The background image shows a rural landscape. In the foreground, there is a field of tall, golden wheat. Behind it is a row of green bushes. In the middle ground, a village is visible with several houses and a church with a prominent steeple. The background features rolling green hills under a clear sky.

Staverton with Hilperton Marsh Parochial Church Council

**Annual Report
for year ended
31st December 2018**

STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st December 2018

Administrative information

St Mary Magdalen's Church is situated in Horse Road. It is part of the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, 22 Warren Road, Staverton, Trowbridge BA14 8UZ.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served during the year are as follows:

Incumbent: The Revd John Rees (Chairman)

Warden: Mrs Valerie Legg (Vice Chair)

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Mrs Sandie Baker (Secretary) (Electoral Roll Officer)

Mr Stuart Raymond

Elected members:

Mr Michael Gamble (Treasurer)

Mrs Diane Lavis

Mr Colin Legg

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

Staverton with Hilperton Marsh PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd John Rees, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Mary Magdalen's Church and Hall in Horse Road and the Churchyard at Staverton.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance:

There are currently 27 on the Church Electoral Roll, an increase of 4 on the 2018 total. 6 of those listed are not resident within the parish. The average attendance at our two communion services each month was 19 in 2018.

Review of the year:

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met five times during the year including four joint meetings with Hilperton with Whaddon PCC.

During the year the PCC discussions have been in line with the PCC approved Parish Priority Plan;

- *Working Together*; the 3 churches working together and with other groups including local schools, and including Ministry with Children and Families
- *Worship* – We discussed the new Hilperton Messy Church and special services such as the Pet Service and the Cubs and Scouts involvement in Harvest
- *Service* – The Friendship Group was affirmed along with existing groups such as Drop in for Coffee.
- *Depending on Christ* – The Lent and Advent courses and Home Groups were affirmed.
- *Infrastructure* which has also recognized the need for Stewardship and agreed to exploration of Stewardship and the formation of a Stewardship group.

The church groups and individuals involved in taking this plan forward have reported below.

Sandie Baker

1: Rector's Report

It is very important at this time of year to reflect on God's Blessings on us during the past year and to give thanks for them; this in turn enables us to look to the future in confidence and with trust as we seek to be faithful in our prayer and commitment to serve the Lord in and beyond our villages.

My report reflects on 2018 using the framework of our Benefice Vision "Together in worship and Service, depending on Christ. In reviewing each of the priority areas there is much for which we can give thanks to God, as well as being a focus for our continued prayer and action.

1) Working together

The partnership between our Benefice Churches has continue to grow. The PCCs for St Marys and St Michaels have continued to work together and to meet jointly and have agreed in principle to merge to be a single parish from the beginning of 2020. This will both reduce administration and enable us to use both buildings for worship and serving the community to best effect

We have continued to take "Open the Book" Bible stories into Hilperton and Staverton Schools and are now doing so in Semington too. This ministry is much appreciated by participants, staff and pupils in each school. Our cross Benefice LPA team provides invaluable support to our pastoral ministry. LPA's have supported our many Baptisms, Marriage Preparation for our 8 weddings and more recently (thanks to a team led by Gill Guymer) have begun to offer bereavement support,

At the end of 2018 plans had been put in place to run a Benefice Alpha course in early 2019

2) Worship

We continue offer a wide range of informal and more liturgical worship which seek to inspire both regular worshippers and explorers to grow in faith and to be confident in using their gifts in service, both within and beyond our Church communities.

Messy Church has continued to be our key means of reaching out to families of primary school aged children. Semington and Hilperton Messy Churches are now planned jointly and now have a significant number of families who come most times and who clearly enjoy it. At Hilperton we have had up to 30 children. It has been good to have had some additional helpers. We have begun to explore how to build on Messy Church by offering all age services with a similar style (but shorter) at 4pm on a Sunday. I will research how such services have been developed in other Benefices during my sabbatical which will be from late April to the end of June 2019.

