

St. Anne, Sale with St. Francis, Sale Moor



**Annual General Meeting
& Annual Parochial Church Meeting
& Report of Parish Activity 2017**

Annual Parish Meeting

2nd April 2017

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous Annual Parish Meeting
3. Appointment of two Church Wardens.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 24th April 2016

1. Apologies Carol Thomas, Andrew Thomas, Bev Hobson, Penny Cunliffe, Paul & Sylvia Edwards, Chris Gleaves, Ann Hunt, Chris Davis, Andrew Egarr, Stephen Thomas, Albert Basford, Pat Kelly, Megume Senane, Katrina Sellars, Sean Warman, Denise Jones, Margaret Blowey, Sandra Davis and Betty Kershaw.

2. Prayers.

3. Minutes. These were noted as a true record proposed by Mike Beaven and seconded by Jennie Egarr, all were in favour and these were signed by the Vicar.

4. Appointment of Church Wardens. Kerrie Hickman and Tony Kershaw have been nominated and seconded. In the absence of any other nominees being proposed the list closed and Kerrie and Tony were declared the new Church Wardens for this year. Julian thanked Kerrie & Tony for all the work that they have done over the year.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12.05pm.

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

1. Apologies. As for the Annual Vestry Meeting.

2. Minutes. These were noted as a true record, proposed by Alistair Egarr and seconded by Alan Ward, all were in favour and these were signed by the Vicar.

3. Election of Representatives to the Parochial Church Council. Five members were standing down this year and three of these have been nominated for a further period of one year. These are – Barbara Abell, Brian Durham and Howard Mason. The following people were also nominated and approved for a period of one year. These are Joan Tanner, Sandra Davis, Hakim Senane, Neil Thoms Diane Brownbill and Ken Bailey. In the absence of any further nominees Fr. Julian declared the list closed and the persons nominated were elected to the PCC. Julian thanked those retiring members and also thanked the above three for standing for one extra year.

4. Appointment of Sidespersons. As per the list held by the PCC Secretary after adding Julie Summerfield, Beena Thomas, Ellen Ruddick and Chris Woodruff.

5. Accounts. Tim Marlow presented the Accounts and gave a brief summary. Tim apologised that some people did not have a copy of the Accounts, There had been a discrepancy at the start and some of the figures did not agree. Howard had worked tirelessly to sort this out and a new spread sheet had been produced. Tim noted that there has been a drop in giving and this has affected the Gift Aid. The last amount of Tax refund for Gift Aid was £12,200 compared to £13,000 for the previous amount. The Parish Share has also increased by £5,000. The amount in the Current Account stands at £131,514. 46 and the Deposit Account stands at £71,840.17. £5,000 has been spent on Windermere Avenue but it was hoped that we would now receive a sum in the region of £900 per calendar month once the property has been rented out. Philip Egarr commented that the Accounts had not been on display for the past seven days but it was confirmed that they had been displayed. Tim thanked Jeremy for all the help that he had given him, Chris Woodruff for examining the Accounts and also Mavis McKie and Jackie Sheldon for counting the money week in week out. Tim then proposed that we accept the Accounts and this was seconded by Joan Tanner and all in agreement. Julian then thanked Tim for all his hard work and also all those involved in the financial concerns of the church.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner. Hazel Ward proposed that we appoint Chris Woodruff for a further twelve months and this was seconded by Henry Blowey and all were in agreement.

7. Church Wardens Report. As distributed. It was then noted that we would be getting a Tennant in Windermere Avenue in May 2016 and the rent being charged would be £975 per calendar month. Over £5000 has been spent on Windermere in repairs and decorating and the Driveway is to be repaired at the end of April. Henry Thompson queried the rent being charged but was advised that this was the average for a house this size in this area. Alistair Egarr asked about the inner entrance door of the church and was advised that Vic Fletcher was trying to find a Contractor who would be able to sort the problem. The original Contractors having gone out of business.

8. Deanery Report. As per written report but it was noted that it had been a very interesting and inspiring year from the Speakers.

8. Other Reports. As distributed. These have been read and were approved. Julian then commented on how much goes on in the life of the Church over the year and thanked everyone who had written the reports.

