



Supplementary Reports on 2019 Activities



**for Presentation to the
Annual Parochial Church Meeting
in October 2020**

Supplementary Reports

These reports are supplementary to the Annual Report approved by the PCC and presented at the APCM on 22 October 2020. They are provided by individuals within the congregation rather than being PCC reports.

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1 Children's Ministry

1.1 Sunday School and Easter After School Club (Rev Tim Ward)

In 2019 The number of children, ages ranging from 2 to 13 years old, attending Sunday school each Sunday varies week by week. They follow the Scripture Union Light materials. There has been an average of 10 children who attend regularly, with their families. There are about 20 children on the register in total. Splash meets in the church Room. The older two groups meet at the vicarage and the small room at the Village Hall. Often there are just two groups. As a congregation we need to continue to encourage and reach out to families with younger children to ensure we build the church for the future.

As a Sunday school we very much enjoyed preparing the Nativity play in Advent which was well attended by children and parents.

We also provided an after-school club at the school in Holy week. 15 children attended over 2 days. We focused on the raising of Lazarus and the resurrection of Jesus. This was the first time we had done this without any outside help, and we felt that 2 afternoons worked well.

Please encourage those people who go out on a regular basis to lead and support our Sunday school. We need a minimum of six adults every Sunday to sustain the three groups. Thank you to all those people who have volunteered to help over the past year, either by leading or being a pair of willing helping hands.

1.2 School Church Links (John Wiles)

Our church supports and guides the religious education at the school. Tim, our vicar, devotes a lot of time and energy establishing and encouraging links between the church, the school and the community. You may have seen year 3 presenting the Christingle service before Christmas, the early years classes put on a wonderful and joyous nativity play whilst the key stage 2 children led the school's carol concert. Earlier last year, The Gospel Show was presented by years 3 and 4, telling the Easter story. For education Sunday, the church held it's 1030 service at the school. As ever, we are extremely grateful for the time and effort the staff at the school devote to these activities.

The school is due a SIAMS inspection this year (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools). This is instigated by the Church of England and determines how effective the school's Christian vision is. It considers such things as vision and leadership, character development, community and living well together, the impact of collective worship and the effectiveness of RE. In preparation for this inspection the governing body has set up a new 'ethos committee' which is focussing on the vision and values which contribute to our school's Christian character and development. One of the first actions of the

committee has been to add a verse from the bible to our vision statement 'The Joy, the Journey and the Learning'. The verse chosen is 'Be bold, be strong, for the Lord your God is with you'. The foundation values include Love, Faith, Respect, Aspiration, Perseverance, Kindness and Honesty. Christian Distinctiveness is also one of the school's improvement priorities for the current academic year.

In addition to our routine duties and meetings, we held a 'governor week' last Autumn during which the governors chatted with individual class teachers, children from all the year groups and attended the collective worship assemblies. Our feedback from these visits helps us to understand the provision and quality of religious education at the school.

1.3 YPTIF (Young People Together in Faith/Fellowship/Fun) (Rev Tim Ward and Sandra Cooke)

Last year, 2019, 23 young people attended the group during the year but with an average attendance of only 6. We met fortnightly, 21 times during the year.

There was the usual busy programme of outings. We went to Clip and Climb at Rustington, Laser Quest in Portsmouth, swimming at Butlins and tennis at Littlehampton. We did the zip wire and go karting at Lodge Hill. We enjoyed a travelling supper around the parish. We went canoeing at CYE who always give us a Christian talk. We again enjoyed the fireworks and bonfire at the Sewells. A strong group attended the parish Murder Mystery evening.

We had a visitor from the magistrates and a singing teacher lead us in an evening of song. We went carol singing in the Street at Christmas which was well received. We celebrated a Passover meal remembering Jesus. 5 of our young people went on camps as members or leaders including New Wine. We discussed how advertising works and how to communicate

YPTIF is an open youth work which is designed to give our young people a social space to meet with interesting activities which compliments the bible-based learning on Sunday mornings in Pathfinders.

1.4 Safeguarding (Rev Tim Ward and Kasia Nichols)

In 2018 the Diocese introduced a new schedule of policies for safeguarding which the PCC has adopted along with a monitoring system called Simple Quality Protects. This allows the diocese for the *first* time to monitor the state of safeguarding in the parish via an online return. The PCC has a working group of the Parish Safeguarding Officer, churchwarden Jean Strickland and the vicar to monitor SQP.

