



Loving God, loving Luton, following Christ

st mary's luton

ST MARY'S LUTON ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

INTRODUCTION

This report explains who St Mary's is, what we do, and how we are structured as a church. There are lots of great things going on and our life is found in the lives lived and touched rather than a piece of paper, but in this document we tell you what is happening.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Loving God, Loving Luton, Following Christ.

That is what we are all about. We are an evangelical and charismatic church and enjoy being part of the worldwide Anglican Church with all of its variety. We are also known for our long history, beautiful building and ministries serving the town.

In constitution, every Church of England church has the same broad aim. The language is formal but the content is important: St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd Mike Jones, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the ecclesiastical parish of Luton. The PCC is an elected committee of the church and is responsible for the running and maintaining of the church buildings.

HOW WE DO THINGS:

We emphasise:

ALL INVOLVED. As Christians together we seek to engage with people of all ages, backgrounds and ethnicities. As individuals we believe we are gifted by God and empowered by the Holy Spirit to play our role in His church, kingdom and world.

As a church we are a community of volunteers who are the church and serve as the church at every level. We are grateful for everything that people do for the church community, church building and beyond.

BECOMING DISCIPLES. As Christians we seek to discover God, grow in our relationship with Him and respond to His transforming love. As disciples we seek to be able to share the Gospel, pray, read the Bible, do mission, live generously and cross boundaries.

Our financial gifts make this church possible and every gift makes a difference.

CREATING COMMUNITY. Once we have worshipped at St Mary's for six months, we see ourselves as "hosts not guests". As Christians we seek to be welcoming and contribute to our communities. Socials, serving, small and medium-sized groups are a key in building our family. We seek to develop loving relationships and do conflict well as a part of this.

DOING MISSION. We believe that responding to God's transforming love leads us to service, mission, crossing boundaries and stepping out. We seek to understand our context and actively engage with it. As a church we realise we can't do everything so we seek to do a few things well.

ENCOUNTERING GOD. Everything we do rests on having a transforming relationship with God. As individuals and as a church we create the space to encounter God through His Son Jesus Christ, by the power of His Holy Spirit. Prayer is important at all levels of church.

ACHIEVEMENT AND PERFORMANCE

Developments this year include: launching the Centre for Peace and Reconciliation; renewing the website; developing our systems - introducing churchapp for use in administration; introducing pensions for staff; renovating the Overground; introducing Andy Gardner as curate; planning for three services in 2017; restructuring the youth department; launching 10 new small groups; hosting many more school visits.

PCC

During the year, six scheduled meetings of the PCC were held. The main items that the PCC have looked at during the year have been Mission Action Plan and vision, Power Court Developments, Staffing, Sunday Services and Budgets.

At each meeting we have received, discussed and made decisions following reports from some of: Buildings Committee, Finance Committee, Mission Committee, Church Oversight Group, Luton Deanery Synod, Churchwardens.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

WORSHIP

Sunday 10am. 1st Sunday All Age; 2nd, 4th Holy Communion; 3rd Morning Worship. This service has a large and varied congregation. Worship at this service is modern, with music led by a band, occasionally supplemented by the organ, and using a high-tech multimedia system. Lay people often lead and occasionally preach. This makes for an inclusive, responsive, relevant and meaningful style of worship. Prayer ministry is offered by a team of trained lay people after each service.

Shona Language Service. This service started in Autumn 2011 and is based around our members from Zimbabwe, who expressed a desire to worship in their own language, and has now grown to attract others. They meet on the 3rd Sunday afternoon of each month and 30-60 people attend.

Sunday 8am. This is a small said service where a consistent older group, including different nationalities, enjoys the quiet, less intrusive format. Clergy robe and follow the lectionary readings for the day.

Midweek services: Wednesday 12:15pm Soul Space. This is a half an hour service followed by homemade soup. This said service is variously Holy Communion, Northumbria Liturgy, Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing; Peace and Reconciliation Service.

