



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



**ANNUAL REPORT 2016/17**





# ST MARTIN'S CHURCH LISKEARD ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

Sunday 19 March 2017  
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 2017**

### **Prayers**

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

### **Vestry Meeting (*The Vestry meeting is open to all parishioners*)**

1. Approval of minutes of the Vestry Meeting held on 3 April 2016
2. Election of Churchwardens
3. Nomination of Mayor's Warden

### **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 Safeguarding 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

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

## CHURCHWARDEN'S, FAMILY WORKER AND PCC REPORTS

### CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT

An interesting year – 5 months with an Incumbent, 7 months without!

We meet weekly to keep up to date with everything. But it isn't just we three who keep St Martin's show on the road. This parish is very fortunate to have a large and busy family team. All play a vital role: the Worship Leaders, Readers, Office Staff, Youth Workers, Servers, Choir, Organist, Music Groups, Cleaners, Ringers, Working Parties, Sidespersons, Counters, Flower Arrangers .... And so many more! Everyone is valued – thank you! But special thanks go to Revd David Hazlewood who has been readily available to administer Holy Communion and Baptise for us.

St Martin's has held many different and unique services this past year, with both the Bishop of St Germans and our Archdeacon visiting. We have had the St Georges Day Parade Service, the Mayor's Civic service, Teresa's Leaving Service, Tony's Farewell, several Benefice services, Churches Together events and services, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Day and all the various Christmas services. All of which have been greatly supported.

*Annie Purdon, Tony Piper and Tim Marshall*

### DEANERY SYNOD

Deanery Synod is a church council made up of clergy and non-ordained members of the Deanery. It is important to note that Synod meetings are open to all in the parish. These meetings take place in various churches, halls or private houses within the Deanery. Often they are primarily social occasions where members of the respective churches can meet each other to discuss matters and learn from others how they cope with the varying issues that arise during the church year.

Sometimes difficult problems arise, such as the present issue of how to apportion MMF (Mission & Ministry Fund) paid by parishes. But it is a valuable opportunity to air views and possible solutions.

If you are on the church electoral roll you can be elected to the Deanery Synod, and then become an ex officio member of the PCC.

Come and join us in this work and fellowship.

*Margaret Mills*

### FAMILY PASTORAL WORKER REPORT

Wow! A year ago I was looking forward to beginning my new job with a sense of nervous anticipation and here I am reflecting on the first 9 months. How

quickly the time has gone. The Parish is involved in many aspects of children and family work; the regular groups such as ABC, Youth club etc however I am also discovering that an important part of my role is a need to be flexible and respond appropriately depending on when or where there is a need or opportunity.

In 2016, the activities that I have been involved with on a regular basis are Monday Monkeys at Dobwalls, St Martin's Youth Club, ABC, Friday club at St Martin's school, Café Services at St Martin's and Messy Church at Dobwalls.

I have also visited St Martin's, Dobwalls, Hillfort and Quethiock primary schools.

When Tony and Marion retired, I took over the running of Friday Club at St Martin's school. There are about 15 children who attend regularly. They play games, have a snack, hear a story and have a go at a craft activity, which are usually linked to the story that Open the Book have performed in school earlier that week.

During the Summer term, Year 6 from St Martin's school visited the church, went to the top of the tower, found out about the importance of Communion and were each presented with a book from the church. St Martin's school also held its leavers' service, Harvest Festival and Christmas Service in the Church. There was also the Christingle service for both St Martin's and Hillfort School.

The local Beaver pack visited St Martin's church for a tour and I visited St Neot Cub pack to make Christingles with them.

I have visited several families wishing to have their children welcomed into the church family. I am delighted to say that I have attended the baptism services of three babies; one at St Keyne and two at St Martin's. St Martin's held its first Godparent service last May and we hope that this will become an annual celebration of Godchildren and Godparents alike.

*Jane Asquith*

### HEALTH AND SAFETY OFFICER

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.

## CHURCHWARDEN'S, FAMILY WORKER AND PCC REPORTS

These recommendations are then taken to the PCC for their perusal and if needed action.

I am happy to say that over the years of undertaking this role there have never been any issues that are serious and I believe our buildings are in a general excellent condition and offer a safe, clearly informed place to worship and visit.

*Simon Crosbie*

### **PCC REPORT**

Following the APCM last April the Parochial Church Council was made up of 16 members, subsequently at the end of July, Revd Tony Ingleby who was the PCC Chairman, retired and in September Sandy retired in his role as a PCC member. This has reduced our numbers to 14, and our then newly elected Vice Chair, Sheri Sturgess, stepped into the role of Chairperson. Sheri has done a remarkable job, and the PCC are very thankful for her leadership and discernment.

This year has been a busy year for the PCC, with lots to discuss and important issues requiring decisions being carefully made and decided. The PCC have convened 12 times over the last 12 months, which includes 3 extraordinary 'one-item agenda meetings' which focused on particular key topics and decisions which needed to be discussed: The Church reordering, the 'Statement of Needs' and the Church heating.

Our Churchwardens have worked exceptionally hard on the re-ordering project, and much time has been spent managing the various heating problems and organising the installation of the pew heaters. Combined with their other duties as Churchwardens and extra responsibilities undertaken during the Transition period, on behalf of the PCC – a very big thank you to Tony, Annie and Tim for all their hard work and dedication over the past 12 months.

In preparation for appointing a new Priest-in-Charge, a small working group was formed at the end of 2015 to begin work on our Statement of Needs. The early anticipation and preparation of this document did, without doubt, help us to advertise and subsequently appoint quite early within the Transition period. The PCC are very thankful to all those that helped and contributed towards this important document.

In September, the Liskeard PCC nominated and voted for two Parish Representatives for St Martin's, who alongside the representatives for St Keyne and Dobwalls, and under the leadership of

the Bishop and Archdeacon, were then involved with the selection and interview process for appointing a new Vicar. The PCC thanks each of these representatives for undertaking this important role, and we now look forward to welcoming Revd Steve Morgan and his family in May.

This last year also saw the PCC approve both Lesley Boyden and Sheri Sturgess for Reader Training, and Rachael Pryor and Luisa Tanner to Local Worship Leader training. Please pray for each of these ladies as they continue their training into these vital roles of ministry.