It was wonderful to celebrate with Dawn Farmer and Stuart Raymond when they were commissioned as Lay Worship Leaders in September following a 10 session Deanery training course. In Stuart's case this formally recognised a ministry he has given for some years. I'm sure you will join me in giving thanks for our retired ministers, Ray, Hugh, Tony and Ivor, to LLM's Catherine and Marilyn and to Anne, our first LWL for sharing in leading worship and other ministry. Tony and Ivor have stepped back from leading Sunday worship; their contribution was much appreciated.

Special services included a Pet Service at St Mary's, Fete Songs of Praise at St George's and an Evensong led by Keynsham Church choir. I have continued to take a monthly Communion at the Old Vicarage in Staverton, supported by Di Lavis.

3) Service in our villages

We are developing our support to the community life of our villages in many ways. Let's do Lunch and Drop in for Coffee continue to be appreciated and a Thursday afternoon Friendship Group was launched in St Mary's January. Anyone can bring games, knitting or just chat. It is proving very popular.

Staverton Cygnets also flourished in 2018 and provided a gathering place for parents and pre-school Children at Staverton Village Hall. As Anne's report explains, numbers have now dwindled and we plan to re-launch it in the autumn.

We have had numerous social events through the year, including an excellent Fish and Chip Supper at St Marys and a Harvest Supper at Semington. December saw the launch of Tree Fest at St Michaels. There were many wonderfully decorated trees and lots of people came to admire them. It is hopefully the first of many! Many thanks to the Hilperton/Staverton Social Committee and everyone in the Benefice who has contributed to this ministry. It has been good to support community events, including marking the 60th Anniversary of the Marshmead self-build project in Hilperton. I have also been very pleased to be appointed Chaplain to Wiltshire Air Ambulance since they moved to Semington in May and to 1st Hilperton Cubs and Scouts later in the year.

4) Depending on Christ

In May Sister Debbie Orriss, Diocesan Discipleship Advisor, joined us for a really helpful weekend to help us reflect on our Discipleship: It is so important that everything we do is rooted in our life of prayer and desire to grow in our life of faith and service. Key to this are our Home Groups which provide an opportunity for people to share in fellowship, exploring scripture and pray together. During Lent and Advent we continued to have study groups following on from our midweek Communion service in St Michael's Room. One of the most helpful resources for these groups has been the C of E Pilgrim course.

5) Infrastructure

Our Church buildings are warm places of welcome; both literally and spiritually. In St Michaels we have much appreciated the new boiler – and many attending Baptisms and Weddings have commented on the warmth of the Church. Even more importantly, at all our Churches visitors have commented on the quality of the welcome they have received. At St Mary's many have commented on the attractiveness of the new roof and bell tower and on the community garden developed by the cubs and scouts.

At St Michaels the clock face has been refurbished: it now looks lovely

At both St George's and St Michael's we have continued to develop are re-ordering plans. At St George's we wish to install a toilet and small kitchen and remove some pews, replacing them with chairs; while at St Michaels we intend to level the nave floor and create additional space at the rear and top of the nave, again replacing some pews with chairs. We also plan to move the Last Supper carving lower so it can be properly admired. In both cases we have outline drawings prepared and now need to prepare detailed specifications and costings. Many thanks to Mike Townley, Tony Roddis and David Wildsmith for their hard work.

Stewardship

Many thanks to all those who give so generously of their time, talents and money to the ministry of our Churches. At St Michaels and St Marys we have had a formal campaign inviting us all to review our giving in response to God's love for us. This is reported elsewhere, but I would like to thank those who worked so hard on this, particularly the members of the Stewardship Committee.

Thank you

I would like to thank you to all who contribute to our worshipping life and ministry; to our musicians, intercessors, readers, those who make drinks after services, bell ringers, flower arrangers and cleaners; to those who support our ministry in schools and with young people, to those who maintain and help to improve our buildings; to those who organise our much appreciated social events, to our PCC members and our Lay Pastoral Assistants.

I would like to especially mention our Treasurers Mike, Michael and Jack, our PCC Secretaries Jack, Sandie and Stella, our Churchwardens, Barrie Lovell, Val Legg and David Wildsmith and the Hilperton Deputy Wardens Sandra Harding and Val Lovell. Many thanks, too, to Michael Gamble, who has very ably taken over the role of Administrator from Emma.

Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Anne for all she does in sharing ministry with me, emotionally, practically and spiritually.

As we give thanks for last year I very much look forward to discovering how we are called to share together in serving our Parishes and worshipping the Lord together in the coming year.

Revd John Rees March 2019

2: Treasurer

St Mary's began 2018 with total funds of just under £2,000 and we ended the year with £1,004.26. But £704 of that is ringfenced as it has to be spent on the maintenance of the grounds at St Mary's under the terms of a trust fund set up for that purpose. So the total available funds to us at the end of last year was only just over £300.

But during the year we were able to meet all of our financial commitments including the Deanery Share of £8,112.

Our total income for the year was just over £16,779 and our expenditure was £17,795. So we spent £1,016 more than we received.

On the income side.....

Our Church giving by weekly envelopes was down 16% or £478

Our Church giving by standing orders was down by 5% or £115

Our Church giving by the collection plate was up 13% or £119

Tax recovered by Gift Aid was up 22% or £258

So overall Church giving was down by 3% on the 2017 total or £216

Our fundraising total was £2,770 which was up nearly 12% or £288 on 2017 – this includes donations from the Friendship and Drop In for Coffee Groups and from Ride and Stride

The income from Hall rents was £4,714 down 2% or £115

Overall our Income for 2018 was up by just under 2% or £512 with the help of a personal loan of £1,000.

On the expenditure side.....

Our charitable giving during the year was a very pleasing 61% or £216 higher than the 2017 total

Our running costs for the year were down nearly 3% or £111 on the year before. Our insurance, gas and electricity costs were lower in 2018.

Our repairs and maintenance costs were down nearly 90% or £16,000 on 2017. But that is skewed because in 2018 we didn't have the repainting and bell tower repairs to pay for.

Our admin and supplies total was nearly 4% higher than 2017 or £89.

Overall our Expenditure for 2018 was down nearly £5,000 on 2017 mainly due to the repainting and repairs work in that year.

The full statement of accounts is set out below together with the balance sheet.

The annual accounts for the Friends of St Paul's Churchyard are also set out below. We ended the year with £584.79.

During the year we received £703 and spent £360 on grounds maintenance so things are looking better there at the moment.

Both sets of accounts have been checked and certified by Matthew Sims our Independent financial examiner as shown below. **Michael Gamble (Treasurer)**

STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH - ACCOUNTS 2018
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2018

INCOME				
	2018		2017	
Church Giving				
Gift Aid Envelopes	2,475.00		2,953.50	
Standing Orders	2,040.00		2,155.00	
Tax Recovered	1,413.71		1,155.20	
Collections	1,008.79	6,937.50	890.05	7,153.75
Fundraising				
Quiz Night	303.00		260.00	
Coffee Mornings	1,336.03		1,338.18	
"Drop in" Donations	242.00		0.00	
Ride and Stride	13.50		129.24	
Friendship Grp donations	151.75		0.00	
Community Fete	200.00		50.00	
Harvest Supper	0.00		245.00	
Fish & Chip Supper	68.00		0.00	
100 Club	456.00	2,770.28	460.00	2,482.42
Investment Income				
Bank Interest	3.50	3.50	0.93	0.93
Lettings				
60 Plus	0.00		0.00	
Rainbows	540.00		590.00	
Table Tennis	1,015.00		1,305.00	
Art Group (Tues)	1,344.00		1,228.00	
Art Group (Weds)	1,425.00		1,247.00	
Other Lettings	390.00	4,714.00	459.00	4,829.00
Other Income				
Misc	1,200.00		56.27	
Donations	606.95		2,903.50	
CoE Fees	547.00	2,353.95	413.00	3,372.77
		16,779.23		17,838.87