Fireplace: A monthly midweek renewal event where there is fellowship, sung worship, teaching, ministry and creative worship.

OUTWARD LOOKING

OCCASIONAL OFFICES.

During 2016 we had: 11 baptisms, 13 funerals, and 3 weddings!

MISSION

St Mary's is a church that seeks to look outwards to the town and the world through giving, prayer, relationship and sending.

The church gives away 10% of church income to support mission, whether mission out from St Mary's, within Luton, the UK or within other nations.

One of the main functions of the missions committee is to allocate this money and you can see the organisations and individuals supported by us all in the accounts. You can see from this list what a fantastic range of work in our world we are involved with - and it is a joy to hear back what our gifts mean as we share with others in the work they are doing.

Of the mission allocation, 10% of that is set aside to be sent to disaster relief when that is needed. We sent money from St Mary's to Nepal to support relief following the earthquake and to support Tear Fund's work amongst refugees in the Middle East and Europe.

Part of the money we allocate is used for short term mission support or local outreach projects - small amounts of money to assist those from our church family who are going on a missions trip and where support would be helpful. If you would like to know more - do ask one of us.

As a group we also pray for our missions partners and partner organisations. We also pray for the Sherbourne family as they run our Fair Trade stall (big thanks to them) which helps us all participate in a fairer world for all. If you would like to help with the Fair Trade stall do talk to Marianne.

Locally, we are part of **Luton Deanery. Chapter and Synod.** Also in the town we join with: **Transforming Luton** which is an association of some 40 churches that pray monthly at St Mary's and co-operate in various ways; **Churches Together In Luton** and we are on **Luton Council of Faiths.** We also arranged a walk of witness on Good Friday with 350 people attending from a variety of town centre churches.

Our outreach is holistic and we seek to serve through the various para church organisations in town which mostly operate within the parish. St Mary's members are employed, volunteer, give, pray and / or sit as trustees on missions that include:

Foodbank. Two of our members are members of the board.

Healing on the Streets in Luton led by a St Mary's member.

LAMP works to change the lives of disadvantaged homeless 16-25 year olds in Luton.

Luton Town Centre Chaplaincy (LTCC) was initiated by St Mary's and Mike Jones is Chair of Trustees and a number of our members are chaplains. This has chaplains in the shops, the Town Hall, the Magistrates Court, etc.

Mission Direct enables overseas mission work.

NOAH, which shows Christian care and compassion to the homeless of Luton and is mainly located in the parish. Many members of the church help with the nightly soup kitchen.

Street Pastors provide a caring Christian presence in the town centre every Friday and Saturday night from 10pm to 4am. A church member is chair and many church members serve as Street Pastors.

Youthscape is a nationwide youth charity / mission and our members volunteer there and Andrew Beale is Chair of Trustees. **Youthscape - Luton** seeks to reconnect the Christian community with young people and to make

a positive difference to their lives through its work in local secondary schools with young people from all backgrounds. Several church members work or volunteer with Youthscape - Luton.

YWAM -some of our members serve with YWAM locally and nationally.

Centre for Peace and Reconciliation

Following early planning in 2015, the St Mary's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation was launched at a service on Sunday 25th September 2016. The nearest Sunday to International Peace Day on 21st September will therefore become our birthday!

Peter Adams, Cathy Nobles from St John the Baptist, Farley Hill, and former leader of the Reconciliation Walk community there, and Ian Rowlands, leader of Luton Community Church and a social entrepreneur, have formed the leadership team. Mike joins us when he can. The first half of 2016 saw a lot of meetings around our structure and later in the year we began to look at how we develop our training. We hope that May 2017 will see the launch of a website:

www.StMarysforPeace.org.