The Parish Safeguarding Officer (PSO) Kasia Nichols is an officer of the PCC with attendance rights although not a trustee. Her details are on the notice board and on the website. She has completed her C2 training as a leader along with

the wardens, readers and vicar. There is now a safeguarding item on all PCC agendas to which she may speak. All current PCC members have completed a DBS check. In 2019 16 DBS checks were completed, only some of which were for the first time.

During the 2019 the parish complied with the diocesan check on our Readers' DBS and training making sure both were up to date.

The Sunday school leaders and helpers who appear on the rota are up to date on Foundation C1 safeguarding training which can now be done online. All leaders and helpers, following the new guidance from CCPAS have completed a confidential declaration form and have the relevant DBS check completed.

Parents complete a Registration form and a Photograph permission form. We have completed a review of the risk assessments for the various rooms and checked each venue. The diocesan behaviour code has been incorporated into new parish guidance for leaders and helpers. We have completed a risk assessment for each children's group activities.

The PCC is now responsible for 4 different groups involving children: 1) Sunday School of which there are 3 different aged groups, 2) YPTIF 3) The occasional afterschool club at Walberton and Binsted School 4) Choir practise where one child is accompanied by a parent. The choirmaster and chaperone have also undergone DBS cheques and training.

The school completed a fire drill in March 2019 evacuating the church in under two minutes which was well within the time allowed. The church did the same in September 2019.

2 Worship (Rev. Tim Ward)

Our public worship at St Mary's is aimed at providing different services to enable people to approach God in a setting which is familiar to them. We also have some united services where we try to draw the whole church community, which is Christ's body, together in the presence of God. We want our worship, whatever its style, to remind us of our strap line Loving God Loving Community. Our worship is both a response to our loving God and expression of our love as a community which overflows into our relationships

In 2019 the regular pattern of worship remained the same. There were joint school services in March for Education Sunday at the school and in December for Christingle. There were 4 children baptised and 4 children confirmed. The Sunday school acted out the Nativity in December. There were large numbers at the Crib Service and the Carol service where the school again participated and on Remembrance Sunday.

Special services during 2019 In Grateful Memory service for the bereaved which was very well attended. We celebrated the Walbfont weekend with

other local churches with a Songs of Praise. We also had some special services for the Year of Vocation where various members spoke.

In the Music group Gaye Reynolds played piano supported by John Wiles on guitar and Ben Ward on violin during vacations and Alison Robinson on flute. We enjoyed Elizabeth singing.

We are also grateful once again to Julie Allday and Kevin Durban Jackson our Parish Readers for ministering regularly to us throughout the year and to Bishop Michael for his contribution and Esther Langrish our Deanery Reader.

Over the whole year at Walberton the normal (median) Sunday attendance at worship, was 90 adults including Home Communion and 12 children. In the benefice, including Binsted, the average weekly attendance including festivals was 96 adults and 12 children.

A small group again attended the Icthus week at Ashburnham and a larger group including 5 children attended New Wine. It had been 12 years since the parish attended the New Wine conference/camp. Nineteen of us went with every decade of life represented from 0 to 70 years. There was something for everyone with a dedicated children's team. We very much enjoyed camping together as a group with each family cooking one evening meal.

If there was a stand-out message from Jordan Seng, it was that God can work through us even when we are at our lowest and life is at its most perplexing. We also heard interesting talks on Christian apologetics. I learned that the Big Bang theory was first proposed by a priest called Georges Lemaitre at Louvain university. At that time physics assumed the universe has always been in a steady state.

3 Pastoral Action Group (Andy Blumer)

There are eight members of the committee namely Rev Tim Ward (Chairman), Andy Blumer (Convenor), Jean Strickland (Churchwarden), Gaye Reynolds, Sally Amesbury, Scilla Page (MU rep), Caroline Sewell, and Helen Pilling.

There were three meetings during 2019 in February, June and October.

This year was the "Year of Vocation" and several the congregation were approached to be interviewed by Tim in the mid-morning service.

Mr Colin Chambers spoke about his life of following Jesus and about Mandela when he was imprisoned on Robben Island.

There are three active Home Groups; one group meets on Monday morning and two groups meet on Wednesday evenings. Anyone who wishes to join a group, are most welcome; please contact Andy Blumer.

The Mothers' Union is thriving, and a variety of Speakers were invited to talk on their interests.

Several people are being visited on a regular basis in the parish.