9. Electoral Roll. The numbers on the Electoral Roll were given by Lynda Ronan as the Electoral Officer. This year there were 306 on the Roll compared to 301 last year.

10. Vicar's report. Julian noted that we were in the middle of an unusual process as we were in the middle of the J.S.P. period, This had been inspired by Justin Welby's 'Making Disciples' At the end of the period we will be holding a Reflection Day when we will discuss and talk about all the suggestions that have been put forward. There will be food, talk and sharing. The 'Growth Action Plan' process is no longer being used. From September the YBible initiative will start. There will be a Stewardship Campaign in the autumn and Julian will need some help from people in order for the process to move forward. There will be a week of Prayer before Pentecost and the Church will be open for the day on the 10th June in order for people to come and spend some time in Prayer. Tracy Ward will be joining us in July as the new Curate and her Ordination is on the 3rd July at Chester Cathedral. We will also say goodbye to Lisa Redfern as she takes up her position as an Ordained Priest. Her Ordination will be on the 18th June. Julian then noted that he would be talking to a Consultant on how to move the Church Forward and a number of people will be asked to become involved. Julian then thanked Olwyn Marlow, John Sutton, Alan Ward, Paul Edwards and Abbey Walsh for all their help during his and Jackie's Sabbatical. He also noted the debt of gratitude he owed the Wardens Kerrie and Tony for all their hard work.

12. Any other competent business. There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.10pm

St. Anne, Sale with St. Francis, Sale Moor

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

2nd April 2017

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of previous APCM (see page 2)
3. Matters arising from the APCM
4. Reports
 - i. Electoral Roll (Page 4)
 - ii. PCC activity (Page 5)
 - iii. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments (Church Wardens) (page 6)
 - iv. Deanery Synod (page 8)
5. Elections
 - i. Election to Deanery Synod
 - ii. Election to the PCC
6. Appointment
 - i. Sidespersons
 - ii. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Any other business
 - i. Vicar's Report
 - ii. Any other competent business
8. Closing Prayers

Please note that due to circumstances out of our control, we have had to delay the representation of the Financial Report and the meeting will take place later.

Extra-ordinary General Meeting—30 April 2016

1. Apologies
2. Financial Statement

Electoral Roll Report 2015 to 2016

At the close of 2015 to 2016 there were 306 people on roll .

During the year 2016 to 2017 fourteen people joined the electoral roll. Two people left the roll, of these one asked to be removed from the roll and one died. There are now 318 people on roll.

Lynda Ronan, Electoral Roll Officer

PCC Report

Background

St. Anne's PCC has the responsibility with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibilities for the daughter church at St. Francis and St. Anne's C of E (Aided) School.

Membership

Members of the PCC are ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representative Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC.

Incumbent: Julian Heaton
Curate: Tracy Ward
Readers: Paul Edwards
 Alan Ward
Wardens: Kerrie Hickman
 Tony Kershaw
Secretary: Jacqueline Sheldon
Treasurer: Tim Marlow

Elected Members

Howard Mason, Brian Durham, Barbara Abell, Rachel Boyle, Ken Bailey, Joan Tanner, Hakim Senane, Sandra Davis and Diane Brownbill all until 2017. During the year Neil Thoms resigned from the PCC due to ill health.

Deanery Synod: Hazel Ward, Sue Heath.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any directions given by the Council.

Review of the year

The full PCC has met on 8 ordinary sessions during April 2016 and April 2017 with an average attendance

of 76%. Plus two extra ordinary sessions. There have been lively and interesting discussions during the year on various subjects including:

- ◆ Re-ordering of the Church
- ◆ Financial matters
- ◆ Election of Foundation Governors
- ◆ Wedding and Funeral Fees
- ◆ Lent Lunches
- ◆ Funding the cost of repairs to St. Anne's Church of England School.
- ◆ Maintenance of the Church Hall
- ◆ Repairs to Gutters and Valleys
- ◆ Repairs to the East Window
- ◆ Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults
- ◆ St. Francis
- ◆ Welcoming the new Curate - Rev. Tracy Ward
- ◆ Looking for a new Director of Music/Organist
- ◆ Approval of Charitable Giving
- ◆ Holidays at Home
- ◆ Windermere Avenue
- ◆ October Worship Weekend at St. Francis
- ◆ Consultancy
- ◆ Saying farewell to Albert Basford
- ◆ Inspecting the Accounts

The following Proposals were discussed and the Motions passed.