Peter and Cathy have run two foundation training courses, composed of 6 sessions of 1.5 hours. That course is now available for other churches and groups. Other courses will develop over the next year under Cathy's guidance. Our work in building peace in Luton continues seamlessly from before the centre formation. 2016 began with a Britain First protest in Luton, and ended with Britain First leader being sent to prison for a few weeks for violating a High Court order restricting their protest. Our engagement with the community around this protest attracted international press coverage. It has also seen considerable progress in development of intervention work with extremists and those at risk of radicalisation; and in engagement with the community around Child Sexual Exploitation.

We hope in the coming year to develop work in challenging hate crime; the development of a permanent Community Mediation programme; and to grapple with a variety of Luton's longer term community issues.

Thanks for your prayerful support for this challenging but richly rewarding ministry.

The Centre Team.

YOUNG PEOPLE

With the departure of long-term youth worker, Joe Sellers, as well as losing Jason Royce, Katie Hall and Jon White, the Youth ministry at St Mary's has undergone a significant transformation in the last year.

As with all periods like this, we took the opportunity to seek God as to what his priorities were for the Youth ministry moving forward. Having talked to many people and prayed a lot, we came up with three major priorities for this next season:

First, was that this needed to be a season of intentionally building community. What we see with our young people, as well as those who join us from outside of the church, is that community and friendship is valued highly. We shouldn't be surprised at this as it is also the wider foundation that Christianity is built on. To support this therefore, we re-looked at our program to make sure that the whole aspect of community became a key focus.

Second, was the importance of equipping our young people to follow Jesus in our current culture. We know that it is tough being a young person in Britain today and especially so if you are seeking to follow Jesus. We have therefore made it a priority to figure out better ways of helping them deal with the many challenging situations they face, as well as helping them to grow in their knowledge of the Bible and the other important spiritual disciplines that help them get to know Jesus better.

Finally, on the basis of community, we have been re-looking at our outreach strategy. It has become clear to us that the context of Luton is always shifting and therefore we need to make sure that our actions and priorities reflect this. It has been wonderful that God has opened up some doors for us to build on the work we have done with Wenlock Junior School and to go into areas such as Ashcroft School to help with such things as wellness/mental health, NEET prevention as well as traditional detached work. We are also seeking to work in partnership with Youthscape, in developing some other outreach areas as well as looking to build on the work of the Peace and Reconciliation Centre as a way of reaching out to young people in Luton.

Since September, a number of new faces have appeared on the youth team. We were delighted to welcome Adam Whiting as male youth worker on the team. Many of you will have known Adam as being one of the young people who became a Christian through the work of St Mary's in previous years. It's wonderful to have him as he brings a number of valuable skills which have really added to the team. There have also been a number of volunteers who have helped us either on a Sunday or during the week. I would like to offer our profound thanks and appreciation on behalf of the team, both for those who are stepping down for a well-earned rest, as

well as those who are continuing and for those who are joining us for this next phase of the journey.

On a Sunday morning we continue with our church youth groups, Oxidize and Encounter, and we have recently started a Youth Cell during the week, which is proving to be a big hit with our young people.

We are also continuing the Wenlock after-school club on Fridays and Pulse on a Thursday night. With these we are seeking to bring together and work with both church youth and those from outside.

All of these activities have been made possible by the generous grants and donations we have received from such organisations as Children in Need, Steel Charitable trust, Gale family trust and the Bedfordshire and Luton community foundation. Again we offer our thanks to their generosity in helping us to reach out and help the young people in Luton.

As we go forward, it is important that we embed our new priorities into the working practice of the church, and in doing so, also seek to draw out the leadership potential of many of our wonderful young people. We very much value the prayers and support of St Mary's Church as we seek to gather and disciple the next generation.

Students. Our student ministry has continued to grow under the leadership of Lizzie Bottrill and our students cell group, 153, has grown encouragingly this year. The students, and some enthusiastic helpers, had a wonderful weekend away at Burnham-on-Sea in March. This was a wonderful opportunity to have fun, worship, profound talks and amazing food together. It is clear that with the University on our doorstep, this is an area that St Mary's needs to prioritise as a key part of its Mission Action Plan.

