the Church of England. St Martin's people play a full part in all these and it is good that we can hear from some of our own Church Members what is discussed and decided at Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod. Incidentally we seem to be in a transition period in regard to Deaneries as there is a great deal of momentum towards the unification of East and West Wivelshire, partly because there are too few clergy in this Deanery to find a clergy person with the time to perform all the tasks of a Rural Dean. Within the town of Liskeard we are linked through Churches Together in Liskeard to the Catholic and Methodist Churches and the Salvation Army.

For anyone who has not already read it I recommend the booklet of Mission Initiatives which was put together as a response to the Diocesan follow-up on Accompanied Mission Development. It gives details of four initiatives undertaken by the PCC as follows:

**Raising our Profile** was addressed by Lesley Boyden and outlined our intention to use banners, social media, personal invitations notice boards and participation in public events throughout the year to make more impact on the community.

**Fellowship courses and outreach discussions** were under the purview of Ron Bennett and a Discipleship Explored course is being piloted. The existing study and fellowship groups were explained as was the ongoing link with four mission partners through our mission group.

**Re-ordering the church building** was the major financial commitment and the support and advice of the Diocese will be vital here. The demise of the large heater in Church has added some urgency to this work.

**Succession planning and recruiting Key Leaders** has moved on well. Replacement Family Pastoral Worker and Parish Administrators have been chosen and are, or shortly will be, learning the job.

There are, of course, team leaders who need special mention.

Our Churchwardens, Annie, Tim and Tony have all played invaluable and complementary parts in our church life and their joint role is due to grow in the Summer when I retire. For the moment we offer our gratitude and I urge you all to give them your support during the vacancy.

At the time of writing we have two church secretaries as Jenny inducts Nikki into a challenging job which, like the churchwardens' role, is set to grow in demands and importance from the time of my retirement; in this particular our thanks are in the main towards Jenny and the plea for support towards Nikki. I would also like to thank the growing team of volunteers who have given office support and point out that we are hoping to recruit enough to have a receptionist in the office five mornings a week.

In regard to office support much of this has been given in recent years by Teresa, our Family Pastoral Worker; this was particularly important immediately following Jenny's injury last year, and for this we have

been grateful. In her main role she has made valuable contributions to our schools impact, our provision of pre-school and youth work, the family-friendliness of the 9.30 service and the outward vision of the Church. We wish her well when she moves to Launceston and takes up the new challenge of ordination. Before she goes she will be training Jane Asquith to take over and develop the vital work she has done here in Liskeard.

Our Treasurer, Mike, has been very (and deservedly) upbeat about our response to the financial challenge of 2015. I am grateful to those whose response has given joy to Mike and resources to the church. The day to day financial transactions are through the office and Mike has therefore had an important role in the Secretary's direction. We congratulate him on his growing family with its demands, his Diocesan role with its demands and his retirement which means he should still have some time for his role in St Martin's for which we thank him.

The list of those involved in our worship is too long to name: musicians, readers, servers, sidesmen and worship leaders number I guess somewhere between fifty and a hundred, many of whom are serving in more than one capacity. I would like to single out Chris Howarth for his exceptional musical, teaching and encouraging gifts with which we have been blessed, also Sheri Sturgess who has carried responsibility for the leadership, development and organisation of the 9.30 service and Ron Bennett and Liz Piper whose contribution as Readers both in Sunday services and midweek involvement has been invaluable. Thank you all.

This will be my tenth and final APCM report at Liskeard. Thank you all for your friendship, fellowship and support. For Marion and I these have been very happy and encouraging years and we look forward to hearing good reports from time to time and maintaining friendships from the not very foreign soil of Plymouth.

Please read the whole report, see how much you do, regularly review your own contribution to all this and, like the twelve-year-old Jesus, continue to grow in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and men.

Tony Ingleby

## ABC

All good things come to an end in this life and Summer 2015 saw the end of an era on Tuesday mornings, with Julie Cawrse, Maggie Skinner and I, all saying goodbye. Julie has led ABC for over 20 years and under her motherly eye it has flourished and the young Mums found in her a true friend and confidant. Now Teresa Folland has created a new team of dedicated volunteers and the work continues. The afternoon group is also led by Teresa, helped by Rosie and Marcus. Do pray for Teresa, Val, Elizabeth, Val, Meg and Jan, Rosie and Marcus as they serve the Mums and toddlers of ABC, showing them the love of Christ, week by week.

Ron Bennett

## Autumn Fair 2015

A great team pulled together to make this a very successful event, great food from Mick and Rodger proved very popular! The consensus of opinion was this had been a very social and jolly event. We had many stalls, Mike and Sylvia's always makes money, the cakes are bought, plants this year, snapped up, Tombola, crafts, Raffle and Silent Auction, a good day--- and on counting up, on the day, we had over £1,000 --- the total rose later, when the Silent Auction monies came in. Thank you all for attending and making this a wonderful day.

Linda Dean

## Bell Ringers

We had a lovely day on our annual ringers outing on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015. It was very well attended by our own tower members and friends. Visiting St Merryn and Padstow with a break for lunch and a walk around Padstow in the sunshine, and then on to Little Petherick and St Issey and finishing off with an evening meal at The Ring 'O Bells Pub at St Issey where our partners joined us too. A real social event and a great time was had by all. In November our Captain, William Carew was privileged to ring at St Paul's Cathedral with the Devon Call Change Ringers. A real honour, as it was the first time they had been asked to do so. Our two most recent learners Luke & Rob are progressing well and have now begun to ring regularly for Sunday services from 10.30-11.00 am for the main Church Service. We are pleased to say the bells have been rung for all major services and special occasions during the year with thanks to our ever growing dedicated band of ringers. Practice nights on a Thursday are always well attended. We would welcome anyone interested in learning, to come along on a Thursday evening at 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm and you will be sure of a warm welcome. It generally takes about a year to be proficient enough to ring for

weddings and services. Contrary to popular belief you don't have to be strong to bell ring it involves a sense of rhythm and learning the technique of how to pull the bell. It is a very social activity in that you can turn up at any church (providing it has some bells!) and you will be welcomed as a friend invited to ring and if it is a practice evening go down the pub afterwards.

Paula Jay

## **BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**

### Monday Evening House Group

Our Bible group meets at 14 Herring Road every Monday evening at 7 to 7.30 pm we have 8 members and we have just finished reading about Abraham which run for 9 weeks, we have now started doing Discipleship which runs for 8 weeks the evening normally runs for 1 ½ to 2 hours, our house group has been running for about 15 years now it has gone up and down in members.