Our treasurer, Mike Sturgess, continues to keep us up to date with the Church finances, and we will soon be discussing fund raising ideas for the reordering process. Thank you to Mike for all the invaluable work he does as Treasurer.

The PCC continues to review and action the Mission Initiatives from the Diocese's Accompanied Mission Development plan. As well as the reordering, we are focusing on Raising Our Profile, Fellowship and Outreach. Two small committee groups have been set up, and will be working on our communications and outreach plans.

In February 2017, the closure of St Pinnock Parish Church and the dissolution of their parish has meant the area of the Parish of Liskeard has increased to include that of St Pinnock.

During 2017 we plan to achieve status as a Green Church Kernow through the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. We will be striving for Gold, and if anyone from the Parish would like to get involved please do speak with Tony Piper who will be overseeing this.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the PCC and want to know a little more, please contact the Church Office.

*Nikki Carter - PCC Secretary*

### **SAFEGUARDING OFFICER**

During our first year in this role, we are learning how to work in line with Church of England Guidelines, and more locally Truro Diocesan Guidelines, on all aspects of 'Safeguarding'. Using the 'Safer Recruitment Procedures' and the DBS checking service we aim to reassure all who come to our Church. We are also busy arranging and attending 'Safeguarding Training' for both ourselves and appropriate members of our Parish. These are being held in various venues throughout Cornwall!

*Val Marshall and Luisa Tanner*

## CHURCH SERVICES AT ST MARTIN'S

### WEDNESDAY 9.30AM SERVICE

There is a Holy Communion service every Wednesday morning, at 9.30am, in the Upper Church Hall.

This service is a valuable spiritual resource for the community and an excellent opportunity to consider important issues mid-week. It is also a good social resource, as people generally stay for coffee and/or cake afterwards and the famous raffle, funds from which go to the Church funds.

In this transition period the services have been robustly filled by Revd Margot Davies, Revd Richard Dorrington and Revd Philip Sharp and others, for which we are all grateful.

*Andrew Harrison.*

### SUNDAY 9.30AM SERVICE

The Sunday 9.30 service at St Martin's has continued in the pattern set up some time ago, with a Café service in the Church Centre on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays (toast, croissants, doughnuts etc provided!), with Informal Worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and Family Communion in the church on the 4<sup>th</sup>, followed by coffee in the Church Centre.

It is largely lay-led by our Local Worship Leaders, with the sermon usually preached by Revd David Hazlewood or our Reader, Ron Bennett. Although we have a strong team of Local Worship Leaders, we were sorry to lose Teresa Folland when she was ordained curate in June, closely followed by Marion Ingleby (as well as Tony) when they retired in July. We look forward to welcoming Luisa Tanner and Rachael Pryor to the team during 2017.

The informality of the service allows for an imaginative or dramatic way of portraying the readings or leading the prayers, and there is usually an opportunity for some congregation participation in the form of a discussion, quiz or something else appropriate to the theme. Children are always welcome, especially at the Café service, and we aim to provide toys, colouring and other activities for them.

The music at these informal services is generally more modern, led by a keyboard or guitar and some singers. There are three main music groups,

and it's great to see some of our Youth Group members singing once a month with Pete Morgan. The aim of this service is to provide quality worship but also an accessible service to which we can invite family, friends and neighbours. They take quite a bit of organisation, with many different people involved not just in leading worship or music and preaching, but also those who buy and serve refreshments, set up the room, or operate the projector or the sound system. So, thanks to all those who help in any way – and of course to all those who attend.

These informal services have a “buzz” to them – informal and fun, but also thoughtful and reverent. You may be thinking that it is not your “cup of tea” – but why not come along and try it one day. You never know – you might be surprised!

*Sheri Sturgess*

### 11.00AM SERVICE

The 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday each month is a Choral Communion service usually with a full choir singing the service plus an anthem, and sometimes an introit under the influence of Chris Howarth our choirmaster and organist. Then on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday it is Morning Prayer (The old Matins service) with Psalms and Canticles.

Unfortunately, during the transition period there has been less officiating clergy resulting in one less communion a month, and the heating problems in church now mean these services are temporarily being held in the halls. Our thanks to the clergy who have and are helping out and Chis Howarth and the Choir for continuing under these difficult circumstances.

*John Jackson*

### 11.00AM SERVICE

It was such a joy to share the 11am Holy Communion Service with our good friend and Rural Dean, Revd Philip Sharp. Philip presided and preached on Jesus' words, 'Don't worry!'

We were in the lower church hall which was warm, welcoming and well attended.

Of course, the present arrangements are temporary but it is so good to see the love, patience and support of our regular worshippers and also some new attenders. It is not ideal and

## CHURCH SERVICES AT ST MARTIN'S

one day we will be back in our re ordered church building but in the meantime thank you to everyone who is helping and understanding the situation.

Thanks also to those who had the foresight to keep our two church halls in working order so that we can have the use of them through these difficult days.

*Ron Bennett*

### 6PM FOCUS ON PRAYER

'Focus on Prayer' is an opportunity to come together as members of St Martin's Church to pray for anything on our minds concerning our world and our Church. It is held on the third Sunday of the month at the 6 pm service. It is a theme led service e.g. praying through the readings for the day, spring, our world and nation, Christ the King, our Church. It is a time to bring to God our praise for what He has done for us, our concerns for the world, our needs and guidance for the future. This coming year we have many changes in our Church, so do support this service and let us encourage each other, and see what God will do.

*Chris Bennett*

### 6.00PM EVENING SERVICE

A faithful group of people regularly attend the 6 o'clock service. Numbers average 24 per week. Usually in the choir stalls, now in the hall, the camaraderie and worship ethos continues. Style and formats vary, but all combine to give a quiet contemplative end to the day.

*Annie Purdon*

### PRAISE SERVICE

Praise Services are held on the month where a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday falls, usually January, March/April, July and October/November. In the last few years the July Praise has been a Barbeque Service.

There is a full band for these services and we are helped out with additional musicians – on Bass Guitar Graham Toms or John Vincent, and on vocals and guitar, Steve Martin who joins us when possible from Emmanuel, Plymouth. We have also been blessed with John Baker joining us on electric guitar (a regular visitor to St Martin's) and Dom travelling back from Launceston to play the drums. Special thanks go to Luisa, who leads the group, Jenny and Nikki and recently Anna for their continued support and lovely voices.