CHILDREN

St Mary's employed a Children's and Family worker in September 2015. Sharon Sookrah's role over the last 18 months has been overseeing and leading the work with St Mary's children aged 0-11 years and their families. St Mary's has a dedicated team of volunteers working with children which enables us to run the following groups and activities. As a team we have enjoyed training days/sessions, prayer breakfasts, planning meetings and an end of term meal together. The Young Church team include a range of volunteers from St Mary's of young people to retired members of the congregation.

Young Church and Crèche 0-11's

On a Sunday Morning at St Mary's, weeks 2, 3, & 4, we provide a Crèche and Young Church for the 0-11's in the extensions, hall and meeting room.

Crèche 0-3 Years

Sparklers 3-5 Years

Fuse 6-11 Years

Within our regular Sunday families, we have over 50 children on our registers including new families that joined us in the Autumn. This gives us a varying attendance of around 30 children on a Sunday.

However, we can sometimes have many more than this due to visiting families for baptism and extended family members.

Our **regular Sunday teaching** follows the Carousel Curriculum where we explore both the Old and New Testaments. The children are encouraged to explore and encounter God through a story, song, activity, a game and having fun.

During the **Summer holidays** in August, Young Church had fun together playing team games (eg. Kubb, Jenga, obstacle course, banner making and crafts) whilst exploring bible characters of the Old Testament such as Nehemiah and Moses, with help from members of St Mary's church congregation.

All Age Sundays on the 1st Sunday of the month are our *Altogether* services. These are a great opportunity for the children and visitors to experience church and join the main body of the church all-together as well as being involved in St Mary's community.

Celebrations - The celebration events have been enjoyable and successful. We have celebrated Good Friday, Light Night, a Crib service, Christmas party and the Bank Holiday carnival. These celebrations give us an opportunity to meet with families from baptisms and Chimps to build relationships, fellowship and community. We look forward to more of these experiences together.

School Ministry - In 2016 we were pleased to receive funding from the Heritage Lottery fund which has given us the opportunity to open up our beautiful church building to schools in Luton and the surrounding area. We enable schools to fulfil the criteria on the National Curriculum by providing teaching on Christianity at St. Mary's and also the history of St. Mary's. The feedback we receive tells us that this is of great help to our local schools and that they always have a positive and enjoyable visit to St. Mary's. School's ministry is developing and is a great opportunity for outreach, introducing children and staff to a positive experience of church.

We have always had strong links with Wenlock School. Wenlock pupils visit 3 times a year for an Easter, Christmas and Leavers' service. In 2016 we had the opportunity of hosting Prayer Stations based on the Lord's Prayer over a week, where the whole of Wenlock School visited each afternoon. We are looking forward to more of these projects and opportunities.

Chimps (Christ he is my personal saviour) started in June 1994 - This is St Mary's long standing, outreach Toddler group for pre-school children and their parents/guardians. It is a social group aimed at families; we have grandparents, parents and dads who join us. Chimps Toddler group runs on a Wednesday morning in the church hall 10.00-11.30 with approximately 30 children led by volunteers and parents from St Mary's. We also hold Toddler Services celebrating the festivals at Easter & Christmas which gives us as a church an opportunity to introduce the Christian faith to families mid-week.

PASTORAL CARE AND WELCOME

We are grateful to all those people who have alerted us to a pastoral need, or after responding themselves, have let the wardens, Sandy Crossman, Catherine Moss or Mike know. Pastoral care in our church depends on us all being vigilant and showing love and concern for those needing our support through difficult times. Much pastoral care happens through small groups.

Welcome: We are continuously trying to develop our welcome. We seek to be a welcoming church that helps people to connect with each other, if they wish to, and a place where everyone feels valued and accepted.