Mick Chandler

### Thursday Morning 10.30 Bible Study

(Please phone or text for venue .....Helen Hazlewood 07771177112 & Val 07419121287) The group only started in about May 21<sup>st</sup> last year. With the summer holidays approaching it was unclear how and when it might evolve. There are currently about 8 of us at this house-group although rarely are we all able to meet up altogether! We could be described as a 'flexible venue' group at the moment. Due to individual's circumstances and needs we don't have a set meeting place but meet in various homes. This does give us flexibility and means we can adjust to needs. We follow a recognised Bible study program with the aim to learn more about Almighty God; our Heavenly Father. We look for how to apply what we have discovered to our everyday life. This often challenges us both personally and within our individual life settings. It's a big world out there! There is a time of group prayer with participation of those who are comfortable to pray aloud. Silent prayers and support are also recognised and respected (as is privacy). If you can't get out to join us then maybe we can come to you! We may also be able to sort out 'lifts' as necessary. As with other groups, we try to be a sharing and supportive group to each other in any way that is needed. Please don't let the changeable venue put you off: it could be to your advantage too! We'd love to see you. (Contacts are at the top of this 'report'.) God bless you.

Val Marshall

### Thursday Evening Bible Study

Every Thursday in term time a group of us meet at the Rectory for an evening of fun, banter and of course Bible study followed by coffee and

biscuits. If someone has a birthday with luck there is cake! Between 7 and 15 of us meet and the Bible study is led alternately by Tony and Ron. Ron has led us through Romans and we are now studying Acts. Tony always has the difficult task of helping us understand the Old Testament and we have covered most of the important passages over the last few years. I think we are getting there even if some of it is very bloodthirsty and the names unpronounceable. Last Lent we studied a course about Understanding Christianity helped by a CD and at the moment we are discussing 'Why am I a Christian?' Every 5th Thursday in the month we have 'party time' when we all bring some food and do something different - maybe a quiz or a DVD. New members are always welcome.

Meg Ward

### The Christmas Nativity

Christmas 2015 was the sixth year of the nativity musical, and the fifth play. "The Carpenter's Arms" packed the Eliot House (thanks again to Derek for letting us use the function room) and saw over 150 in church on the Saturday night. The decision to move from Sunday morning to Saturday evening was one which caused be some nervous moments, but in the end it proved very successful. In all, £360 was donated to the foodbank from donations at the door. In last year's report I expressed the hope that the event could expand beyond the limits of St Martins and the Salvation Army. I was therefore thrilled to be able to include cast and band members from Clear View Church, Light and Life Church and, unforgettably, Mark Pengelly from Liskeard Wesley Church. It has always been my aim to make this an inclusive event – and not just for those taking part. It is important to present the Christmas story in an event to which anyone is welcome. More importantly perhaps is making the evening one to which Christians can comfortably invite friends from outside the church. My thanks to all of the cast, all of the band and all those who helped to make it happen. A final thank you must go to Tony for his support over the years, which he was rewarded by being promoted from Donkey to rock star this year! Next year's production is called ChristmasTIME. Please pray for another year of entertaining outreach as we tell the world's best story once again - See you there!

Peter Morgan.

### Choir

Forget the blue overalls and think of the choir as the music group that rehearses every week and leads worship at two services every Sunday, with some members who have served the Church this

way for decades! The skill and encouragement of Chris Howarth makes this commitment enjoyable, stretching and satisfying as we enter into and enrich the worship of St Martin's. Our regular diet of hymns, canticles, psalms etc. is augmented most weeks by the added interest and challenge of an anthem. Since our last report the choir has made a major contribution to the outreach of the church by marking the various seasons of the church year in special services to which we welcome many visitors, often attending primarily for the music. This was exemplified by the very successful Flower Festival Concert when our choir was joined by local singers, soloists and instrumentalists. As I write we are preparing in similar fashion for a Good Friday Concert with an augmented choir that will include a moving rendition of Stainer's Crucifixion. Tony and I appreciate a wide range of Christian music, and that provided by the choir has been important to us in these ten years. We will greatly miss the choir's friendship and being part of such a significant part of St Martin's Worship and Mission. There is room in the choir stalls for the reader to join.

Marion Ingleby.

### Church and Grounds

The church has stood firm against the winter storms – no problems have been reported. Our loyal band of helpers erected the cross as usual and it shone out at Christmas to the delight of many. The churchyard is kept as tidy as possible with the time spent by our loyal band of helpers – 3 of us only – total age 235 years! I keep telling the old story of please help us if you can.

Bryan Martin

### Church cleaning

We now have two new modern and very powerful vacuum cleaners that make church cleaning much easier and quicker. Any volunteers who want to try them out are always welcome!!

Anne Purdon

### Church Flowers

With a lot of help from Kevin Grant, stepping in, when things go askew-- we on the Flower rota do very well to decorate the church, week by week. Due to circumstances, with an ageing congregation, we have vacancies and are always looking for new people, of either gender!----you - don't have to be that clever, flowers look beautiful popped in a vase -----strangely--- folks only notice the flowers when they are absent! Please continue to support this part of worship, many folk help spread the cost (there is no budget, just the generosity of those who volunteer)

Linda Dean

### Church Flowers

This past year has been very busy for our group. The usual week by week flower rota done by our small, but loyal, team also had the job of hosting the Flower & Music Festival. This was the church and community working together as a part of our outreach. I must, at this point, say a big thank you to Linda Dean for all her hard work and her vision in making the Festival such a great occasion. There were so many people who came along to help in so many ways. This, for me, was our Parish working at its best. The flower group is still looking for new helpers; all you need is a few hours each year to have a go, help is always on hand. The flowers in your church help us to give praise to God in our worship. If you would like to help please speak to Linda or Kevin.

Kevin Grant

#### Church Halls

The Church Halls continue to be well utilised by regular organisations that have been hiring our halls for some considerable time now. We do have some new bookings from time to time but not many become long term. I think it is time for us to do a bit of promotion to try and change this. Any new hirers often comment on what a lovely hall the upper hall is and, indeed, it is true when the sun is shining it does have a lovely atmosphere.