The last year also saw an additional Christmas Praise with Bishop Chris, who also kindly came

and spoke at the July Barbeque Praise which was Tony's last service with us. This was a superb evening with over 90 attending and Bishop Chris included all Tony's family in the final farewell.

We try and vary the speakers and January saw Pete Morgan give us a lot to think about. April I am hoping David White will be speaking and July we will have our new Priest in charge, Steve Morgan who I hope to have speaking at the Barbeque, which moves inside the Church Hall if the weather is poor.

The services are supported with various numbers depending on how well it has been advertised. It reaches out to all the local churches and there is usually a good representation in the congregation. Many thanks to those who support these services as I can confirm a lot of work and rehearsal goes into each one. Thanks also to Chris Hallam, who when available organises the refreshments.

*Alex Yabsley*

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## HOUSE GROUPS

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### MONDAY EVENING HOUSEGROUP

We are a small group (maximum number 8 if all present) and Mark and I are relatively recent members (joining in the past 2 years), and we would welcome new folk to join us.

We always receive a very warm welcome (in both senses of the word as most of us have to de-layer on arrival!) from our hosts Mick and Linda who are very involved in many aspects of church life from PCC, Open the Book and the pannier market to mention just a few things (and this roots the group in the life of St Martin's).

We have looked at videos and courses advised by the leadership and at other times we use studies from the Life Builder series that stimulate discussion. We readily admit none of us are experts but we take it in turns to lead and every week we share both good and bad things happening in our lives, in the life of St Martin's and in the world for prayer. Whilst "leading" might seem intimidating it is an opportunity to challenge ourselves and to grow, the group members are all kind supportive and not critical.

We come from very different backgrounds but we represent ordinary people who face a variety of

## HOUSE GROUPS

challenges in work and family life, past failures, financial worries and mental health concerns ...just like the people Jesus spoke to and we want to reach today.

Mark and I have appreciated being part of this group; sharing together, praying together and leaning from the Bible together, expecting God through his Holy Spirit in the Word to teach, encourage, rebuke and challenge us

If you are not part of a House Group now then do join us or another group ....you don't know what you are missing!

*Claire Allen*

### WEDNESDAY EVENING HOME GROUP

This group meets regularly every Wednesday evening at 7.30pm and various members offer their home as the venue, with lifts readily available to anyone who needs transport. Our numbers have varied from three people to our maximum this year of eight. We generally start the evening with tea, coffee and biscuits and a chat about people and events that have been on our minds since the previous meeting. We then spend an hour or so in study and finish with prayer and the Blessing. At the start of the year our Bible study used a booklet to study some of the Psalms. We then embarked on quite a different journey, using the 'Life Streams' booklet. It uses six different traditions/movements that have shaped the Christian church as a structure for each session. Having worked our way through this booklet we now use it as a guide for one meeting each month. The other meetings are currently a study of Galatians. Both of these approaches are enabling us to explore and develop our spiritual growth through reading, reflection, discussion, tasks and prayer in a nurturing, non-judgemental environment where we can gain strength and support from each other.

*Sue Dale*

### THURSDAY MORNING HOME GROUP

We continue to meet in various homes, though mainly in Brian and Dora McNulty's home. Many of us have led the studies and prayer times together. Texts and phone calls keep us connected throughout the weeks, and particularly with Mavis (Davey) who, though currently unable to attend, remains a special part of our group.

Over the last 12 months we have grown to 10 members, studied some of the Psalms, the book of

James, and are now focussing on the Names of God – to enable glimpses of His character, as we seek to know our God in deeper ways.

We've enjoyed "extra" times of coffee and tea together, a summer meal to celebrate several birthdays, and a great Christmas meal together. We pray a lot, and from that base organised an interactive prayer day in church last July, conscious of many world and local needs and through the period of "transition" at St. Martin's. If you would like to join us, then please do!

*Helen Hazelwood*

### THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study Group formerly known as Church Night has seen a number of changes over the last year – the most significant of which were seeing off our dear Tony and Marion to pastures new last June and then multiplying into two groups at the end of January. It was something that had been discussed for a long time and inevitable – after all, we had reached an average of seventeen members on any given Thursday and could have easily numbered 22, should everyone have been able to attend. It has been an exciting step forward yet one that has taken some time to adjust to. We are now two groups: one of 10 who meet at Trevillis Park and one of 8 who meet at Baytree Hill. This gives us plenty of room for further growth so do get in touch if you'd like to come along.

Both groups are continuing the study Ron began in Acts when we were still together and this study runs every other Thursday. Rachael Pryor leads the study though Acts in the Baytree Hill group with Luisa continuing a study through John's Gospel on the alternate Thursdays. Over in Trevillis Park, the group are working through a study on Old Testament Characters with group members taking turns to lead. On the fifth Thursday of the month we plan to have a catch up evening, hearing all that each group has learned... as well as enjoy our traditional 'party night' with nibbles and wine.

Some things, of course, have not changed – there's still rich Bible Study, great discussion, fun, banter and, of course, the tea and coffee with biscuits or even cake!

*Luisa Tanner*

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES, OUTREACH AND EVENTS

### ABC (ADULTS, BABIES AND CHILDREN) GROUP

Our playgroup for babies to pre-schoolers continues to be well supported, with the morning group being very lively and the afternoon session following on more sedately. On average, there are about thirty-five families who regularly attend. There is a group of dedicated volunteers who work hard to ensure the smooth running of ABC, from setting up and putting away, making endless cups of tea, washing up, preparing snacks, playing guitars and ukuleles, listening, caring, dealing with the finances to name but a few of the jobs. The list is long and varied and all those that contribute behind the scenes or 'front of house', make St Martin's ABC a place that parents, carers and grandparents want to bring their children. Thank you so much to you all.

Amongst the usual ABC activities this year, we have had coffee and cake days raising money for Marie Curie and Macmillan, made flowers and attended Teresa's leaving service and lunch. We also entered the Liskeard Show and Prime Stock Show, winning various prizes, and a cup, of which we are very proud! The pictures from the Liskeard Show were displayed in the church for all to see, and the children enjoyed visiting the church to view their masterpieces. We have had a Teddy Bears' Picnic in the rectory garden and a Christingle service in the church. It was wonderful to see so many faces captivated by the Christmas story. Some of the adults involved in ABC went to Tapenades for a Christmas meal. This term we will be celebrating Easter with a short service in the church and also hope to visit Trethorne, continuing a popular ABC tradition.