We are doing this by being:

- a. Transparent and improving communication - developing literature about the church for the Welcome area and in 2016 we also improved the website www.stmarysluton.org and started to introduce churchapp.
- b. Welcoming - "Hosts" - we have found that many of us regard ourselves as guests in our own building. Our aim is to move people from feeling like guests to seeing themselves as hosts.
- c. "Sticky"- helping people to connect and build relationships. In 2016 we had more Bring and Share lunches. These were greatly enjoyed by all who came and at the final lunch this year there were over 100 people who participated. As we eat, relax, chat and serve together, it's a great way to start to develop some new friendships and begin to 'feel at home.' A big thank you to the many people who have helped by serving at these events.
- d. In 2017, we hope that having Sunday refreshments at the back of church with 'upgraded' coffee will encourage more visitors to stay and connect.
- e. Inviting- In the longer term we would like to be a church which is inviting both as a building, as a church family and a people who invites others.

Small Groups: Over the past year we have been trialling having short term groups that run for limited times and which change each term. So far this means that we have run 10 new groups over the past year each with a different topic or theme! These groups have been led by 8 different leaders. We have also seen a number of people who have never been part of groups before joining in. Alongside this we continue to have our long term groups that run alongside what we do on a Sunday of which there are currently 5, as one group came to an end this year.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

The details of St Mary's finances during 2016 can be seen in the accounts - which accompany this report. A big thank you from all of us to our treasurer, Andrew Rodell, who produces the accounts but also oversees the day to day running of our income and expenditure. Thank you as well to the Finance committee.

The headlines are that in 2016 St Mary's finished the year with a surplus of £10,356, i.e. our income was greater than our expenditure. This is a cause for thanksgiving but it is also helpful to understand that this is not the complete picture. This figure is an overall surplus but in fact hides an operating deficit - let me explain.

The money we receive as a church comes from three main sources - the giving from the St Mary's family week by week and month by month, the hiring of our church hall and applications to Grant making bodies.

During 2016 we received £48,281 from Grant making Bodies (such as Children in Need, the Steel Trust & The Alder Trust) in response to our applications for specific projects. Of course, that money is designated to be used for those projects and cannot be used for the general running of the church. Those grants are often made in advance and thus our accounting surplus is in fact made up of those grants. It is heartening to see that our "operational deficit" was lower in 2016 than in 2015 and it amounts to approximately £3,000.

Another factor that contributes to our surplus is the fact that in 2016 the church investments performed better than the previous year. (NB our investments represent a reserve of 3-6 months operating costs - which the PCC has decided is responsible to hold).

The regular giving from our church family has broadly remained the same during 2016 as the previous year - some people have moved on and ceased to give while others have begun to give. This is encouraging and we are very thankful for all who give - God blesses us as a

church when we share our money and God blesses us as individuals when we give. During 2016 there were a number of designated gifts that enabled the church to replace some worn out audio visual equipment - designated gifts are another creative way to give and support the ministry of the church.

An additional way of giving to St Mary's is to include a legacy to the church when you are making a will. There is a leaflet available with more information.

So, we are hugely grateful to God and His people for His provision and that we have an overall surplus and that our "operational deficit" is reducing. Let us continue to learn God's ways regarding finance - by following Jesus and working out Biblical principles about money - as part of our whole service to God. That means gratitude, faith, generosity, obedience, prayer, listening to God about ministry and vision for the church, being wise stewards of what we have, sometimes working hard and sometimes waiting in trust. This is exciting!

ELECTORAL ROLL FIGURES

On the 2016 electoral roll 182 are Non Resident which leaves 11 people who live in the parish of St. Mary's Luton.

| Year | In Parish | Out of Parish | Total on Roll |
|------|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| 2013 | 15 | 195 | 210 |
| 2014 | 11 | 192 | 203 |
| 2015 | 13 | 188 | 201 |
| 2016 | 11 | 182 | 193 |

THE DEANERY SYNOD REPORT

Deanery Synod has met four times in 2016-17. Following the very intense focus for Synod, Standing Committee, and Mission and Pastoral Committee that led up to the presentation of the Deanery Review / Mission Action Plan to the diocese in December 2015, 2016 has been less busy. We continue to be encouraged by both the engagement of synod members and the unity of the deanery, which in turn means it is a much more functional body, and the church in Luton more ready for God's work in our town and deanery.