Jenny Deacon

#### Church Office

Its been an eventful year in the Church Office. In March I decided to sit on a railing that was not fixed to a wall and fell five feet backwards into a garden landing on my head which resulted in a fractured skull – not recommended I can tell you! This resulted in one month's sick leave followed by what was supposed to be a "staggered return". That didn't happen; there was so much to catch up with that I couldn't afford the time. Anyway, *"every cloud has a silver lining"* or *"God works in mysterious ways his wonders to perform"* because the whole episode illustrated that St Martin's needs at least two (if not three) people who know the workings of the office in order to carry such an eventuality. The result was volunteer helpers, in the form of Margaret, Lesley and Val, offering their services in different ways. Margaret has had her own difficulties this year but is always willing to fill in or cover the office if I have an appointment which is greatly appreciated and I know she is willing to do more when things calm down for her. Lesley is helping on a regular basis on a Wednesday; banking monies received, checking and printing the Link Notice ready for Sunday, answering the telephone and anything else that crops up which is usually a lot on a Wednesday. Val helps on a Friday morning when

her work allows, acting as receptionist and preparing the Sunday Rota, plus anything else that needs doing. I cannot tell you how much I have appreciated this help and I feel we have become friends. It was my aim to give Lesley more training so that she could take over the office entirely in an emergency but the business of the office has, so far, prevented this from happening. At the end of the year I decided it was time to retire from this job as I wanted more time to visit my grandchild and to do work on our new home. Nikki Carter has taken over from 1 March and I would like to wish her every success in her new role. We have been working together for a few weeks now and I know she is going to be an attribute to the office. I am sure that being a Church member and having the support of her parents will be a huge advantage in this very demanding job. Nikki will find her own way of making use and training her volunteers and I sincerely hope that Margaret, Lesley and Val will feel able to continue with this. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those who have helped me on a regular basis, especially Dave Dewar and Andrew Harrison, plus the churchwardens who take on so much responsibility for the halls as well as the Church. Also to everybody who has made me so welcome, I have felt part of a family although I have not been a regular church-goer, especially from the Wednesday coffee people ... and so many more! Good bye and best wishes.

Jenny Deacon

#### Church Organ

St Martin's fantastic organ has again this year, provided accompaniment, entertainment and a musical lead in a great range of services and situations: The organ played an integral part of the August Bank Holiday weekend flower festival. It was used to accompany a very successful concert and was played more-or less continually by guest organists whilst visitors looked around the church and its displays. On this occasion, the soft, subtle sounds were able to produce a perfect atmosphere as background to the event. On Remembrance Sunday the music played on the organ and a trumpet, filled a packed church, creating an appropriate grand, ceremonial and moving mood. The organ has a bank of brass instrument sounding pipes which lend themselves to fanfares and marches: Ideal for such an occasion. The carol services and other Christmas events are enhanced greatly by lively, strong and triumphant organ music. Whether accompanying several hundred Primary school children at their end of term Christmas service, the church choir in a solo anthem, or an expectant midnight mass

congregation, our organ is the perfect instrument to support, encourage and enhance confident singing and participation by all. The organ has been important in many weddings and funerals that have taken place in the church this year. It's a very versatile instrument, with the range of sounds enabling me to play convincingly arrangements of Bach full orchestral works to Disney's Bare Necessities – Jungle book (asked for during the signing of the register) In addition to these one-off, or irregular events, importantly the organ is used in the 11:00 and 6:00 services every Sunday. Whether for a quiet meditative Taize or Lent service, The Easter, Christmas and other festival periods, or the ordinary Sundays, it's the perfect instrument to enhance the worship. This year our organ has been recorded and featured on a local pop track, by an up-and-coming young musician, is being played by a young Jazz musician to help train his improvisation skills and general musicianship, and is regularly played by a number of local organists in our community (the youngest of whom is 10 years old). We are very fortunate to be blessed with such a magnificent instrument which is able to serve so much of our community so well.

Chris Howarth

#### Church Stall - Pannier Market

There are some of our congregation who have not visited our stall so I will briefly outline the mission. Church in Community and Community in Church, is the vision -- we offer free items, cards books, Gideon Testaments, leaflets New Star and human contact. As we also support the Pannier Market enterprise we sell good, clean, mainly new, donated items raising money for Church Funds. If you haven't visited please do ---the Cafe is popular and very reasonable--- and shopping locally pulls the community together-- especially around Christmas, Mother's Day, etc - funds raised since Oct 2015 £1,441----- stall open 6 days a week--- if you would like to volunteer Linda C, Mary W and myself will welcome you.!

Linda Dean

#### Churchwardens Report

2015-2016 was another very busy year. We three wardens meet weekly to keep on top of jobs that need doing. All three of us are practical and regularly don gardening clothes to do battle with the old buildings and the inclement weather. Drains and downpipes are our favourites!! We are nursing along the old heater in the choir vestry, this must surely be its last winter. On the other

hand, we have the new heater in the vicar's vestry, which is much easier to operate, and very efficient. The retaining wall in the lower car park is finished. The new flagpole is up, we even have a new flag to go on it! The vicar's vestry is now carpeted, with off cuts from round the church. The CCTV has been updated and is very clear. The top church hall has been cleaned and decorated, the lower hall is next. The work is never ending but with help and skills from folk in the church family the jobs get done.

Tony Piper, Tim Marshall & Anne Purdon

#### Cleaning of Church Halls.

The church halls are cleaned every week on a Friday morning and are also undergoing re-decoration in March. Chris Causer is now assisting with the cleaning of the lower hall and his efforts are greatly appreciated. The church halls continue to offer a valuable venue for more clubs than is generally realized: including the ABC children's group, the lunch club for the more chronologically-gifted, a well-attended slimming club on two days, martial arts groups, singing and piano classes, a bridge club, dance classes and drama classes. The upper hall is used for café style services and as an exhibition venue for art work. The halls are also available for hire for children's parties for a very reasonable fee. Accordingly, the halls are a very valuable resource not just for the church, but also for the wider community of Liskeard.

Andrew Harrison

#### Dobwalls United Church

We continue to have services led by the Anglican and Methodist clergies and their lay ministries. Our numbers have fallen slightly this year because of one couple moving away, sickness and death. Sadly, we have lost people who worked tirelessly for our church. However, we have had people joining us and bringing young children. We set up Experience Easter in the church and all classes from the village school visited. The Easter Garden and tomb stayed up over the Easter period in addition to erecting our floral cross outside. Once again the proceeds of the Harvest Festival supported the Liskeard Food Bank and our flourishing Girls' Brigade were involved in the Remembrance Service. Christmas services were well attended, especially the Girls' Brigade Christingle, where several youngsters came along. Ladies Group numbers have risen and their Carol Service was much enjoyed. Our monthly Messy Church has continued to attract young families. The Lent Study, Exploring Christianity, led by Clare Anderson, has also been well supported and, in April, we are hoping

to start an Adults and Babies group led by Linda Feek and friends. Other groups using the church include Knit and Natter (making items for charity), DIG (Dobwalls into Gardening), the Parish Council and Slimming World. The Church is now open Mon to Sat daily.