*Jane Asquith*

### AUTUMN FAIR

Maybe it was our choice of the person who opened our Fair or maybe it was the popularity of our chef's food or the lure of the Wine Tombola! Well whatever it was, it was a success both in terms of enjoyment and fund raising (£1115.00) It was great that Tony and Marion joined us (*shall I ring them for the Spring Fair?*) He opened the event and stayed for a time, and joined the general buzz! Mick, Roger and Amanda produced our lunches, which were enjoyed by all, and the people spent! Big thank you to Jill, Katherine, Linda C, Sue, Jan, Mike, Sylvia, Sarah, Wendy, Chris, Lesley (*and hopefully I've missed no one out*).

See you all at Spring Fair 1st April

*Linda Dean*

### CHURCH STALL AT THE PANNIER MARKET

As I write (FEB) the Pannier Market has closed and at the moment I don't know when it will reopen.

Last year was fairly busy, we were given a lot of Christian books which we have given away to interested people and many have stopped and chatted – e.g. an Italian man was stunned and amazed to know that there was a Catholic Church in Liskeard – thought we were all Protestants! The Stall has been the "face" of St Martin's in town, and many of our congregation pop in and support us and in doing so share our Faith with others; low key but loving, bringing kindness and concern, it's been a joy to share with them and others!

We took over £3,000 during the year, which helps with fund raising, mainly because we are given good quality and often new items – the PCC see this as Mission and pays the rent – however we do not make a loss or cost the Church money.

When we are up and running again please continue to support us. Thank you

*Linda Dean*

### CHRISTMAS NATIVITY MUSICAL

ChristmasTIME was, without doubt, the busiest Nativity play we have put on so far.

With 20 minutes to go we were carrying more chairs into the Eliot House Hotel and wondering if everyone could possibly fit inside. Next year we will have to use smaller tables!

In our modern world there is a problem with the season of "Silent night" "Peace on earth" and "In the bleak midwinter." Everyone is incredibly busy! I am therefore very grateful to everyone who gave up their time and contributed their talents to ChristmasTIME.

For me, every year becomes more exciting than the last. The reason? Every year we see more people who rarely or never come to church joining in, singing carols and hearing the real Christmas story (interrupted by my bits of nonsense!) once again.

My thanks go to everyone who helps to make this happen, not least to Derek for the use of the Hotel and Major Pam for leading the carols. The sound of a packed room singing carols at full volume really made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up – that's how carols were meant to sound, and how Christmas was meant to be celebrated!

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES, OUTREACH AND EVENTS

See you next year for “Sounds like Christmas”.

*Peter Morgan*

### COFFEE MORNING

Every Wednesday the 9.30am communion service is followed by coffee and cakes. We have great fellowship, a lot of laughs and of course coffee and cakes. We also run a raffle and the proceeds go to the Missionary Fund. There is no set charge for the coffee or the raffle, just donations. There is a monthly rota for organising the coffee and cakes and people are willing to help with the washing up at the end. Even if you do not want to attend the service you are more than welcome to come for coffee at around 10am.

*Doris Bonnicks*

### FRIDAY CLUB

We have 10 children who come regularly to Friday Club at St Martin's School They start with fun time; they play Snake & Ladders, Lego, Jenga and Puzzles, then we go over the Open The Book story from Wednesday assembly. The children are asked questions about it which they respond to very well and we then have activities which are about the Bible Story; such as a word search and a picture to colour in. We then play a game which we try to make about the Bible Story, then we close with a Prayer. We are now able to open the books to more children because there are 5 of us now that is Jane Asquith, Mike Sturgess, Jan Raines, Mick & Linda Chandler

*Mick Chandler*

### HOME COMMUNIONS

Every month a member of the ministry team visit people in their home, taking bread and wine from one of the services held in church. A short communion service is held which means that those who can no longer attend a service in church can still feel a part of the congregation.

Visits are also made to some of the elder care homes in the town, Pengover, St Anthony's, Eventide and Passmore Edwards Court.

If members of the congregation know of people from St Martin's or another church who would like to receive communion, please contact the office.

It is a privilege to be able to be with these former members of our congregation. Please remember them in your prayers, and when you receive communion in church.

*Liz Piper*

### LISKEARD COMMUNITY WEBSITE

Liskeard.2Day is a website maintained by St Martin's Church as a resource both for the congregation and for the wider community of Liskeard. It receives between 10,000 and 20,000 hits each month. As such it's an ambitious project with amazing potential for both pastoral care and outreach. Last year Mike reported that lack of resources meant the website had not been kept up to date and called for volunteers... Well, I offered to help with church admin - and last summer agreed to take on updating the website. It's an enjoyable though challenging process which is bringing me into a much more in-depth contact with the many activities and needs of the community. The website is at <http://liskeard.2day.uk> where you can download the notices, find an archive of faith stories, see what's on in the town, and more – but please bear with us, as it's still very much a work in progress!

*Lesley Carty*

### LISKEARD PRAYERS ON FACEBOOK

LiskeardPrayers (<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Liskeardprayers/135361916624838>) on Facebook is designed as a prayer forum for the people of Liskeard. Our vision is to bring all the people of Liskeard together to pray for our town, and through that prayer to seek God's blessing on Liskeard and the surrounding area. As well as local topics, we also cover diocesan and national topics at times.

Each day we post a prayer on LiskeardPrayers on Facebook, which should (but doesn't always!) automatically post a tweet on @liskeardprayers. These tweets are then displayed on the home page of the Liskeard Community Website (<http://liskeard.2day.uk>). At the time of writing the LiskeardPrayers Facebook page has 226 “Page Likes”. Typically, our prayers reach between 600 and 1000 people each week, with 100 to 200 responding to them in some way. However, occasionally a topic really hits the mark and the prayers can reach up to 10,000 or more.