EXPENDITURE				
	2018		2017	
Charitable Giving	571.63	571.63	355.71	355.71
Deanery Share	8,112.00	8,112.00	7,889.00	7,889.00
Running Costs				
Insurance	1,540.18		1,544.18	
Gas	1,169.00		1,243.00	
Electricity	207.00		272.00	
Water	85.00		82.00	
Cleaner	747.50		768.00	
Organist	500.00	4,248.68	450.00	4,359.18
Repairs/Maintenance				
Organ/Piano Tuning	0.00		66.00	
Building Maintenance	1,950.73		17,969.82	
St Mary's Grounds	300.00		275.00	
Fire Extinguishers	88.80		147.00	
Misc	0.00	2,339.53	0.00	18,457.82
Administration				
100 Club Prizes	270.00		270.00	
Printing/Stationery	2.76		0.00	
Church supplies	96.11		38.55	
Licences	151.36		144.92	
Clergy Expenses	358.51		393.29	
Benefice Administrator	992.61		1,030.89	
Deanery Levy	0.00		10.00	
Miscellaneous	651.59	2,522.94	546.51	2,434.16
		17,794.78		33,495.87
SURPLUS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		-1,015.55		-15,657.00

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARY MAGDALEN'S CHURCH ACCOUNTS 2018
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2018**

GENERAL ACCOUNT

31st December 2018	
Nat West Current	946.16
Nat West Bonus	430.38
O/S Cheques/Payments	-2,909.47
O/S Credit	2,537.19
	1,004.26

31st December 2017	
Nat West Current	321.82
Nat West Bonus	4,312.45
O/S Cheques	-3,014.75
O/S Credit	350.29
	1,969.81

Flower Fund

	Total	+/- on 2017
Balance as at 31 December 2018	£172.30	+£91.64

In approving these accounts we confirm that to the best of our knowledge all records and information have been made available for their preparation and audit.

Treasurer:

Chair:

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD - ACCOUNTS 2018
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER 2018**

	INCOME	
	2018	2017
Planned Giving	653.00	653.00
Tax Recovered	0.00	0.00
Donations	50.00	0.00
Church of England Fees	0.00	0.00
Refund of Safe Custody Fee	0.00	0.00
	703.00	653.00
	703.00	653.00

	EXPENDITURE			
	2018	2017	2018	2017
Grounds Maintenance	360.00	570.00	360.00	570.00
	360.00	570.00	360.00	570.00
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	343.00	83.00	343.00	83.00

**STAVERTON with HILPERTON MARSH PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FRIENDS OF ST PAUL'S CHURCHYARD ACCOUNTS 2018
BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st DECEMBER 2018**

31st December 2018	
Lloyds Bank	584.79
o/s credit	0.00
	584.79

31st December 2017	
Lloyds Bank	241.79
o/s credit	0.00
	241.79

In approving these accounts we confirm that to the best of our knowledge all records and information have been made available for their preparation and audit.

Treasurer:
Michael Gamble

Chair:
Rev. John Rees

Date:

Date:

Independent Examiner's report to the members of the Staverton with Hilperton March Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 which are set out on the following pages.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and Independent Examiner

The PCC are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to;

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 act and the Church Accounting regulations 2006
- Follow the procedures laid down in the general directions given by the charity commissioners section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- State whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general directions given by the charity commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the PCC and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the PCC concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts represent a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's Statement

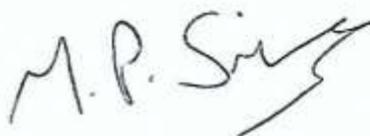
In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention

Which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
To keep accounting records in accordance with s.130 of the 2011 Act; or
To prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

Have not been met; or

To which in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Matthew Sims (AAT Qualified)
33 The Spur, Westbury BA13 3AZ



19 March 2019

3: Churchwarden

Silver and Brass : all present and in good order including the Elizabethan Chalice from St Paul's.

Services: Our two main services each month are the 11am Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday. Average attendance is currently 19. Harvest and Christmas services were well attended.

Hall Lettings: The number of table tennis bookings was slightly less in 2018. The University of the Third Age continue to meet once a month. The Two Art Groups and Rainbows are our other regular hall users. The Scout Group also use the hall occasionally for unit meetings. The hall was used once as a Polling Station – a referendum held by Hilperton Parish Council. Obviously the church use the hall for PCC meetings, Open the Book rehearsals, Drop in for Coffee, Friendship Group and in the Spring the Social Committee held a fish and chip supper evening.