The major change has come with the appointment of Area Dean Rev Janet Mackenzie to be Archdeacon of Hertford beginning September 2016. She was replaced as Area Dean by Joe Pienaar; Rev Tony Sellers also stepped down at the same time as Assistant Dean, anticipating his retirement in October. He was replaced

as assistant by Rev Steve Wood, vicar of Streatley. Kevin Devey (St Augustines) continues as Lay Chair, and Peter Adams (St Mary's) as Deputy Lay Chair. Joe Pienaar hit the ground running with a Deanery Day with the Bishop of Bedford to plan. That day went very successfully in February, but planning involved a very good synod meeting as we looked forward to how we could showcase the Church of England in Luton in that day. Joe came into post with a vision for a town-wide mission in mid-2018, and the deanery, Churches Together and Transforming Luton are now all working together to plan that.

Clergy departures are: Rev Janet MacKenzie from St Augustine of Canterbury, Limbury; Rev Tony Sellers from St Pauls retired; Rev Peter Budgell from St Anne's and St Christopher's retired; and Rev Malcolm Pritchard from St Matthews is in training to work with CMS in Africa. All the above churches are in vacancy, with Holy Cross Marsh Farm remaining in vacancy.

Arrivals: Rev Glyn Ackerly was installed as Vicar of Christ Church Bushmead in January; we look forward to Rev Jairo Nyaongo at St Augustine's in September 2017. You can catch up on details of meetings on the Deanery website: www.lutondeanery.org.uk

FABRIC & ORNAMENTS

A quiet year is a good year for the building and this year has been quiet! It is thanks to the dedication of our Building Committee and the continued generosity of The Friends of St Marys that our building remains in such good repair and I am immensely grateful to both organisations.

The building is used for many events including University of Bedfordshire graduation ceremonies, concerts, recitals and many church events such as the Luton Unite Youth Ball which we offer for free.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

PCC Constitution: The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity, previously excepted but now registered with the Charity Commission.

PCC meets 6 times during the year; The Church Oversight Group (COG) meets monthly, chaired by the incumbent and acts as a reference group, also reporting to PCC. The **Churchwardens** meet regularly with the vicar and they are supported by a team of appointed **Assistant Wardens**.

Church wardens: These are key members of the church with important responsibilities. There two wardens who are elected every year by what is called the Vestry Meeting. This happens at the start of the annual meeting. They are on the church council (PCC).

PCC Members: Members of the PCC are either ex-officio (Clergy, Churchwardens and General Synod, Diocesan Synod and Deanery Synod Representatives); elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting or co-opted in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Most PCC members are appointed at the Annual Parochial Church Meetings. The number on PCC is determined by Church of England rules as follows: 6 representatives where the electoral roll (ER) is less than or equal (\leq) to 50; 9 representatives when $ER \leq 100$; and a further 3 representatives for every 100 (or part thereof) up to a maximum of 15. Our ER is between 167-199 so we have up to 11 places for laity on the PCC to be nominated at the APCM. Church Representation rules require about 1/3 of members retire each year so we elect people so that no more than 4 are scheduled to retire on any given year.

As mentioned above, also on PCC are members of **Deanery, Diocesan and General Synod**. We have up to three lay representatives on **Deanery Synod** (the number for church sized 100-199). They are elected every three years. We also have one member of **General Synod** (a national body of the C of E) Our PCC membership is therefore: 11 nominated by APCM; 2 wardens; 3 deanery synod representatives; 1 General Synod representative plus the clergy. Membership lists and vacancies are shown later.