At the moment, Ron Bennett and Rosie Morgan post prayers for Monday and Tuesday (thank you!), but I have not been successful in attracting volunteers to post on other days, so I am still posting five days a week. Whilst the prayers usually appear between 6:00am and 6:30am, you can schedule prayers to appear at any time, including days or even weeks ahead, so you are

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES, OUTREACH AND EVENTS

not tied down to being available on a particular day each week. Please let me know if you would like to help with a day a week, or simply email me (mike.sturgess@hotmail.co.uk) with ideas for prayers whenever you come across anything that you think would be appropriate. Oh, and if you haven't done so already, please "Like" the page, and like, share or comment on individual prayers that resonate with you. Thank you.

*Mike Sturgess*

### LUNCH CLUB

The friendly, talkative folk that come to the Lunch Club every Wednesday at 12 noon continue to enjoy the very tasty meals sent to us by the catering staff at Eventide. Our thanks go to Teresa and Wendy and staff who do a wonderful job for us every week. Due to a misunderstanding they kindly sent us 2 sumptuous Christmas lunches with all the trimmings, absolutely delicious. We had a good run of meals in December as we went to the Cheesewring for a festive lunch, enormous portions and very well looked after. In the summer, we went to the Millpool Centre in Looe for afternoon tea also with plenty to choose from. It was a lovely day and there was plenty to watch on the water. Our numbers stay quite stable in that 2-3 people have joined us and 2 have had to go into residential care. Gill Purvis has kindly written a short article for the Star regarding the origins of the Lunch Club started by her and her husband Jim. She has just had a milestone [90th] birthday and her recollections of those early days was good to read. We are always pleased to see new faces. I am so grateful to those ladies who help out each week, we do have a new volunteer recently but would always be pleased to see anyone for just one week a month. I am taking a longer break this winter so my thanks to Anne Purdon, Val Cayzer and Rachael Pryor for stepping into the gaps. My thanks also to Mary Scott who is so efficient with our accounts.

*Jackie Norman.*

### OPEN THE BOOK

Can you imagine a church with a congregation of over 800 children and 20 adults? Those of us on the Open the Book team don't need to imagine it because that is our reality during term-time, taking weekly assemblies at Dobwalls, St Martin's and Hillfort Primary Schools.

Each week we perform a Bible story, in costume, with props, and involving as many children in the cast as the story allows. We act as best we can, and get creative in working out ways to have our words handy. The schools like it – it ticks several Ofsted boxes. More importantly the children love it – not knowing from week to week if the story will be funny, scary, sad or challenging. Each assembly ends with a time for reflection on the lesson of the story.

We follow a 3-year syllabus produced by 'Open the Book' with two 5-story modules each term, and specials at Easter and Christmas. This year we have done:

Men who dared do right (Jeremiah and Daniel), Children play their part (2 Kings and Gospels), Adventures in the Old Testament (Jacob and Joshua), All about Paul (Acts), Surprising Stories (Gospels), David, the Shepherd King, More about Jesus (Gospels).

We currently have a team of 10. Because of illness and other appointments not all can play every time, so it would be good to enlarge the squad. No previous acting or public speaking experience is required! We have great fun, and are deeply indebted to the amazing Linda Feek who gets us organised and provides costumes and props.

We welcome new members, and if you cannot join us then please pray for us. We take 2 assemblies and rehearse on Wednesday afternoons, and take 1 assembly early on Thursday morning.

*David Hazlewood*

### 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*

### SMART FILM CLUB

I have for many happy years been part of the Film Club team with both Mick Chandler and Mike Sturgess. Every month we show a popular film as close to its release date as we can to ensure those who attend get to see them free on a big screen!

## CHURCH ACTIVITIES, OUTREACH AND EVENTS

We open at 6pm for a showing at 6:30 and in that ½ hour we show cartoons and short films, these prove as popular as the main feature where those of a certain generation enjoy the old Tom & Jerry's again!

The films are free and all are welcome to this wonderful and very satisfying outreach event.

*Simon Crosbie*

### SMART PRAYER MEETING

Most Thursday mornings a group of us meet to pray, usually at 9 Ferndale Terrace, Old Road (my house) but the venue varies. We pray for those in need, our church, our town, our missions, our world & of course anything/one else we feel led to bring before God. Often we are small in number but we have seen so many answers to prayer that we are inspired to continue and would love others to join us at any time. We start promptly at 10am and simply pray, some out loud, some in silence, for about half to three quarters of an hour. Then we close. It is a joy and a privilege to share this time with each other and to be able to bring our concerns together to God. Coffee (& sometimes cake!) is on offer afterwards but there's no obligation to stay.

Please think about joining us if you are able, even if it is only occasionally, you would be very welcome and we are not at all formal! Prayer together is such an important and valuable part of our Christian life, no one has to pray out loud unless they choose to, your presence is enough.

Any further information and to check the venue on a given week (in case I'm away) please give me a call on 343367.

*Amanda Griffiths*

### STAR MAGAZINE

The printing of Star has already increased to almost 300 copies each month. Star magazine is not only for those who regularly attend church but is also distributed to those who are unable to get to church for various reasons and also to local businesses, doctors surgeries and the local hospital. In the age of technology, it is a vital way to communicate to those who do not have access to the internet.

A big thank you to those who help distribute, and to all those that have so willingly provided articles to keep the Star full of wonderful insights. Please do continue!

Star magazine is free! Although donations are always happily received, so thank you to all those that have donated both time and money.

A special thank you to Colin, who really does put so much time into the design of Star, and makes it look so great!

*Nikki Carter*

### YOUTH CLUB

Our youth club continues to be a small but happy group.

Whatever the leaders or the wider church might think ... they like it that way!

School pressures and the calls of other activities are both hugely greater than when most of us were young. This means that even finding a time when everyone can meet is impossible – we now overlap with the drama group so that some of our members arrive late and others leave early, but they still want to come.

We provide a place for meeting, eating toast, sometimes cooking, making crafts, making music and just being together. Sometimes it is painfully clear how little real “down time” young people have in 2017. A chance to do what may seem to be “nothing” is really important, especially when they can do it together!

Our youngsters do form a real part of our church. They always take part in the Nativity production and often contribute to the cafe service. They are valued and valuable.

This year has seen Jane take over from Teresa and our thanks go to Sue who has decided to take a break, though still helps out when we are short staffed.

One of our ABC “mums” has also begun helping which has been a tremendous encouragement – so thanks to Melissa as well!

Please pray that we are able to move in the right direction – and that we have the time, people and resources to do so.