The PCC agreed

- that money be allocated to equip an Office at St. Francis.
- to pay Tracy Ward, our new Curate a monthly sum of £200 to be reviewed in six months' time from July 2016.
- to explore Consultancy
- to the purchase of a mobile storage unit for the use of Sunday school resources.
- To appoint Toni Airedale and Pauline Stacey to be Foundation Governors of St. Anne's Church of England Primary School for a period of four years from June 2016
- to admit that members of the congregation be admitted as Chalice Bearers.
- that in the choir, the under 13's are to receive 50p per practise session and Service and 13 to 18 year olds to receive 60p.
- to paying £3000 annually to St. Anne's Church of England Primary School to fulfil our obligation to cover capital expenditure works.
- to the fitting of an extras doorbell at St. Francis.
- that we should advertise for a new Director of Music/Organist with a budget of £1000.
- to the Policy for Safeguarding Children, Young

People and Vulnerable Adults that was presented to them on the 20th September 2016.

- that the PCC accepts the quotation from Lyons Stonework for the repairs/renovation to the East Window and request the Wardens to complete a Faculty Application for consideration by the Diocesan Advisory Committee.
- to appoint Hazel Ward and Bev Hobson to be Foundation Governors at St. Anne's Church of England Primary School for a further four years from November 2016.
- to the 2017 Budget figures subject to recognising that there could be amendments.
- to the fees for the Organist, the Verger, Choir and Flowers should remain the same in 2017 as they were in 2016

There were meetings of the Standing Committee in May, July, September, October, December 2016 and February and March 2017.

Further details of the Parish Year including Church Life, Financial details and Fabric can be found in the accompanying report from the Wardens, the Treasurer and the Electoral Roll Officer.

*Jackie Sheldon-Secretary
On behalf of the PCC 2016-2017*

Churchwardens' Report

St. Anne's Church

Roof valleys and gutters – we applied for a grant funding of £40,600 towards the cost of outstanding work but were unsuccessful. Work will commence on the L-shaped and the choir vestry gutters in the spring.

Temporary Lighting - we have had temporary lighting fitted in the central nave to enhance the overall vision before seeking tenders under the reordering scheme for a permanent design for the whole church.

External Noticeboard – a new one has been erected on site and it just requires the heading to be added. This is currently being attended to.

Sound / Audio System – were upgraded in August partially thanks to a donation.

Main Glass Door – a contractor was found who corrected the problem but did say we ought to keep an eye on the mechanism, which in his words, is deteriorating.

Sanctuary – the long crack in the plaster was filled and repainted.

East Window Restoration – following an inspection by our Architect and quotes from three Stone masons we submitted a Faculty to the DAC. They resolved to endorse the works as a List B matter subject to a satisfactory review by a DAC Architect. Before we do this we are required to provide a simple description of what is proposed together with a photograph or simple drawing – this put to our Architect and he contacted Andrew Russell who is the Director of Russell Geomatics Ltd with a view to a technical survey being undertaken. Andrew came on 11th March to survey the east gable window internally and externally and he will provide us with photographs. This will allow us to add additional specification and fulfil the requirements of the Chester Diocese. Having a record of the existing window and associated stonework will be both a helpful record and assist in the reconstruction.

Archdeacon's Inspection - was on 2nd February. He was more than pleased with what he saw and that matters were being attended to in the correct manner. He seemed to enjoy his visit.

Wardrobe – a wardrobe was purchased, following a donation, to house the vestments that are only used occasionally.

Outside Water Tap – we had an outside water tap fitted at the West End to accommodate garden watering and general cleaning of patio, paths, etc.

St. Francis Church

Office Accommodation for our new Curate was made in the small meeting room and the necessary fittings purchased at around £500.

Our Insurers inspected the site in June and we had a satisfactory rating but the electrical report that followed was unsatisfactory so we have taken steps to remedy this.

Kitchen Roof – has had a number of leaks so we have instructed a firm to repair it and the kitchen ceiling.