Dorothy Snowdon

#### Family Pastoral Worker

I love writing this report for the APCM as it gives me a chance to review the previous 12 months and until this year, a chance to look forward to the next. This year I anticipated that it would be a bit different; full of things I will have done for the last time, but I've been delighted to discover there are also things I have done for the first time. So here goes for 2015; the year started with baptism meetings a plenty, meeting families of lots of little ones about being welcomed into their bigger family of the church. Watch this space for new initiatives on this in 2016. Experience Easter was held at Dobwalls United Church this year and the whole of Dobwalls school attended; it went very well. As I had less organising to do, I did a first; Easter prayer stations in St Martin's aimed at teenagers but suitable for all ages. The year continued with the usual youth club, ABC, Friday club (for which we had to introduce a waiting list as it is so popular), Assemblies at Liskeard Senior School and Messy Church at Dobwalls. The summer saw ABC saying farewell to Julie, Ron and Maggie following many years of faithful and much appreciated service; this resulted in a major recruiting campaign for both helpers and teams to set up. A big thank you to everyone who responded and have enabled this much needed group to continue. Year 6 of St Martin's school had their annual visit up the bell tower, followed by a simple Eucharist; a treat for them and good exercise for the leaders. The autumn was taken up with working with the new team at ABC, recruiting a new Family Pastoral Worker and overseeing the 8 or so Christingles that take place for ABC, St Martin's benefice and the residential homes. And finally can I say a big thank you for all your prayers and support as I have undertaken my ordination training.

Teresa Folland

#### Flower and Music Festival

This time last year we were still in planning! Wondering "is this a good idea" "will it work", "will people come", "can we do it" "can we raise the money to have a festival"-----!!! Thankfully we had a Prayer Group, and I say thankfully because, I had concerns! We were blessed! The money was raised by the donations we received and sold at the Pannier Market, bunting was made by many lovely ladies, Posters designed by

Colin, plus publicity, flower arrangers and florists agreed to take part ,stewards and tea makers volunteered and much more (hoping I missed no one). Chris Howarth organised the musical side, we had music through the days (also prayers) the big Concert was well attended it was great. Kevin Grant supported me and worked so hard at encouraging and making things happen. Thanks. Finally the weekend arrived ---and we had visitors! Tony Ingleby was around for best part of the 3 days, talking to and helping welcome folk. We all spoke to people, many of whom had either not been in the church or had come as they had either been married, sung in the choir or similar. The majority of us felt this had been a worthwhile event bringing Church and Community together. THE FLORAL EXHIBITS were **fabulous!** Not everything was going on in the Church, down in the Hall, Jane Wood had organised an Art Competition, with local schools, Photographic display and of course Anne's refreshments. TOTAL funds raised £5,531.15 -- Well done and many, many thanks. We must do it again !

Linda Dean

#### Give Joy

Christmas 2015, 48 people were fed this year, with plenty of helpers. It's hard work, but very worthwhile. As usual there was one table of ladies, and one of men!! One gentleman was very smart in his collar and tie!

Anne Purdon

#### Health & Safety

Annually I inspect both the main church building and the upper and lower halls for any issues which may need attention. These range from breakages and issues that may naturally show themselves due to time passing, to areas where I can advise to make access, signage and information easier for those in our congregation and of course visitors. These recommendations are then taken to the PCC for their perusal and if needed action. Our buildings continue to be in a general excellent condition and offer a safe, clearly informed place to worship and visit.

Simon Crosbie

#### Home Communion

Every month, members of the ministry team, have the privilege of taking Holy Communion to the members of our church family who can no longer join with us in church. Those we visit in their own homes feel part of the larger family of believers, as we share together in a simple act of worship around the Lords table, partaking of the bread and wine brought from one of the services held in church. We also visit the elder care homes in our town, where a small group gather together for a short service. At Pengover house we sing hymns

and enjoy a time of fellowship following the service. When you next receive communion, please remember those who cannot be there, but who join with you month by month as they share bread and wine. If for some reason you find you are temporarily housebound, e.g. a broken leg or post surgery and would like to receive communion at home please contact the church office.

Liz Piper

#### Liskeard Prayers and the Liskeard Community Website

I have treated these together as there is a link between them. The two of them present the church's online and social media link with the wider community. LiskeardPrayers on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Liskeardprayers/135361916624838>) has taken over as the main link in the last year, but only because of a lack of resources. Limited time has meant that the regular updating of the community website (<http://liskeard.2day.uk>) has not been kept as up to date as I would like. We try to post something every day on LiskeardPrayers, and everything we post is tweeted on the LiskeardPrayers Twitter account (@LiskeardPrayers) and shown on the home page of the community website, bringing it all together. The website has about 10,000 "hits" per month, rising to about 20,000 in the summer. Liskeard Prayers Facebook page typically reaches about 2,000 people per week, with about 400 or so engaged (liking, commenting or sharing a post). Occasionally a single post captures the imagination and reaches over 10,000, but most daily posts reach about 500 people. You don't need to be on Twitter or Facebook to read the posts, although you do need to be on the Internet! If we had more people willing to help we could achieve so much more, so if you'd like to write a prayer one day a week, or help keep the community website up to date please let me know. It's a very simple process, so you don't have to be an IT wizard.

Mike Sturgess ([mike.sturgess@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mike.sturgess@hotmail.co.uk))

#### Liskeard Parochial Church Council

The PCC is made up of twelve members, two of which are Readers, one General Synod representative, three Deanery Synod representatives and three Churchwardens. We started the year in a somewhat pessimistic mood as we were still "smarting" from the wall repairs in the lower hall car park and are having on-going problems with the heating in Church. However, with the constant help and hard work of our very diligent churchwardens we are hoping that these problems will be solved before the cold weather returns next winter. Hopefully, then, with a more

optimistic budget this year the PCC can get on with making plans for the removal of the pews in Church and concentrate on Mission and Growth within the Church community. Please continue your support which is greatly appreciated and, if you feel able to give some more time perhaps you would consider becoming a member of the PCC. You would be made very welcome.

Jenny Deacon

### Lunch Club

The lunch Club continues to meet regularly for most of the year on a Wednesday at 12 noon. We still enjoy very tasty meals provided by the catering staff at Eventide. Our Christmas meal was delicious, all the trimmings and there as very little left from 2 Christmas Puddings. Our numbers remain steady and have had 3 people join us regularly through Adele, who is the Age U.K. coordinator for the community in our area. She is a lady who goes the extra mile to enable folk to get out more. We still have alot of laughs, debates and masses of chatter. In the summmer, we had a lovely cream tea and sandwiches, freshly baked, making us feel very welcome. At Christmas, we returned to Looe Golf Club for a superb meal, so much to eat, and again we were well looked after by the staff. I should like to say a big thank you to all the ladies and one gentleman who come so regularly, we all seem to get on so well together because the members are such fun. I have been coming to help for 12 years and a few of the patrons were enjoying lunch at St. Martin's before that, which I think is a testament to the pleasure they must receive week in week out.

Jacqui Norman.