Walberton Care Home is being visited on the first Wednesday every month and hymns are sung, poetry read, and a short talk is given. We then mingle with those who have elected to come along to the meetings.

4 Outreach Action Group (Julie Allday)

The group met five times during the year.

The Alpha course ran at the Vicarage from January-March. Education Sunday in March was an opportunity for a service at Walberton and Binsted CE primary school.

John Pilling updated the Welcome Pack in the Spring and this is always available if anyone would like to deliver a copy to new residents in the village. Alternatively, the Church Office can be advised of homes changing hands so a Welcome Pack can be delivered.

St Mary's ran two After-school club sessions at the primary school leading up to Easter which the children taking part very much enjoyed. We plan to repeat this in 2020.

Also, in April Kevin Durban-Jackson organised an Evening with Colin Chambers, former chaplain to Nelson Mandela, at the Pavilion which was very well supported and received.

In June Emma Sandieson ran a stall for St Mary's at the School fete and Revd Ward ran the coconut shy. Kevin and Steve Napier-Raikes organised a Silent Auction at the Open Gardens Event raising funds for St Mary's.

In July Revd Ward hosted a Men's Breakfast. St Mary's invited a mid-week guest speaker on the question of outreach to new housing which will become increasingly relevant with new homes being built in the Parish.

A bring and share picnic was held in the churchyard after the United Family Service in September. In October, a Murder Mystery with hot supper was well supported, raising funds for Farm Africa.

Volunteers delivered invitations to the Advent and Christmas services to each home in the Parish during December either through the door or personally.

We extend our thanks to Bernard Lane who stepped down from the Group at the end of the year.

5 St Mary's Communications Group (Ian Senior)

Firstly, a big thank you to Jill Whitelock who continues to do a superb job managing communications through the office, on Churchsuite, on the Website, having taken on many of the regular tasks that were carried out by the Communications Officer. Thanks also go to Helen Hine who projects our Facebook pages into the wider audience.

In last year's report I noted that Jill's increased role was a short-term appointment, but now this has become permanent and I believe the PCC has no plans to reappoint a Communication Officer.

Communication Group has not met this year and has no plans to do so unless, as a church, we wish to further develop communications as the original strategy intended and It is time for a younger member to take on the chairmanship. To repeat a paragraph from last year's report "Communication is a two way process and we need constructive feedback from you all to help us to promote St. Mary's to the community as we strive to live up to our strap line "Loving God – Loving Community".

6 Mothers' Union (Jean Lane)

Our MU Branch is flourishing with a membership of 21. We meet monthly during an afternoon in Village Hall, small hall. We are led by a lively committee of six. A specialist police officer explained to members at a meeting of some scams and fraud activities which are online and experienced at our front doors. We also listened to a physiotherapist describing a wide variety of treatments. Esther Langridge led our thoughts about Easter with the help of some poems. In the summer we gathered in Scilla and Roger's garden and, with help from Sue Harris, made clay poppies which were attractively displayed in church on Remembrance Sunday. Eleven members travelled to view a replica 'Sistine Chapel Ceiling', painted by one church member over 5 years, at Goring Catholic Church.

Our Mothers Union Branch has financially supported MU projects, including Winchelsea and Selsey caravans, which provide holidays for needy families. One of our members continues knitting – fine shawls, children's hats and bootees..... Members enjoyed a workshop packing into 33 shoeboxes small gifts for children and parents. These were later transported, in a full lorry, by volunteers to Eastern Europe for personal distribution. A new venture has been to fill red shoulder bags via 'Bags of Hope for Education' organization, packed with items children need in school. Without them, children in parts of Eastern Europe may not attend. We understand the most exciting items were colouring pencils and personal water containers!

Member, Caroline Sewell, has the grand title 'worldwide representative for Chichester diocese MU' - nurturing links with MU's in S. Korea, Madi, Mundi in South Sudan – and more. Caroline says it is a privilege to pass their prayer

requests on to 53 MU groups within the diocese and know that our friends in these places will be prayed for.

7 RAFT (Julie Allday)

In January 2019 Sandra Cooke kindly volunteered to help coordinate RAFT events going forward. We met termly during the year for meals at The Stables, The Holly Tree and Julie's home. Sandra hosted a small group in April to make bunting for Millie Robinson to decorate her garden. We also joined with members of the Mothers' Union on two occasions. Caroline Sewell hosted an Afternoon Tea in July as a thank you for the MU support and encouragement in getting RAFT established. We held a joint Coffee and Craft evening in November which raised £230 for the MU Healing Trauma Workshops in South Sudan. RAFT events are publicised through the weekly newsheet. If anyone would like to join the email list to receive updates please let Julie know, julie.allday@gmail.com.