Foodbank Room / Vestry – has been emptied of ecclesiastical items which have been brought to St. Anne's. This will be recorded in the terriers and log book.

Heating – we had a switch installed on the Hall wall, at the front of the stage, so that our boiler did not have to be left on all of the time. This should save us money.

Church Hall

Electrical Inspection – contractors visited in August and remedial work is to be carried out in the near future.

Cellar Gate – was broken so replaced with a wrought iron one.

Boilers – two new boilers were fitted as the old ones would not work.

Sound System – was upgraded in August partially thanks to a donation.

Blocked Drains – ongoing problems have resulted in a higher rodding being fitted so that we can clear them ourselves.

Windermere Avenue

We spent a total of £5,477.10 renovating the property. The agreed rental is £975 pcm and Gascoigne Halman are managing it. A new tenant moved in with his wife and two small children in May 2016 with a 12 month contract. A recent property inspection has advised us the property is in a good condition and the tenants are maintaining high standards so we have renewed the contract for a further 12 months.

Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank our Deputy and Assistant Wardens together with the Sidespeople for their invaluable support and encouragement. Thank you from both of us.

Tony Kershaw and Kerrie Hickman

Treasurer's Report

2016 was a bit of a difficult year for the treasurer personally with major health issues and the prospect of major surgery in 2017. It also saw the start of a transition from one accounting system to another following several problems with the accounts in 2015.

The new system – Data Developments – is recommended by the head of Chester Diocesan Board of Finance for use across the diocese. As with any new system it takes some getting used to. We began the changeover in May and certain aspects of its function are still being investigated/trialled. For example there has not been a chance to produce an annual report from it until now. Meanwhile the old system employed by Lawrie Finch using pen & paper still holds good both as a standby and as a source

of continuity across the period of changeover.

The treasurer owes a debt of gratitude to several people over this period. Firstly, to Ian Scott-Dunn, the head of Chester Diocesan Board of Finance himself, who spent several hours introducing the basic functions of the new programme to the treasurer and who recommended that aspects of the treasurer's current role were undertaken by other people. Secondly, to Hakim & Megumi who volunteered at this point to use their skills helping with the accounts. They have worked tirelessly to enter data and reconcile figures while the treasurer continues the more basic admin tasks of writing cheques and receiving invoices. The treasurer hopes that Hakim and Megumi are willing to continue in this role at least for the first half of 2017 when he will be undergoing surgery and 'out of action'. Thanks must also go to Chris Woodruff for agreeing to inspect the final accounts and sign them off again this year. And, as ever, to the two ladies – Mavis and Jackie – who devote most of the morning on Mondays week on week to counting and banking all the money that has come in during the week before.

In terms of monies: the Giving In Grace campaign in November had a good response. 64 pledge cards were returned with a vast majority of people pledging an increase in their giving and a few who have started Standing Orders. The total amount extra came to £750 per month. However, there are still a few who have yet to act on the pledges they made and there have been some who have stopped giving - roughly corresponding to the number of new Standing Orders. There seems to be an increase in those giving by envelope.

The Deposit Account has had no deductions over the past twelve months and has received only interest. The total stands at £72,087.76.

The current account, which, at the start of 2016, was seeing a small increase in the end balance at the end of each week, began to see a small decrease from April onwards as the year progressed. This trend has been halted pro-tem.

Tim Marlow, Hon. Treasurer

Wider Reports

Bowdon Deanery Synod

During the past year we have attended three meetings, in May, October and January 2017. The themes have been Discipleship and the Y bible, an address by Bishop Libby and Boaz Trust. At each meeting two people gave us a snapshot of their Church. It has been an interesting year and we recommend participation to anyone who is interested.

Hazel Ward and Sue Heath.

Hall Maintenance Team

The team continues to maintain the interior fabric of the hall. The main expenses have been to clear three blockages to the toilets. These have been caused by foreign bodies being flushed into the system. A specialist was consulted as to why the system did not fully flush and it was found that we had a very low flow fall. This could not be rodded as the rod access was below the water level. A new rodding access has been installed and hopefully this will solve the problem.