Subcommittees and working parties: By law, the PCC has a sub-committee to help the day to day running of St Mary's, which is the Standing Committee, which rarely meets. It has the power to transact the business of PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. It is comprised of the Vicar, Lay Vice Chair, Wardens and Treasurer. We also have 3 subcommittees: Buildings, Finance and Missions.

Risk Management - is done by PCC, Incumbent, Building Committee, Wardens, Staff and other members.

Accounting Policy: The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting policies on an accruals basis except for investments which are at market value and comply with statutory requirements and the PCC's governing document, the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, the Charities Act 2011, Accounting and Reporting by Charities - the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to Charities

preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 (as updated through Update Bulletin 1 published on 2 Feb 2016) and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

FAQ: UNDERSTANDING THE C OF E

One question we get asked is how does the local church fit into the national Anglican Church?

Firstly, we are not funded from the national church. As a church we have to fund ourselves.

We are structurally a part of the Church of England which is organised into two halves called provinces; each led by an archbishop. We are in the Southern Province led by Archbishop of Canterbury;

Each province is built from dioceses. We are part of the Diocese of St Albans. Each diocese has deaneries: we are part of the deanery of Luton. The clergy from each deanery meet together monthly for a packed lunch (no expense spared!). Luton's deanery works well together and has "deanery values". Each deanery is divided into parishes.

The parish vicar and the bishop, are responsible for the 'cure of souls' in their parish. That includes everyone. And this explains why parish priests are so involved with the key issues and problems affecting the whole community.

A classic Anglican expression is that the Church of England is "episcopally led (there are 108 bishops) and synodically governed." St Mary's members are on Deanery Synod (matters around Luton), Diocesan Synod (matters around St Alban's Diocese) and General Synod (national matters).

ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

Incumbent: Mike Jones (Chairman from July 2013)

Clergy: Chris Adams, Catherine Moss. Andy Gardner

Churchwardens: Penny Fisher; Richard Hearing

Representatives on General Synod: Peter Adams

Representatives on Deanery Synod term ending this year - 2017. Clive Barratt, John Mascoll, John Spurgeon. This means we have three deanery synod vacancies this year.

PCC Elected Members (up to 11):

Retire 2018: Samson Ndebele, Crispen Nyatsuro, Jo Kinninmonth (3)

Retire 2019: Alan Sookrah, Zoe Moran, Sue Carter (3)

In the months since the last APCM, PCC member Martin Watson has resigned and Richard Orrin has passed away.

Retiring in 2017: Anne Adams, Gordon Shrosbree, Andrew Rodell, Andy Williams;

This means we have 5 vacancies for PCC this year. Four for three years and one for two years.

Sidespeople: Welcome the congregation, assist in seating those who attend, introduce newcomers, take collections and, in special circumstances, help with counting them. The Sidespeople are: Alyssa Blanch, Sandy Crossman, Lorna Davitt, Andy Fisher, Joanna Gardner, Christine Gibson, Beryl Gough, Ralph Gough, Ulrike Hunt, Peggy I'ons, Glen Lath.

Assistant Church Wardens: Additionally set up the church for services, oversee the sidespeople and have duties to do with fire and other emergencies. They count the congregation and are responsible for the security of the building. They ensure that everyone is guided to a station to receive the elements at communion services. They have, or shortly will have, undergone fire and emergency aid training. The Assistant Churchwardens are Lorna Davitt, Idon Essien, John Mascoll, Samson Ndebele, Tina Ogunyanwo, Andrew Rodell, Mark Stevens.
(Margaret Barton retired Feb 17)

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Twitter: @stmarysluton;

Facebook: facebook.com/stmarysluton

www.stmarysluton.org

Bank: Barclays Bank plc

Independent Auditor: Miller & Co

Investment Advisers: Brewin Dolphin Bell Lawrie Ltd

MIKE JONES (CHAIRMAN)

15 APRIL 2017 ON BEHALF OF ST MARY'S PCC