Grounds: Michael Grant continues to do a great job of keeping the grass and grounds tidy. The Scout Group extended the patio during the year and installed raised wooden flower troughs in which they planted Sunflowers during the summer and pansies for the winter.

Cleaning: Emily Legg continued to clean the hall throughout 2018 but has now resigned. However, early in 2019 Lily Plues-Clark was appointed to the post.

Flower Rota: Although we have been unable to find any new volunteers to help with the flower arranging we were very pleased with the financial donations made towards the cost of the flowers.

Fundraising: Our Charity Coffee Morning in the Spring raised £700 and this was split three ways between Breast Cancer Support, the Brains Trust and the hall repainting project. This year's Coffee Morning on 13th April will be split between Guide Dogs, CLIC Sargent and the church. The 100 Club continues but we are always looking for new members. The Quiz evening in the autumn was a great success. We have also had a couple of Coffee Mornings for church funds. A programme of events is planned for 2019 including a Film afternoon in September.

Thanks: Thank you to all who work and help keep St Mary's running. Special thanks to Michael for the amazing amount of paperwork, posters, finance work and support. To Colin for his invaluable support. Thanks so much to John, Anne, Ray and Hugh – we are very blessed. **Valerie Legg (Churchwarden)**

4: Fabric

After having the roof painted and new bell tower in 2017 (cost £17,000) this rather depleted our finances. 2018 saw a lot of keeping things up together. The audio and loop sound system were serviced and repaired. A 5 year electrical inspection was carried out. Emergency lighting was fitted over the fire exits. The kitchen and iron gates were repainted and the kitchen/cloakroom windows were repaired and repainted. In the Autumn a

Quinquennial Inspection was carried out. This highlighted a number of repairs needed but the main thing was the repainting of the tin sides of the building and the windows. The Architect estimates that this work will cost between £5,000 and £7,000.

Unfortunately during one of the storms in March 2019 the high winds removed a number of tiles from the bell tower. Enquiries are now being made with the architect to see if the repairs are covered under the contract with the company which repaired it in 2017. The insurance company has also been notified.

In December a lot of work was needed to get everything in place for the Archdeacon's Triennial Visitation. The Archdeacon was very thorough and she checked all registers, log books, terrier and silver plate. All went well. **Valerie Legg (Churchwarden)**

5: Deanery Synod

Synod met three times in 2018

Speakers throughout 2018

At the February meeting Emma Heath of the Christian charity Recovery Two spoke. This charity was established to reach those suffering from the effects of addiction. Emma spoke from her own first hand personal experience of addiction. Emma explained how the charity helps people with courses and practical support. Literature was available for those attending the meeting to take away with them.

At the June meeting Sarah Keen who is the Programme Manager for Renewing Hope in Rural Ministry spoke. The National Church is fully supportive of this mission. In the Diocese of Salisbury 90% of parishes and 50% of the population is rural. Rural Churches have a unique dynamic and are deeply rooted in the wider community. Sarah's PowerPoint was emailed to all synod members.

At the October meeting the Venerable Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum, spoke in his capacity as working for M4M – Ministry for Mission. Alan's PowerPoint was emailed to all synod members as it contained really key and interesting information and shared exciting developments and activities taking place across the Diocese.

Clergy comings and goings

Rev. Shona Hoad	moved to a different Deanery and Diocese
Rev. Oliver Learmont	Welcomed to North Bradley
Rev. Alastair Wood	Welcomed to Upper Studley

Deanery Share

David Robinson the Deanery Treasurer was pleased to report that the 2018 share had been paid in full.

Elections

In June 2018 elections were held for the Diocesan Synod and Board of Finance. There were four lay members and one clergy who were nominated and appointed.

Sudan

Dave Lewis provided regular updates either in person at Synod meetings or via reports sent on email to representatives. These were very informative and up to date on matters of concern, funding, health care and education provision. A significant project for the year was to fund raise for the Peace Primary School, which is being built. There have been a number of events and collections across the Deanery to help with this wonderful project.