Give thanks as well that we have a place where young people, adults and God can get together and have fun!

*Peter Morgan*

## MISSIONS

### CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

As the parish box holder secretary for the Children's Society I collect, count and return the 40ish boxes on the list and then bank the proceeds. Once again this parish has proved a great supporter of the Children's Society's work along with the generous donations from our annual Christingle service. These collections enable the Society to continue its valuable work of reaching so many desperate children. These include children at risk on the streets, children whose family life is disintegrating, disabled children, young refugees, 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. Many long-standing box holders are no longer able to continue so I'd like to say a special thank you to them for all they've given over the years. 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.

*Amanda Griffiths (343367)*

### CHURCH ARMY (COLIN BROWN)

Colin is a serving Church Army Officer of many years' standing. The C.A.'s mission is to share faith through words and actions. Colin is based in Redruth and shares his Christian Faith as a Creative Arts Evangelist. In his 'Krowji, studio he paints and meets with his Art and Spirituality Group.

Colin also works in the local Foodbank and with Street Pastors Ministry teams, witnessing in practical ways to the love of God for those in need. He also preaches regularly in his local Church.

Colin will be visiting St. Martin's for the morning services on 9 April 2017, which is one of our four Mission Sundays.

There will be an opportunity to support his unique ministry within our Diocese.

*Ron Bennett*

### LOVE IN A BOX

We praised God for the number of boxes that were filled with gifts for disadvantaged children in Moldova and Rumania. Sixty eight boxes were delivered to saltash.net community college where members of the sixth form organise a pickup point. They were then sent to Eastbourne where they were checked and then sent out to the children in time for Christmas. We have never sent so many boxes before and are so grateful to the Church members and friends who took part in this act of showing God's love to these children.

*Chris Bennett*

### MISSION COMMITTEE

The committee meets twice a year to manage and ensure the smooth running of our mission commitments in St. Martin's. The initial meeting is to organise dates, speakers and to request any promotional materials.

At the present moment we support: Tear Fund, MAF, OMF, Church Army and Children's Society (details are at the back of the Church).

Dates are set and groups are approached to undertake the Lent Lunches, normally over five Sundays. This year they are being provided by our House Groups, with the Missions Committee starting off the first.

At the second meeting, we organise the annual Cream Tea! We also pick up any problems that may have occurred on the Mission Sundays.

In 2016 your generosity provided £4,387. The monies raised are sent directly to the charities, as above, who also claim back any Gift Aid.

Many thanks to all concerned in this vital part of our Church's outreach to others in our world: Well done and keep up the good work!

*Tim Marshall*

### MAF – MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

MAF is one of the missions we 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.

## MISSIONS

Last July our gift day for MAF was well supported at both services and I gave an update on the work of MAF including how they supported the flood victims in Bangladesh and brought some welcome assistance from the national cricket team who helped to build a bridge to the local school.

Our special tie to Matt and Becki Dillingham continues with support and prayers for their work in Madagascar. For those who don't remember they came to speak to us three and a half years ago after recently joining MAF, Becki as a pilot and her husband Matt as a teacher. Becki was originally keen to work in South Sudan but because of the political unrest in the country and the fact that they had a young daughter Bethan, MAF felt it was better to wait and a year later the family was posted to Madagascar.

Currently they are on a well-earned rest year back in the UK before they re-deploy to Chad later this year; they have also had a recent newcomer into the family, their son Luke was born last September and I am sure young Bethan is delighted with her new play mate. For more information about Becki, Matt, Bethan and Luke including ways to further support them visit their blog at <http://mattbeckidillingham.blogspot.co.uk>

I very much hope to get them back to St Martin's in July to speak to us at this year's MAF gift day so I hope you'll be there to support.

In previous years, we have had Geoff Fowler come to speak to us on MAF and it has always been entertaining. Geoff has now stepped down as a MAF speaker to care for his wife Pauline, and I would ask please for your prayers in giving them healing and comfort in the time ahead.

This is a marvellous life changing 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.

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, or contact me and I will be happy to help. Many thanks and God Bless.

*Roger Griffiths*

### **O.M.F**

St. Martin's continues to support the Overseas Missionary Fellowship, and John and Paula

Richards in particular. We support them in prayer and giving. John and Paula were on Home Assignment this January and came to speak at the 9.30am and 11am services. They showed a short video at the Café service and Paula regaled us with an amusing account of a visit they made up into the hills to lead a weekend with Mangyan Christians, a tribal people that they minister to. They live in quite primitive conditions but were more than happy to share what they had with the Richards. Each month John sends out a report on their activities for that month, for information on what they have been doing, and items for prayer. This is put on the Missions notice board. Please read it so that you can keep up with their life in the Philippines.

*Chris Bennett*

### **TEARFUND**

I can only give you a taster of what Tearfund and their partners achieve as they work worldwide. The most important factors are prayer, your donations and working with local partners.

In Afghanistan, teaching farmers how to boost their agricultural productivity by growing lentils and peas. Afghanistan's maternal mortality rate is the highest in the world. Tearfund and partners IAM are tackling this through hosting maternal and child-health courses in rural communities. Please pray for lasting peace. There are still violent incidents, a bitter aftertaste from years of conflict. Pray for the nation of Pakistan, where Tearfund and their partners have been working since 1973. On issues ranging from disasters to education, preventing drug addiction and providing theological training.

Because the work of Tearfund's partners is so highly regarded they are increasingly accepted in our communities. Pray that God will protect Tearfund's partners as they bring the love of Christ to their communities.

Syrian refugee families are in a desperate situation. Few jobs mean that their meagre savings are gone, which often leaves families in debt, facing eviction and hunger. The addition of a quarter of the population of Lebanon now being refugees has caused discontent and is putting massive pressure on local services and infrastructure.

*Jill Pryor*

## AND FINALLY AT ST MARTIN'S...

### **BELLRINGERS**

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*

### **CHOIR**

This varied group leads the singing in our services at 11am and 6pm with enthusiasm and dedication. We are a friendly bunch, many of us old hands, but over the past year we have warmly welcomed both newcomers and the return of former members.