### **MISSIONS**

#### Children's Society

As the parish box holder secretary for the Children's Society I collect, count, bank and return approximately 40 boxes. Once again this parish has proved a great supporter of the Children's Society's work. These collections enable the Society to continue its valuable work of reaching so many desperate children including children at risk on the streets, disabled children, young refugees which is so appropriate in these troubled times, young carers, those within the youth justice system to name but a few. I would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all our box holders old and new, your generosity is so appreciated and every penny counts. The generous proceeds from the Christingle also go to this worthy cause. If anyone is interested in having their own box please let me know; remember no amount is too small and you hardly know you are collecting over the year. It really does all add up. Just give me a call and I'll give you a collection box to keep in your home (very useful for all that annoying loose change!) Thanks once again on behalf of the Children's Society.

pp Amanda Griffiths

### Church Army

Colin continues to work as a commissioned Church Army Evangelist, although now 'Self Supporting'. He also continues to follow God's call and leading to work amongst the artistic community in West Cornwall. With our support and that of Truro Diocese 'Doing Church Differently' Fund he has begun a new phase of his work based at Krowji Creative Arts Centre in Redruth. He continues to believe that art has a great part to play in enabling everyone to see more of God in all aspects of life. Colin's wife Angela, as part of her Curacy training, is exploring 'end of life Chaplaincy' at a hospice in Sussex for two months. Colin is coming to our Church on Sunday, 10th April. Do continue to pray for them both.

Ron Bennett

### Mission Aviation Fellowship

MAF is one of the missions we at St Martin's, Dobwalls and St Keyne support through gift days and lent lunches. A Christian organisation, MAF operates more than 135 light aircraft and flies into 2,500 remote destinations, transporting essential medical care, food and water supplies, relief teams and church workers. This enables physical and spiritual care to reach countless thousands of people cut off due to formidable geographical barriers, natural disasters and political unrest. This is a marvellous organisation offering practical, lifesaving support to many desperate people and I am delighted by the enthusiasm and generosity shown by so many of our church members who raised over £700 in 2015. For more details on the work of MAF visit their web site [www.maf-uk.org](http://www.maf-uk.org) or look in the MAF Mission folder beneath the Missions board at the rear of the Church. Alternatively, come and talk to me and I will be happy to help. Many thanks and God Bless.

*For and on behalf of Roger Griffiths*

### Overseas Missionary Fellowship

St. Martin's continues to support OMF by prayer and giving. John and Paula Richards are our link missionaries. They live in Calapan on the island of Mindoro in the Philippines. This summer they return to the UK for their home assignment and will be coming to speak at St. Martin's next January. Last year and this year David Hazlewood, who at one time worked with OMF, has been our speaker on OMF mission Sunday. Each month John and Paula send us a report telling us what they have, or will be involved with in that particular month. This report is put on the Missions board in the book corner and then filed

in the OMF file. Please read it so that you know how to pray for them.

Chris Bennett

#### Shoe Box Appeal – Love in a Box

This year people were just as enthusiastic about filling a shoe box for a child at Christmas, although we were supporting The Mustard Seed Mission. This is much smaller organisation who send these boxes to orphanages in Moldova and Rumania. These are distributed through the local churches. This lesser known mission was brought to our notice by one of our evening congregation who had been to Moldova several years ago and witnessed the delight of the children on receiving this 'Love in a box'. It's such a privilege to be able to give to these children who might not otherwise have any gifts at Christmas. We were able to deliver thirty three boxes to Saltsh.net school where year six were organising the collection to be sent to Moldova. Thank you to all who took part. It's great fun doing this. Collect things for the boxes throughout the year to be ready to fill a box by this November.

Chris Bennett

#### Tearfund Mission

Tearfund work with local partners wherever there is a need in the world to save and give a better quality of life. I can only mention a few of the hundred situations where help and Christian Witness is given. Vanuatu cyclone survivor May Isaiah has given her all to help others. She lives in the back room of the Church where her husband, Isaiah, is Pastor, along with their daughter, Lisa. Their house was destroyed in the cyclone. May works alongside Tearfund's partner, Nase Tuam. She has been teaching dozens of women new ways to make and preserve food, after the storm in March 2015 destroyed their crops. She has set up groups teaching peanut processing techniques and helping women make a small income. Isaiah fell ill so money had to be spent on his treatment which has delayed their house building plans. Thank you for supporting refugees in Europe which has enabled Tearfund to provide life sustaining aid to thousands of desperate people over the last nine months. Many of them Syrians arriving in Hungary, Serbia, Croatia, Greece and Macedonia. Church based partners in Hungary and Greece have given medical care, tents, sleeping bags, baby kits, toilets and food. The need is great due to floods across Southern Africa, Mozambique alone have 370,906 people affected. Chronic malnutrition is visible in most camps, then followed a cholera epidemic affecting 8,000 people. Dignity through sanitation; many of us have helped to provide toilets through the project; "toilet twinning" - £60

will buy one. Hold a Cream Tea or any social gathering. It is great fun as well as providing a toilet. If anyone would like to know more, four times a year Tear Times and Tear Prayer Diary are available in our Missions corner at the back of the church. You can order them to arrive by post and also on-line [info@tearfund.org](mailto:info@tearfund.org). We support Tearfund through Lent Lunches and Harvest Giving, also special appeals for disasters.

Jill Pryor

#### Music Groups

At present for the 9.30 we have 4 separate line ups, with Pete taking the first Sunday with his exciting new youth group, supplemented occasionally with Dom on drums and an if necessary Enid. The second Sunday is led by Luisa with Jenny, and with Dom on drums. Sheri is on the third with her various singers and Tony organizes the fourth for the Holy communion service. This is the theory, however with Holidays, illness and other commitments they do get juggled around and Sheri has the headache of finding who is available and when. This also applies to sound desk and Projector. We should all be very thankful for her efforts and those of all the singers involved that we have been able to cover all 9.30 services over the last year. However we are always looking for volunteers, particularly those that could handle the Projection software and Sound desk.

Alex Yabsley

#### Open the Book

Our local group of church volunteers under Linda Feek's expert leadership has had a very successful year, and goes from strength to strength. We were a little concerned towards November that sometimes due to illness or other commitments there were only a few of us to go into the schools we visit weekly. However our earnest prayers have now been answered in two ways! Not only have we had new people join us in January, but after much discussion we have been invited into Hillfort School as well as Dobwalls, and St.Martin's Primary Schools. The first visit took place at the end of February and was very well received by both pupils and staff, and we hope and pray that they continue to enjoy and learn about the Bible in this exciting and blessed way.

Margaret Flynn

#### Prayer Chain

This is small group of members of the church, who are linked by telephone and will pray as requested. Requests, which are usually very simple, are received and these are passed along the "line" and then members undertake to pray, then and for a week or two after or as long as

needed! Thanksgiving for answered prayer is also passed round, as this is such an encouragement to see how God has heard. All prayer requests are treated in strict confidence.

Liz Piper

#### Readers for 11am and 6pm services

There is a very willing band of people who continue to read the lessons at the 11 am service each week and also at the evening service. New readers are always welcome so if there is anyone out there who would like to be added to the rotas please let me know.