Lay Worship Leaders

In 2018 sixteen lay people from across the Deanery completed a ten-session course to become Lay Worship Leaders. Rev. Rob Thomas, Rev. Ann Keating and Rev. John Rees led the course with one session being led by Ben Jarvis, which was about “including music in worship”. A commissioning service took place on 30 September 2018 at Christchurch, Bradford on Avon.

Lay Pastoral Assistants

In 2018 four lay people from the Deanery completed a Lay Pastoral Assistants course and were licensed for this role on 9 January 2019 at St. Katharine’s Church, Holt.

Eco Church

A number of churches have been successful in gaining awards for being an Eco Church and a very successful “Greener Bradford on Avon” took place on the 8 September 2018 with various stands, stalls and speakers. Congratulations to everyone.

Synod meetings

Synod is open to all those who wish to attend. Meeting dates and locations are arranged well in advance and every effort is made to meet on different days of the week. The intention is to share good practice around the Deanery, and for it to be a place where ideas can be shared.

Meeting dates and locations for 2019:

13 February @ St. Barnabas, Beanacre 11 June @ Holy Trinity, Trowbridge

17 October @ St. Michael & All Angels, Hilperton

6: Open the Book

During 2018 the team has been regularly into Hilperton, Staverton and St. George’s School two or three times per term.

During 2018 on the days when not an Open the Book story telling session then either Rev. John Rees, Rev. Hugh Hoskins, Anne Rees or myself provide a collective worship assembly. These assemblies are linked to the theme for the term.

We are always made very welcome at all the schools by their staff and we look forward to being with the children and adults to share with them the incredible true stories from the Bible.

We rehearse in advance of going into schools generally two stories at a time and then hope we remember what we had planned! Rehearsals are always great fun with lots of laughter as well as getting our props list and who is doing what role organised.

We involve the children as much as possible and get them playing a part in the story, lighting candles at the start of the assembly, singing the song chosen for that particular story or

calling out phrases we provide them with. Those that have helped get a special Open the Book sticker – which they love to receive.

Each term there is an overall theme within schools and the prayer said at the beginning of each assembly is linked to this with three candles being lit as well.

Children often ask us if they see us in school “is it Open the Book this afternoon Miss”? Which is totally wonderful and goes to prove how important it is that we are going into all three schools and they are really enjoying and taking on board the stories.

The author of the Lion Storyteller Bible, Rev. Bob Hartman, lives in Hilperton and last year went into Hilperton School and took an assembly and the children loved it and really engaged with all the stories he told. He has kindly offered to do this again, diary permitting.

If you would like to discuss OtB with me or explore the possibility of joining the team and what this might entail then by all means do talk with me I would be delighted to share with you. It is GREAT!

In 2019 Open the Book is celebrating its 20th anniversary, which is outstanding, and there are various events planned up and down the country. The nearest ones are in Gloucester Cathedral on Tuesday 14 May @ 14:00 – 16:00 and Wells Cathedral on Saturday 18 May @ 17:15 for an hour. If you would like to know more or attend then please do talk with me.

Dawn Farmer (Open the Book Co-Ordinator)

7: Messy Church @ Hilperton School

During 2018 we continued to hold Messy Church at Hilperton School. We are most grateful to the school as we are not charge for the hire of the building and the kitchen staff allow us to store catering items the day before which is really helpful.

The team has grown over the course of the year, which is great, as we have had regularly good attendance and therefore the need to have enough helpers to do the crafts with the children and to help with catering.

We have a good schedule now with worship taking place in the hall at the start and this enables all the helpers to be involved as well as those attending. There is then approx. fifty minutes to do crafts and then a shared buffet style lunch, which is much appreciated.

I have subscribed to Bible Reading Fellowship and each quarter receive their wonderful magazine, which includes themes and ideas for crafts and Anne Rees and Emily Wood liaise about these. The magazine also has updates and articles from other Messy Church teams from around the world and it is so encouraging.

Thanks to the Wednesday morning congregation who donate once a month to the Messy Church fund and those that provide cakes and buy catering items without charge to the church.

Hilperton and Staverton Schools email parents with a poster, which Michael Gamble (Administrator) kindly produces and baptism families are invited as well.