We share a love of singing hymns, psalms and anthems, both old and new and are led and encouraged by Chris Howarth, our inspiring organist and choirmaster. He works us hard during our rehearsals on a Tuesday evening, getting the very best out of us with his superb musicianship, positivity and attention to detail but we all enjoy the time together with moments of hilarity and banter. During the past year, under Chris' direction, an augmented choir gave a Good Friday concert including a performance of Stainer's Crucifixion and spirituals from Tippett's Child of Our Time and in September, when the London Adventist Chorale visited Liskeard, we sang two anthems during the service and joined with others in a gospel song taught to us by their Director, Ken Burton.

We have also sung at a number of weddings, including two which featured choir members as brides, and at Tony and Marion's Farewell Service, as well as specially prepared anthems on the feast days of the church year: Easter, Pentecost, Harvest, Advent and Christmas.

New members are always needed and welcomed; if you would like to join us, please speak to Chris.

*Maggie Skinner*

### **CHURCH BUILDINGS: CARE AND REPAIR**

2016 was again a busy year! We continue to battle with the elements and at times the seemingly relentless onslaught on the fabric of the church.

St Martin's is blessed with a loyal band of workers, who carry out diverse duties. These include cleaning, painting, repairing, sometimes getting very dirty in the process.

This year Bryan and his team have been busy repairing and replacing slates on the roof, clearing out the lead gutters, work inside the Church buildings. Work has also been undertaken on repairing collapsed drains, 'pointing', and painting the Church halls (both inside and out!)

Please, if you can spare some time helping out the working parties, it will be most welcome. Contact Bryan Martin or myself for more information.

Many thanks and well done to *all* who give their time and efforts to ensure that God's Church is well kept and a credit to our community.

*Tim Marshall*

### **CHURCH HALLS**

Both our Church Halls are cleaned on a weekly basis by Andrew Harrison, and we also have Chris Causer kindly helping Andrew for an hour or two on a Friday morning, thank you Chris. Andrew is always on hand to help with other aspects of managing the halls whether it's moving furniture or taking down Christmas decorations. Thank you so much Andrew for all that you do!

Our Churchwardens are champions at getting the jobs done that need to be done with regard to the maintenance of the buildings. This year, to name just a few examples, has seen guttering replaced and window frames repaired down in the Lower Hall, both halls have been redecorated and the Upper Hall now has two new notice boards. Thank you to our Churchwardens and those that have volunteered in helping with all the big and small jobs that have needed to be done.

We currently have just under 20 regular bookers who pay for using our two church halls, which includes Jericho (the small committee room in the church centre). These groups vary from Dancers to Martial Arts, Art Classes to Slimming World. But there is always room for more!

Our church halls are not only used by outside groups, but also serve our church and missionary work. For example: ABC, Lunch Club and SMart

## AND FINALLY AT ST MARTIN'S...

Film, all important bridges between St Martin's and the community of Liskeard.

With the recent heating issues in the Church, the halls have now become home to all of our Church Services over these colder months. Although the 9.30am Wednesday Communion and 9.30am Sunday Café Service are used to these surroundings, I personally feel that the halls have adapted well under the circumstances and thank the congregations for their support and their understanding of these short-term measures.

So, if you are part of a club or group that are considering a new venue or looking for a venue for a birthday party, then please do get in touch with the Church Office.

*Nikki Carter*

### CHURCH OFFICE

It's been 12 months since I took over the role of Parish Administrator at St Martin's, and firstly I would like to say a big thank you to all the congregations of St Martin's, Dobwalls and St Keyne for being so welcoming.

When Tony retired 4 months after my taking over in the office, my workload understandably increased and whilst still learning the intricacies of my role, there was the potential for the office to feel the burden. However, God has richly blessed me with a wonderful support network. So, thank you to those that have offered advice, prayer and time, and have enabled this transition period to pass by so fluidly.

The happenings of the Church Office varies throughout any given day and it can get extremely busy! But I am so thankful for the time freely given by the wonderful volunteers who come in and help for a few hours a week. Thank you so much Lesley, Val and Rachael, for all you do to help the office run smoothly. If anyone feels that they too may be able to offer some help, please do get in touch.

*Nikki Carter*

### CHURCH ORGAN

It has been a roller-coaster of a year for St Martin's fantastic Lewis organ. For much of the year it has again provided accompaniment, entertainment and a musical lead in a great range of services and situations but is very sadly, now more-or less silent and suffering.

Guest organists this year have included Anthony Philpot, who accompanied the extended choir for

a very poignant devotional Good Friday service and Jonathan Delbridge, who gave another brilliant recital in November. An event well attended, despite the cold, which raised funds for the church.

In August, the chair of the National Pipe Organ Register came from London to assess our organ. He stayed for hours playing and enjoying the sounds. He was very impressed by the clarity and beauty of many of the original pipes. Keen to play it again, he has offered to perform a recital in the future. Unfortunately, some of the alterations made in the past, prevent it being eligible for listing and with that, associated funding to help maintain it.

The number of young people learning the organ in St Martin's has increased. The rich varied soundscapes available on this fine instrument is an irresistible appeal to musicians. It is great that we are helping to ensure that there are organists for the future. Our organ is now used as an examination instrument by the Associated Board of Music. One very talented young musician has been recording particular sounds and riffs that are now starting to appear on soundtracks for use in media: Who knows we might hear St Martin's organ in a film soundtrack, TV commercial or video game!

It is, of course, the weekly services and religious festivals where the organ is of most importance. It is ideally suited to provide the range of accompaniment and moods required. From the solemnity of a funeral to the exuberance of a wedding; the meditative prayers in Lent to the triumphant rising from the tomb at Easter, the organ can be an integral part of the worship and our organ is exceptional in its capacity to do this. It is flexible enough to work for a handful of congregation or a packed church.

The organ is not too adversely affected by the cold. However, dampness is disastrous: there are many electrical components and materials that are susceptible to the wet. As the church is not being used presently, wood inside the organ is swelling, joints sticking, fuses blowing. Moving forward, it is time to consider a re-build, updating and cleaning of the organ. This was last undertaken in 1980, and there are plans for this to be included in the reordering of the church. This will ensure that this invaluable asset will be enjoyed by the next

## AND FINALLY AT ST MARTIN'S...

generation of worshippers and visitors to Liskeard and St Martin's.