Doris Bonnick

### **SERVICES**

#### 8:00 am

Earlier this year I suggested to the PCC that the numbers of those attending this service had fallen so far that we might consider cutting the number of services to two per month. It seemed unfair to call Tony, the server and the churchwarden out so regularly for as few as four other attendees. The PCC agreed with this and so we now only meet on the first and third Sundays of the month. In retrospect, I partly regret this change as the regularity is broken, but, unless we can persuade more people to come then, I fear that this wonderful service will be totally lost. It is a wonderful service, quiet, thoughtful, prayerful and enabling those attending to engage fully and without distractions in the amazing connection of the material and the sublime. It is a very intimate service with so few there but it embraces with both the larger St Martin's and the world-wide congregations in the act of communion. Being at that hour, it is a constant reminder of the first experience of the Resurrection of Christ and, being without music, is entirely cerebral and with intense emotion concentrated in the Eucharist alone.

Tony Wood

#### Sunday 9.30 am services and Local Worship

##### Leaders

Each Sunday morning, the 9.30 service offers an informal style of worship, allowing variety, flexibility of style, the opportunity for congregational participation and the use of modern music. They are generally led by one or more of our team of Local Worship Leaders, though the talk is usually given by either one of the clergy (Tony or David Hazlewood), our Reader Ron Bennett or perhaps a visiting speaker. The pattern of services varies throughout the month. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays are held in the Church Centre, in the context of a café service, where toast, croissants, doughnuts and more goodies are available, together with tea and coffee. Those attending sit around tables in

small groups, which enables informal fellowship and also the opportunity to participate in an activity or quiz appropriate to the theme of the service. This service is the one that is perhaps most appropriate for newcomers to church and for young families. We aim to provide something for the children at each café service, from a play area for the younger ones, to an activity or craft for the older ones. But we are aware that we need to work harder at welcoming and being relevant to families, so we are planning a few changes during 2016. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays, the service takes place in the more traditional setting of St Martin's church. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday is informal worship, and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday includes Holy Communion, presided over by either Tony or David. Although slightly more formal than our café services, due to the logistics of the pews, these also aim to be flexible, and both these and the café services include modern music led by a selection of our musicians and singers. Once a month, Pete Morgan leads the music with the help of 2 or 3 young people, either the older ones on holiday from uni, or the younger ones enjoying playing music at the newly-reformed Youth Club. The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is different: the 9.30 congregation joins with the 11.00am congregation and our friends from Dobwalls and St Keyne for a benefice service at 10.30, which is a Holy Communion service combining elements of both the informal and the traditional services. Informal services take quite a bit of organisation and planning, by a number of different people. During 2015, we were pleased to welcome Revd David Hazlewood as one of the leaders, as well as regular speaker, and Lesley Boyden who is newly trained as a Local Worship Leader. But thanks also need to go to those who provide and serve the refreshments, lead the music, operate the projector, set out and clear up the room, ensure the sound system is set up and working, and especially to those who come to worship the Lord. If you haven't been to one of the informal services, then please come along and we will make you welcome. You may even find that you enjoy this more relaxed style of worship.

Sheri Sturgess

#### Coffee after 9.30 am

Still available, and useful for warming up in Winter and more importantly chatting, ----- especially when new people pop down to the Hall!

Linda Dean

#### 11.00 am

The 11 o'clock service is Holy Communion following the set liturgy and with full choir. Once a month it is replaced by Morning Prayer, again

following the traditional form with canticles, psalms and responses. Both orders of service are clearly set out in our neat booklets, and the Old and New Testament lessons and seasonal prayers are reproduced in the Link weekly leaflet. There is always a sermon or talk which gives food for thought. Within this firm framework, the worship is greatly enhanced by the choral music, combining the best of the Anglican tradition with well-chosen modern settings, and familiar hymns contrasting with contemporary ones. The choir often sings a special anthem and the distribution of communion is often accompanied by gentle unaccompanied singing. The robed choir process at the beginning and end of the service. Finally, before we all leave, Chris, our organist treats us to a mini recital, always worth hanging on for a few minutes for a real musical treat. These services are moderately well attended but numbers appear to fall off for Morning Prayer. Occasionally they swell for a Baptism (always held in this service), and it's then good to see a bigger congregation and, more importantly, many more young people and children! I fear the traditional services may not resonate with the younger generation; the present congregation is predominantly grey haired and female! For me personally, the familiar and well-loved words of the liturgy add greatly to the dignified, spiritual quality of this service. Please come and join us some time!

Jane Wood

#### 6.00 pm Sunday Evening Service

Although the number of people attending is often quite small (esp in Winter months), our Sunday evening services are often the most peaceful and reflective. We usually have four types of worship, focus on prayer, Holy Communion with healing, a more traditional evening, and a praise service. It is truly a delight to come to church at the end of the day, and hear lovely music and singing, which is led by our inspiring organist in such a beautiful Church.

Margaret Mills

#### 6.00 pm Praise Service.

The Praise service is slightly different as I 'borrow' musicians from other churches, and am grateful for the help from Graham Toms and Martin Carter, who due to illness has had to miss the last two. Praise services are normally held on the Fifth Sunday, and we normally introduce some new songs at this time. Last year other events 'stole' the fifth Sundays in August and November, but this year should see 4. January, May, the barbeque in July with Guest speaker and October. A special note of thanks must go to Chris Hallam who always arranges excellent

refreshments for the service. We look forward to seeing you at all the services and sing to God's glory.

Alex Yabsley

#### Wednesday Communion – 9.30am.

The bells still ring out on a Wednesday morning calling us to worship. This is a spoken service; peaceful and reflective and for me one of the highlights of the week. We gather together in the Lady Chapel and on most weeks we practically fill the space. A real coming together of our family in Christ. That is just how it feels, a family gathering together in praise of our heavenly father. We are mostly older members of that family, but we are very blessed each week by the presence of a young child, learning to become part of that family, and happily joining in with the peace and going up to the altar rail for a blessing. The service is mostly led by Margot who each week gives us something to go away and think about. We gather together later for coffee and fellowship in the church centre. Come along and join us, you are sure of a very warm welcome.

Lesley Boyden

#### Focus on Prayer

This is usually held on the third Sunday evening of the month, unless it is a Churches Together evening or one of the Church festivals. We have had evenings of prayer for our four missions that we support. The question of why we meet together and the awesomeness of God. For leaders and leadership, and a evening of prayer and thanksgiving for the life of Michael Lyne. We pray, sing and have times of silence when we can come before God quietly and pray for the things that He brings to mind. Please join us.

Chris Bennett

#### The Civic Service - A personal comment.

The Civic Service is held in the church every year soon after the new Mayor is elected. I have been dismayed by the very poor attendance of the St Martin's congregation. Similarly, the Remembrance Service, whilst filling the church with old and young, is not overwhelmingly supported by the faithful of

St Martin's. Both occasions should bring the church and the town together. It is an opportunity for the congregation at St Martin's to welcome and host the representatives of the town and those from nearby towns. When they process in to a small scattering of regular members, what impression do they get? May I suggest that on those occasions, there is just the ONE service on that Sunday and that everyone is urged to attend and play their part in encouraging our church to be a central part of the life of the town?