There is always a lovely amount of chatter and excitement and really good friendships made and people are coming regularly as they see this as their church and time to engage with bible stories, worship and learn.

Dawn Farmer (Messy Church Helper)

8: Staverton Cygnets

Staverton and Hilperton Cygnets baby and toddler group met fortnightly during term time in Staverton Village Hall during 2018. Parents and carers chatted over a cup of tea or coffee; we had toys and books for the children to play with and offered a simple craft activity to make and take home; after a snack for the children, we shared a Bible story, singing and a prayer before going home. We decorated a Christmas tree for Tree Fest – our carol was Away in a Manger. Although we were having between 4 and 8 families at most of the sessions, our numbers declined around Christmas time as children started pre-school and parents' commitments changed. Consequently, the group is currently having a break – but we hope to relaunch in the autumn. Thank you, Sandie and Marilyn, for all your hard work. ***Anne Rees***

9: Friendship Group

Friendship Group started in January 2018 and is a monthly gathering where people can have a chat with friends old and new, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, bring knitting or crochet to do, play board games – scrabble is very popular! – or any other activity. We meet for one and a half hours on the second Thursday of each month in St Mary's Church Horse Road, Hilperton Marsh. We were pleased to welcome children from Hilperton School in December who entertained us with some lovely singing and chatted with the members. There are about 20 regular members who really enjoy coming along – and there is always room for more people! Their donations provide a useful addition to St Mary's income. Thank you to those who help with the refreshments and washing up. ***Anne Rees***

10: Safeguarding

As the Canalside Benefice Safeguarding Officer, I am pleased to report that our Parish safeguarding policies are up to date and I am checking that all those working with children and vulnerable adults have up to date DBS clearance and have attended appropriate safeguarding courses. Each church displays appropriate safeguarding notices.

Anne Rees (Benefice Safeguarding Officer)

11: General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

On 25th May 2018 the new GDPR came into force and was designed to modernise laws that protect the personal information of individuals. Therefore, all data we hold about people who

have contact with our churches is only used for church purposes and with the permission of the individuals involved. Privacy notices are displayed in the churches and on the Benefice website. **Anne Rees (Benefice Data Protection Officer)**

12: Let's Do Lunch

Let's Do Lunch' enjoyed its fourth year in 2018. We met on ten occasions and averaged about twenty-eight people. Apart from a variety of meals we enjoyed a mixture of serious and amusing talks and quizzes provided by Ivor, Tony, Ray and John. Some folk got very competitive with the quizzes!

I am very grateful to all those who help to prepare the room, move tables and chairs, arrange flowers, clear up afterwards and launder tablecloths. Also, a big thank you to those who help by providing food – soups, salads, savouries, desserts and other treats.

In one way or another everyone contributes to the success of these lunches. In particular I mention a big thank you to Gwenda and Tony Parfitt for sharing in the leadership of this group and who are now stepping back. They will be greatly missed.

In 2018 we raised £1,148.60 for the British Red Cross Syria Crisis appeal, Julia's House, Shelter Box, Christian Aid, The Salvation Army, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Tearfund, Bradford Deanery for Kadugli Diocese, Sudan and Crisis at Christmas.

Praise be to God for all the fun and friendship we have had. **Anthea Hughes**

13: Social Committee Report 2018

The year has got off to a good start with a Coffee morning in St Michael's room on Saturday 23 February. This was a pleasant affair with much friendship and well attended. With the help of a small raffle and Jill Guymer donating her paintings' sale we made total of £227. With this money and a healthy surplus from the Village Fete last year we have asked that this be placed with Mike Hunt and ringfenced in a fund to use for the refurbishment of the new area at the back of St Michael's

The Fish and Chip supper and this year with a whodunit play on Friday 22 March. All tickets were sold quickly for the St Mary'a venue. This is run as a fun and friendship evening and if there is a profit this is a bonus

We will again be running the tea and cake stall at the Village Fete on 15 June.

We hope to run a Harvest Lunch this year . Probably on a smaller scale in St Michael's room rather than the usual supper in the Village Hall. This was cancelled last year because of lack of interest. **Do Townley (Chairman Social Committee)**