8 Living Waters (Martin Sewell on behalf of Carolyn Phillips)

Much needed construction of the main drive up to Living Waters was completed.

PROVIDING A HOME FOR CHILDREN AT RISK

KAIROS Children's Home of Hope which is the 5th home built. 7 children are now settled in. A lovely Dining Hall was built which enables all of the 38 children plus the house leaders to eat together.

We continue to provide care and education for children in all 5 homes. Therefore, there is the need for more sponsors.

PRIMARY SCHOOL

We celebrated our 10th graduation with 49 students who all passed their Standard Seven National examinations. They are continuing with their secondary education. The annual school academic position was 35 out of 84 schools in our district. We have a total of 362 students continuing with their studies in the pre and primary school in 2020.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

Living Waters Secondary School was registered and started in 2018. In 2019 our Form 2 students sat for their National Exams. 8 students got division 3 students got division two, 3 students got division three and 9 students got division 4. There was a total of 23 examinees. In 2019 we enrolled 23 Form One students.

5 MAX TEAM VISITS IN 2019

Martin Sewell brought a team of 5. One of the great accomplishments was to design and start building a car port and they helped in classes.

A large team of 31 visited from ICF in Germany. They led women and men seminars, taught in classes and participated in children's home activities.

Pastor Toby from Vista Assembly of God brought 13 visitors with him and built a lovely basketball court for the students.

Carolyn Scheppler from San Jose, California visited for 2 weeks and helped to serve the visiting team. She also shared and encouraged us in some of the morning devotions.

John and Myfanwy Quine along with Donna Cavey from UK visited and ministered as well as doing menial tasks. They accomplished raising funds to buy a car for Living Waters and bought in 2019.

We look forward to help coming from Stacy and Christie Crandall who will join Living Waters August 2020 from Canada.

Finally, we would like to thank you for your prayers, general donation, sponsorship, moral support and friendship over the years.

We are looking forward to share in your congregation and to have fellowship together with you as soon as we can.

GOD Bless you all

Missionary: Carolyn Philpott and the whole family of Living Waters Ministries Tanzania

9 Barnabas Fund (Irene Howell)

Through the faithful giving of our Church Members we continue to support five families in Pakistan. The cost is now £20 a month for each food parcel, delivered through the local church, and 1530 families receive this aid. This enables children to go to school and, when times are extremely hard, enables them to continue with their education rather than full time work. Parents say they cannot find words to express their thanks. When we look at the wider picture 79,959 Christians in 11 countries were fed by Barnabas in the year to April 2019.

To date, 1001 Pakistani Christian families have been freed from bonded brick kiln labour by having their debts paid off by generous donations (up from 387 last year). This work began in 2017. Their lives have been changed and they praise God for the freedom and blessings they have received.

Our Church Christmas Card raised £161.40 for the Far East Bakeries and £153.50 was also given by our Monday Bible Study Group. We thank Linda for making this possible and for welcome donations.

Thanks for Celia and our Table Top Sale, £120 was given to water projects, with £50 going to the Pastors' Fund. I am most grateful to certain elderly members of the Church who have given to Victims of Violence Fund, Syrian Refugees

and Christian Schools. One member has found much joy in sponsoring a child's education and receiving a photo of the child.

On behalf of our brothers and sisters in Christ, thank you. Keep praying for those who suffer so much violence, especially those in West Africa and Syria. Thank God that His Church is growing despite the increasing persecution in so many parts of the world.

10 Churchyard (Peter Brown)

The Churchyard Working Party has the usual highs and lows of weather patterns to deal with. Often windy, some high temperatures early in the year and then a very wet and windy autumn.

At the entry to the churchyard, the lychgate has required some repairs, including the rebuilding of the hand gate which is not protected from the elements. The lychgate was erected by the community in 1920 as Walberton's War Memorial – so after 100 years, some maintenance is not unexpected. Some private donations as well as a grant from the Parish Council funded the work.

The main path between the lychgate and the church porch also needed attention as roots have opened some gaps that could cause accidents.

Donations have also been invited towards the cost of two new teak benches in the churchyard, due to be installed in the spring. One will be next to the lychgate, the other a circular tree bench around a hornbeam tree with lovely views across the surrounding fields.