Tony Wood

### Safeguarding

During the last twelve months, the Diocese has encouraged the parishes to sign up for a new electronic system which is run by an organisation called CCPAS, which is particularly suitable for churches. We duly signed up in June and have found that the system is much quicker than the previous paper system; we have recently had DBS(the new CRB) results back in 2 days rather than the two months it seemed to take before. May I thank all our volunteers who work with children and vulnerable adults, and new staff members for being so helpful and efficient in providing the necessary paperwork and for making my job so easy. In the autumn I attended a seminar on preventing violence against women and am in the process of collecting literature and helpline numbers to make available to anyone visiting our premises. Two volunteers who are willing to take on the role of safeguarding officer have come forward; they have been shadowing what I do and if the APCM are in agreement will take over my role in the spring. Many thanks for all your support.

Teresa Folland

### Servers

The Servers continue in their role of quiet and committed assistance for the clergy as they carry out their duties to serve God in the services of Holy Communion. We prepare the altar for the services of Holy Communion, be it at the main altar, the smaller altar in The Lady Chapel, or the table altar for the 09.30 Family Communion. Occasionally we may use the Altar of The Holy Spirit on the far left of the Church. We then assist the clergy as required. We see our role as an act of worship in itself, as well as helping the Church family as they come to The Lord's Table for Holy Communion with God, or to receive His blessings. In these services we particularly remember Jesus' sacrifice for each and every one of us, as The Lord Jesus Himself asked us to do in the Holy Bible (Matthew chapter 26: Mark chapter 14 : Luke chapter 22) All Glory to God! There are some occasions when the server also assists the clergy with administering the Holy Sacraments of consecrated bread and wine. We have a full range of services worshipping God in Holy Communion. Please see the weekly 'Link' notices or Star magazine. Come and join with your Christian family members. We are a small band of merry servers so you may find that we will ask YOU to consider joining us – or you could volunteer.....! Please contact the Church office if you would like to join us! Thank you all and may God continue to bless you all.

Val Marshall

### Sidespersons

I have for many happy years been part of the small team built up by women and men to greet and welcome everybody who passes through our doors during services. Personally it allows me to see, on a regular basis, most of my friends in the congregation. The team hands out hymn books and any leaflets to all, then, of course, collects them in at the end of each service and makes sure that area of the church is left clean and tidy. During Baptisms it is a time when the sidespersons need to be aware that people attending may never have been inside our church, so it is very important to greet one and all, and make them feel comfortable in what, to them, can be a new experience. Usually people attend with their children, so informing them that we have a toy corner helps them to relax. During the service we take the money offerings, and support the on-duty churchwardens to ensure everybody has everything they need. Afterwards it is usual for at least one of us to assist the churchwarden in counting the offerings and recording all that is needed for the banking. I know we are always looking out for new volunteers so if this role gives you a calling then please get involved, I find it, and I am sure the rest do, a very rewarding, essential support role to Tony and the Churchwardens.

Simon Crosbie

### Smart Film Club

The film club has been running now for 18 Years we show a film once a month in the Lower Hall. The doors are open from 6 o'clock and the film starts at 6.30 and runs till 8 - 8.30. It is free entry with a raffle for the DVD. We have a tuck shop with sweets and Cans of drink. We have an average attendance of 15 to 20. There are three of us that run the club: Mike Sturgess, Mick Chandler and Simon Crosby.

Mick Chandler

### Smart Film Club

(<http://liskeard.2day.uk/section/SMartFilmClub>)  
The Smart Film club has been running now for over 17 years, showing one film a month except during the summer holidays, when everyone seems to want to be on the beach! The films are always family films, with either U or PG certificates. Last year's most popular films included "Paddington", "Shaun the Sheep" and "Minions". We use the church's CCL licence which allows us to show normal DVD's, so we try to show the latest children's films on the Saturday after the DVD has been released. Entry is free, although there is a raffle each time for those who want it. There is only ever the one prize – that night's film. The films are shown in the lower

church hall on a 14 foot x 10 foot screen with surround sound. The doors open at 6:00pm with the film being screened at 6:30pm, with cartoons being shown between 6:00 and 6:30. Cinema would not be the same without the drinks and sweets, so we also have a simple shop selling these items as well. Mike Sturgess

### Star Magazine

The long running Church publication 'New Star' has now been updated to 'Star' having been published as *new* for many years. Its purpose is, as always, to inform a wide readership of the various activities of St Martin's, St Keyne and Dobwalls Church. The restriction of the Star size to four A4 pages (except at more important dates in the Church calendar when the number of pages is increased by double) limits the volume of contents to a standard format of news of past and future events, ads about local groups, appeals and requests for help, plus details of the forthcoming month's services. It also publishes standard weekday events allied to the church (e.g. ABC Mothers and Children's meetings at the Church hall, Coffee mornings, external Prayer meetings etc.). The publication is printed *in house* at the Church Office from artwork prepared by myself at home and emailed directly to the Church Secretary for printing, to be ready for collection by parishioners at Churches on the last Sunday of each month.

Colin Mills

### St Martin's Prayer Group

I have so enjoyed our Thursday morning gatherings at Roger and Amanda's home for a time of /informal prayer. These have been led by Amanda and usually conclude with cake and coffee! We pray for our Town, our Churches, and anything else which may be personal or in the news.

Ron Bennett.

### St Keyne Church

St Keyne Church is the ecclesiastical parish church situated at St Keyne, with the parish being part of the Benefice of Liskeard. In 2015, there were 16 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 9 of whom are not resident within the parish. By custom St Keyne Church also serves those people living in the neighbouring Trewidland area of the ecclesiastical parish of Liskeard, which contributes to this high percentage of non-resident parishioners on the electoral roll. The average weekly attendance in 2015 was 13, a decrease of 18% over 2014, largely owing to fewer 'special' services e.g. baptisms, re-opening of church (in 2014) etc., which tend to attract large numbers and boost the average numbers

attending. The regular pattern of services was in 2015 was: First Sunday in the month: Morning Worship, Second Sunday in the month: Family Service, Third Sunday in the month: Holy Communion, Fourth Sunday in the month: Café-Style Worship. And Fifth Sunday United Benefice Service at St Martins, Liskeard. Some special services were held at 4.00 pm which always attract good congregations e.g. Christingle. The Quinquennial Inspection was carried out in March and subsequent minor works identified and executed e.g. roof maintenance, some re-wiring and installation of a gully. Unfortunately the church building suffered a series of vandalism attacks in June and July, which resulted in considerable damage to the windows. Although the major cost will be covered by our insurers, the insurance excesses will need covering along with the cost of renewing the window guards to reduce the likelihood of further damage. These works together with the remaining costs associated with the serious lightning strike in 2014, meant that most fundraising was targeted at building repairs and maintenance; indeed this was the main focus of church activity in 2015, although links with Trewidland School which serves the parish were maintained as part of our 'mission'.