*Chris Howarth*

### **SERVERS**

The Servers continue to prepare the altar for the Holy Communion services held either in the Church, or more recently, in the Church Centre. The server is there to assist the Clergy leading the Holy Communion by, for example, passing the wafers to be blessed, or pouring the wine into the chalice or 'goblet'.

It is a role of quiet and committed assistance for the clergy as they carry out their duty to serve God, and to help us all draw closer to our Awesome and Loving God ...in Holy....Communion... with The Lord Himself! 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, at His invitation, for Holy Communion or to receive His blessings. The Lord Jesus Himself asked us to do this in the Bible (Matthew ch 26, Mark ch 14, Luke ch 22).

On occasions the server may assist the clergy with giving out the consecrated bread and wine.

See the weekly 'Link' notices or Star magazine for details of these services. (Gluten free available) and please contact the Church office if you would like to join us!

Thank you and may God continue to bless us all.

*Val Marshall*

### **SIDEPERSONS**

It's the third Sunday of the month, which means we're on Sidesperson's duty, and therefore need to be in church for the 11 o'clock service a little earlier than usual, in order to collate together the hymn books and Link notices, plus any other extra bits of information that's available, ready to hand out as we welcome, (hopefully with a smile), members of the congregation when they arrive for the service.

The Sidesperson's aim is to assist the Churchwardens when necessary, this probably occurs mostly when there is a Baptism or special service when numbers are expected to be high, and of course to take the offertory. Our task is not an onerous one, and it provides an opportunity to engage with folk which may not always happen.

If you would like to join our little band please speak to a Churchwarden, you would be very welcome.

*Paula & Sandy Sanderson*

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## WHILE AT DOBWALLS UNITED CHURCH...

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### **DOBWALLS UNITED CHURCH**

It has been another busy year at the United Church with services being taken by Anglican priests and Methodist ministers supported by the lay ministry. Moving away, death and serious illness caused a decline in numbers and these people were office holders within the Church. We also missed Canon Tony Ingleby's support when he retired, not only at our regular services but also at Messy Church.

However, we have had people joining us since our well supported Christmas services. It has almost been standing room only at Baptisms when young people arrive with family and friends. The year started with a wedding.

Our biggest fundraisers are the summer lunches which are very well supported in the village, after a slow start. The Christmas Bazaar raised over £400 which, unfortunately was less than normal. Room hire has also contributed to our funds.

We are active in many ways: Monday Monkeys (toddler group), Messy Church, Girls' Brigade and the Ladies' Group, which raises money for a specific charity each year, is affiliated to the Church. Knit and Natter uses the school room fortnightly and provides toys for our 'Welcome Baby' bags. Our Christmas Cards, our main outreach, are delivered throughout the village and nearby areas. In January, we moved the task of making them to a fortnightly meeting alongside the Knit and Natter group.

Very generous donations from the Christmas collections were made to Christian Aid and St Petroc's in addition to items to the Food Bank.

Last year's Lent course was that followed by St Martin's the previous year, 'Christianity Explored'. Also, in the autumn, we started 'Eat and Pray', a monthly lunchtime focus on Prayer.

We are an 'Open Church' and have had a few visitors. We were delighted to be able to have our Church used for the interviews for our new Priest. We are so fortunate to have a warm, welcoming building.

*Sandra Merry*

## WHILE AT DOBWALLS UNITED CHURCH...

### EAT AND PRAY FELLOWSHIP

In November we held our first lunchtime monthly meeting of 'Eat and Pray' which led to a further meeting with Revd Sue Hill to arrange and practise our Nativity Service (proceeds to Christian Aid). We also spent time praying that people would attend our Christmas services.

During these meetings, we pray for sick people in the village particularly those who have had operations or are undergoing treatment. We close with The Lord's prayer.

Our January meeting was led by Revd Mark Pengelly. We are beginning to focus on Lent.

If you wish to join us, bring a sandwich - we provide the drink - 12.30pm to 2.00pm, the second Tuesday of each month. There is a prayer box outside the church if you wish someone to be prayed for.

*Dorothy Snowdon*

### MESSY CHURCH

Messy church in Dobwalls will be 3 years old in June this year! We decided at the start to have it on a Sunday and from 4 - 6pm. [in some places MC is on a weekday]. We follow the MC guidelines and planning materials but adapt it to our local needs and requirements.

This is how the afternoon unfolds: 4pm Refreshments and welcome, 4.15 The Bible story or theme of the day (presented in a variety of ways and at this point so that it is clear why we are doing the crafts), 4.25 Crafts (normally around 5 different crafts), In addition, we often have an active activity and a 'prayer-station' type activity. *I am very grateful to the families' workers from both churches, as well as the stalwart and faithful craft helpers.* 5.10-5.25 Celebration time is led by the families' workers or minister/vicar - we take advantage of technology, showing pictures of the finished crafts, sing a song and conclude with prayers, before sharing MC 'grace'. 5.30 - 6pm. Shared Meal. The dessert at MC is cake/teacakes - an idea that came from Lucy Moore who started MC - what a good idea! *We are always grateful for donated cakes - some are not able to help at MC but can make a cake.*

MC is free but we leave a donation box and find most times that the amount covers the cost. We

have had many kind donations of craft materials from village members often not connected to the church.

There is no doubt that this all takes a lot of energy and we could only manage to do it once a month, but also there is no doubt that this is 'church' for the families who come.

*Linda Feek*

### MONDAY MONKEYS

Monday Monkeys started on 11 April 2016, meeting from 1-3pm. It has attracted parents and children from far and wide - probably because of the power of Facebook - but we have a core group of regulars.

In the last 14 weeks, numbers have averaged 12, which is a very nice number in terms of getting to know people and have opportunities to engage with them. [Tea and coffee is offered free of charge.]

We regularly have a fruit snack, during which a simplified bible story is told [attention span for a 2 year old is limited]. When the food is cleared away a related craft is offered - for some this may be their first experience of paint or glue, so we sometimes have tears when it is time to stop! The session concludes with singing - We have some strong singers among the mums - Gareth Malone choir of the year here we come!

The sessions are free but we do have a donations box. We have recently purchased a stair gate - who would think that 4 steps and a stationary lift would be so tempting to play on?! Thank you to the regular band of helpers. If anyone can spare a couple of hours on a Monday afternoon [term time only] we would be glad to see you, even if it is just to make the tea!

*Linda Feek*