However, the focus has, as always, been on mowing and strimming the grass in a safe environment. All mowers have been serviced and the volunteers are aware of safety requirements.

11 Church Choir & Organ (Dr Andrew Naylor)

I am writing this whilst we are still in lockdown. Such very strange times, particularly for church musicians.

Can it really be over 18 months since I first came to Walberton?

Much water has gone under the bridge, with much more in the pipeline. The choir has gone from strength to strength singing new music most weeks. New settings for our communion services have been introduced. Choral Matins has given us the opportunity to sing some of the great music set for this Office. Choral Evensong services, at Binsted as well as Walberton, have seen special works performed from the great repertoire of English church music. The number of new anthems learnt can be verified by the large number of files currently stored here in Pagham!

The choir has taken on these new demands with enthusiasm, commitment and good humour. We had a very enjoyable Walberton Music Sunday last year. My wife, Gilly, wrote an anthem – ‘Holy Jesu’ – especially to be sung at the services that day. We were thrilled to welcome Elizabeth Cooke into the choir and we hope to encourage more children, and adults, to join us. As the choir continually reminds me, ‘we are not getting any younger!’

The other part of my responsibility at St Mary’s is as organist. We are incredibly lucky to have a pipe organ, but after nearly 50 years of regular use and no attention (apart from tuning), it is crying out for an overhaul and more. The PCC has asked me to obtain reports and quotations, all of which will be available at the end of lockdown. I have also met with Dr Alan Thurlow, Diocesan Organ Adviser and Organist Emeritus of Chichester Cathedral, who has been incredibly supportive and who’s advice has proved especially useful. However, more of this to come.

I would like to extend my special thanks to Tim and Gaye for all the support they give to me, and the music at St Mary’s. Just as the lockdown was announced, Roger had created for himself a job as choir librarian. This is a dream for any choirmaster, and as you might imagine he has started carrying out this task with his meticulous approach. Thank you - Roger.

Finally, my thanks to the congregations who encourage us all to make music at St Mary’s. I hope in the meantime you are all enjoying the services online and let us hope and pray that it will not be too long before we all meet and make music together once again.

12 Bell Ringing (Colin Spencer)

The bells have been rung for Evening services throughout the year, with only a few missed due to too many ringers being away at once. The weekly Thursday practice and monthly Saturday practice have also been well supported. We have had some interest shown by some people wanting to see what ringing is like, but no new ringers have resulted yet, however we will keep trying to increase our numbers.

The bells and fittings continue to be in good order with little maintenance being required at present.

We rang the bells for 2 weddings during the year and welcomed 3 visiting teams of ringers who enjoyed ringing our fine bells.

Our thanks again to Tim and the churchwardens for their support.

13 Churches Together in the Six Villages (Vanessa Church)

The group met together on January 16th to share the midweek service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The Women’s World Day of Prayer, this year

from Slovenia, was held at St Mary's Church, Slindon. There was a service of Healing and Wholeness at St George's Church, Eastergate on Sunday March 10th. An ecumenical Lent Group was held in Clymping and there was the regular ecumenical Good Friday witness at The Church in the Market Place. This year the Fair-Trade Coffee Morning was held on July 16th. Members of the group attended the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Dialogue and Unity Day on 28th September to listen to a remarkably interesting series of talks on 'Catholicism and Islam, Encounter and Engagement'. A very lovely Advent Carol Service was held at Westergate Methodist church on Dec 1st. The regular Churches Together meetings continue to focus on prayer for the unity of the churches.

14 Sidesmen (Jean Strickland)

SIDESMEN 2019	
Pauline and Andy Blumer	Scilla and Roger Page
Maureen and Roland Brackley	Jacqui Peppit
Diane Clack	Steve Napier Raikes
Sue and Ken Cox	Caroline and Martin Sewell
Martin Cannings	Colin Spencer
Helen and Tom Evans	Pat and Brian Varney
Helen and Richard Hine	Ann Weatherdon
Susan and Edward Martineau	Graham and Cherry Williams

Thank you to all who play an important part in welcoming and greeting all who come into Church. Helping the Churchwardens before and after the services. It is heart-warming to see younger family members helping with some of the tasks.