Paul Ward

### St Piran's Day Celebrations

On Sat 5 Mar 2016, the St Pirantide Celebrations took place at St Martin's Parish Church, Liskeard, courtesy of Rev (Canon) Tony Ingleby, with a giant St Piran's Flag flying high above the town from the Church Tower that was floodlit after dark, all being called to worship on the eighteenth century bells of St Martin's. The Service in Celebration was of St Piran who brought Christianity to Cornwall, in AD 450. And the words to the hymns adapted for the occasion by Rev Tony, the readings from Genesis 12:1-9 was on: The Call of Abram, read in Cornish by Mr Mike Smith (St Cleer) and in English, by Mr Duncan Paul Matthews, of the Liskeard Old Cornwall Society. Rev Tony's message was on the debt we owe to our Saints and Pilgrims of the past who left us such a Christian legacy. Guests included: His Worship the Mayor of Liskeard, Cllr Phil Seeva, and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jane Pascoe, with Aubrey and Liz Lane of the Bournemouth Cornish Association, Miss Mary Watters, of the Torbay Cornish Association. An evening of musical entertainment followed under the direction of Miss Heather Taylor (Morval), as Director of Levow Kesson and Accompanist to the Liskerret Male Voice Choir, led by Mrs Judith Pingvey (Newquay). All present were enchanted by several pieces played by Mrs Kasumi Murphy

(Flutist), accompanied by Mr Chris Howarth, on piano, vocal and instrumental pieces were offered by Mr Andy Kelly, and Marianne Willcoks (accordionist). The concert included the County/Duchy wide 'Trelawny Shout', with all Choirs throughout the Cornish World, singing our accepted Cornish Anthem, The Song of The Western Men, better known as 'Trelawny'. (Composed and written by Rev Stephen Hawker, one time vicar of Morwenstow, who was schooled at Liskeard Grammar School then at Castle Park, with the music sung to different words by the early Suffragette and Suffragist (\*) movements at Falmouth and Penzance, and by Trade Unionist in the Black Country). As guest left, they were entertained by the Levow Kesson Musical Hand Bell Ringers, with Bell Plates, directed by Mrs Jennifer Matthews (St Cleer). Displayed in the Church throughout the weekend, was a static display by: The St Piran's Trust, courtesy of Mrs Angela Penrose, the Trust being responsible for the excavation, restoration and preservation of our 'St Piran's Oratory', at Piran's Porth, (Perranporth), mainland Europe's oldest known Christian structure.

(\*) The Suffragist/Suffragens, such as 'Salina Cooper, (1864-1946), Nee Coombe of Callington, were passive, not militant fighters for better conditions and rights for women. Like Emily Hobhouse, who entered Germany, during the Great War of 1914/18 to negotiate a Cease Fire, Salina Cooper, entered Nazi Germany, during the early years of WW2, to protest over the incarceration of wives and daughters of political dissidents into the Concentrations Camps to avenge their outspoken menfolk. Two very feisty Cornish Women!).

Duncan Paul Matthews

#### Street Pastors

When you live in Liskeard town centre, you soon learn both the benefits and drawbacks of the location of your home. On the one hand, daytime brings with it easy access to the shops and public transport. On the other... night time can mean loud music from nearby pubs – easily heard through your single-glazed windows – or hearing various shop or car alarms sounding at unsociable hours or, worse still, hearing every word of angry conversations and bottles breaking on the street. Living in these conditions forces you to remember that there are real people with real needs in our town and this is something that Marcus and I are passionate about being a part of the solution to. When we spotted an invitation to pray for the town with the Liskeard and Looe Street Pastors in the Church Newsletter last summer, we knew straight away that this was

something we just had to do. After a couple of prayer meetings, Amanda Griffiths joined us and we were all invited to become part of the team in either of the two roles available: Street Pastors (who go out on the street in groups of four, once a month on a rota basis – simply to be a presence, not to be the Police), or Prayer Pastors (who remain at base to pray for those out on the street and any needs that are raised for the people they meet). Since that invitation, all three of us have attended the brilliant training provided by Plymouth Street Pastors and have been commissioned to go out on the streets. Amanda is hoping to start out as a Prayer Pastor and Marcus and I have yet to complete our observations before we can actually go out on the Streets but then it will be all systems go! After all, you can double glaze a window but that won't make the needs on the other side of it any the less. Street Pastors are always for looking for new recruits or even just people who will come and pray for our town. If you are interested in being a part of this, please feel free to speak to either Marcus or me any time.

Luisa Tanner

#### Wednesday Morning Coffee

After the 9.30 am communion service on a Wednesday morning most people make their way across to the Church Hall where the welcome sight of cakes and coffee awaits. The hall echoes to chat and laughter as we enjoy fellowship with each other. A raffle is held each week with the proceeds going to the mission funds.

Doris Bonnick

#### Women's Group

We had a varied programme during the year commencing with our AGM. Our New Year's lunch was well attended at the Eliot Hotel. The speakers during the year included Mike Ward who gave us an insight to the work of the Echo Centre and the sailing ship The Lord Nelson. We had an interesting talk by Michael Stevens of St, Ivy's Nursery concerning the growing of herbs. Duncan Matthews told us the history of Billy Bray. Our speaker was unable to attend one month so Margaret Jackson spoke about Liskeard many years ago. We had a lovely outing to Marsh Villa Gardens at Par and were fortunate with the weather. Our coffee morning in October raised funds for the Echo Centre and St. Martin's Church. We ended the year with our Christmas Party with our organist Chris Howarth kindly playing carols for us. We have sadly decided to close the Group after our AGM in January. Both our Chairman and Secretary wish to retire after nearly 12 years in office and our Treasurer, Anne Evans, sadly died during the summer.

Margaret Jackson

Working Party

The working party has I think kept the church and grounds in good condition. The rain driven by high winds, soaks and penetrates the walls of the church at times but it is contained by the new lead gutter drain system. Many hours of our time are spent clearing leaves from the gutters around the church. But we manage with thanks to our loyal bond. We meet at 6.00 pm on Tuesday evening if anyone can help.

Bryan Martin

Youth Club

Our small but dynamic youth club continues to meet on Monday nights. It is open to any young people from year 5 and above. There are craft and music activities, live music, films and games, including table football, pool and a wii. My thanks go to Teresa, Sue and Jane for their help, energy and support. Please pray that we are guided in the right direction as our members grow older and their needs change. Please pray as well that this small part of our church community can be a mustard seed that will one day bear real fruit.

Peter Morgan