15 Outward Giving Report (Tom Evans)

Action Around Bethlehem	£150.00
Aldingbourne Trust	£20.53
Alzheimer's Society	£56.25
Barnabas Fund	£664.57
British Legion	£111.33
Chestnut Tree House	£84.18
Childrens Society	£217.85
Christian Aid	£315.30
CPAS	£200.00
CPAWs	£200.00
CYE Sailing	£200.00
Embrace Middle East	£824.43
Farm Africa	£779.56
Gift of Years	£33.81
Heart of Sussex	£100.00
Littlehampton Foodbank	£278.03
Living Waters	£1446.43
MacMillan Cancer Support HASAG	£39.50
Media Serve	£250.00
Mothers Union	£293.83
Royal British Legion	£416.78
SGM Lifewords	£100.00
SIM Niger	£250.00
Snowdrop Trust	£683.71
St Wilfird's Hospice	£398.05
Stone Pillow	£462.78
Tearfund	£273.66
UCB	£120.00
Grand Total	£8970.58

16 Deanery Synod (Sue Martineau)

Julie Allday joined me and Bernard Lane in 2019/2020 as the parish's three elected representatives at Deanery Synod. Our Deanery is the Arundel & Bognor Deanery and comprises 25 local parishes stretching from Angmering to Pagham. I heard Deanery Synod described recently by a Bishop as a bunch of 'well-meaning Anglicans waiting to go home'. I shall endeavour to prove otherwise. The meetings enable us to connect with other parishes in the neighbourhood and to share the ways each parish is facing topical issues. This can be both revealing and encouraging.

There were four Synod meetings in 2019.

In April an Open Meeting at St Peter & Paul Rustington with Bishop Mark focussed on the Year of Vocation. In particular, he said the aim was not so much to recruit more ordinands but more to help everyone to discern vocation in those around us – everybody is good at something at any stage in life but will need encouragement from each of us to develop it.

In June the Bishop of Chichester came to St Mary's, Felpham. He asked us to reflect on the Diocesan Strategy 2015-20. The year of Mercy, the year of the Bible, the year of Prayer and the year of Vocation had aimed to help parishes increase our contribution to the common good, to achieve growth in number and depth and to re-imagine ministry. Parishes reported on various ventures inspired by the strategy including after-school clubs, messy church, Family Support work, hospitality, partnership with Probate service, music, handicraft groups, supporting international agencies, pastoral care team, domestic abuse awareness team, keeping the church open by inviting other groups to meet there and much else.

In October the Diocesan Budget was presented and Parish shares allocated, most of which goes towards clergy pay and pensions. In theory payment is voluntary, but if a parish can't or won't cover the amount requested, then some other parish has to pay more. Or else the Diocese won't be able to pay its clergy. Nearly every parish seemed to be struggling to pay what they were being asked. Comments from the floor indicated clearly that it was difficult to look beyond at the bigger picture, to understand that other Dioceses are struggling even more. This I found worrying.

We hosted the final meeting here at St Mary's. The new Archdeacon of Chichester, Ven Luke Capel was guest speaker. He said he was intending to visit every one of his parishes: sharing their life was an enormous privilege, giving him an insight into all their strengths. He then outlined the new Diocesan Strategy 2020 – 2025 which is based on the words 'One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church' and will feature four 'Mores': More open – a sign of being One; More converted to Jesus Christ – a sign of being Holy; More generous – a sign of being Catholic; more engaged – a sign of being Apostolic. There is plenty to unwrap there and we shall no doubt be hearing more.

ST MARY'S CHURCH VISION

LOVING GOD, LOVING COMMUNITY

St. Mary's parish church, planted over 1000 years ago, exists to reflect God's glory back to him and to be useful to him, preparing his people for service in the church and community. We see it as a place where heaven and earth touch, a place of God's presence, always open to his Spirit. It is a focus for worship and reflection and a safe refuge where anyone can draw close to him.

As God's children, we know that he loves us very much and as Christ's followers we want to use our hands, talents and personalities for works of service in his name and to spread the good news of his saving grace in our parish. We try to be a faithful, united community within the larger community of Walberton and Fontwell: we are just ordinary people with faith in Jesus, God's son. We do pray for our community and want to be a blessing to those outside the church, serving them face to face, being prepared to sacrifice time and encouraging them to join God's family.

We know that prayer and respect for God's word are key to our faith. We seek to build people's confidence, enabling them to talk about our Lord, promoting discipleship and aiming to turn faith into a real passion for God, both here and in overseas mission. We want our church family to be aware that all they contribute is greatly valued. We treasure, in Christ, both young and old, and want to grow with them in trust.