During the year various plumbing jobs have been completed. The replacement of plastic window panes with glass ones will continue as the weather improves; various small woodwork jobs have been completed. The lower half of the main hall walls have been painted as has the entrance hall. The doors from the main entrance to the hall are in the process of renovation with kickboards and a repaint. The Fire Alarms, light and other electrics have been checked for legality and safety and the batteries checked in the emergency lights.

Our main concerns are the exterior fabric of the building which remains good for its age however the appearance of black marks on the interior ceiling will be kept under review.

Stairs to the stage area have been completely remade and some floor boarding replaced.

The team wishes to draw your attention to recent vandalism by outside parties and suggest that it may be prudent to include a non-refundable deposit in the case of damages. The team do not want the hall to be a drain on other resources but be self-funding.

Tony Sant, Henry Blowey and Henry Thompson

The Church Garden.

At around 1.15 p.m., on the first Thursday of each month, a very small band of keen gardeners wields tools to try to create order in our rather large flower beds.

It is good for our souls, as well as creating a colourful welcome for our visitors and church members. However, more hands would make lighter work. Why not come and join us - you would be most welcome !

The gardening team.

Consultancy Reports



The Vicar and PCC agreed to seek help in working through the complex issues facing St Anne's. The Diocese offers help via "Consultancy" and John Jones came several times to work out whether we were serious about moving forward. Once he identified our willingness to invest in this process, John led us in an Away Day and enabled us to identify four areas of work in our parish that need particular energy and attention. These four groups have been meeting subsequently to move us forward in mission and ministry.

Building Consultancy Report.

The Building and Finance committee was given the remit of re-configuring St Anne's Church building and providing them implementing a plan to finance this re-configuration. Financing our Church re-configuration is very likely to involve substantial fundraising. Since November 2016 the committee have met once a month and also visited St Georges at Poynton, which underwent a similar program, in order to gain valuable advice. At this stage, our committee explored various pieces of information that needed to be taken into account, such as relevant PCC resolutions as well as various reports and emails from former layouts. We also have gained some initial information from a professional fundraiser. At this stage, we still haven't completed the collection of all useful files we need.

We have now been given from the PCC a clear remit to open the Church building for the widest possible community use. The next step is for our committee to establish a baseline budget, explore all possible options and review them with the input of an Architect to draw the line on what we could actually implement. PCC also suggested for our committee to visit Bramhall St Michaels, where our new Curate Tracy Ward came from. Bramhall St Michaels also underwent a similar re-configuration program. PCC also advised our committee to start seeking advice on fundraising from the Archdeacon and Emily Allen (from Diocese of Chester) before anything else.

Communication Group

As part of St Anne's consultancy project a group has been setup to improve communication within the Parish. The group comprises Howard Mason, Brian Durham and Alan Ward with other parishioners joining for particular areas of discussion.

We have had three meetings so far to try to identify areas of communication that we do well or need a bit more work, we tried to envisage a customer journey for a number of different church users i.e. a one off visitor, first time visitor, visitor with disabilities. Discussions followed on a range of signage issues, written materials, large print service booklets and the provision of a 'new to St Anne's' leaflet. We have started to look at social media that we already use and how we could improve this provision.

We invited a number of the congregation who work or are involved in social media to give us some expert guidance. Ideas that arose from these discussions centred on the use of Facebook as a hub for our social media. Due to its dynamic nature Facebook could be used for all communication allowing for items to be printed off for notice boards and signposting to items on St Anne's website. To help the congregation with getting to grips with Facebook and technology one idea was to hold an event where members of the youth group could help with questions like 'What is it?' or 'How do I use it?'. We've only just started and if you have any ideas on communication and want to get involved please get in touch with Howard, Brian or Alan.

Developing a clear role for St Francis

We have met twice as a group to think through how we might begin to achieve our parish's shared vision:

To witness to the Christian Gospel such that the local

people can flourish and embrace the presence of God in their lives.

Our action list includes developing existing links with Lime Tree School, up-dating our information about the local community and making contact with key organisations. We are very fortunate to have Tracy, our curate, 'on site' to build relationships and keep us informed. A ministry of encounter, welcome and hospitality is at the forefront of our thinking.

We would like to take up opportunities and begin activities in small steps, for example a 'Knit and Natter' group. But we are very clear that whatever is developed must involve local people, become self sustaining and have gospel opportunities woven through it. We must be intentional in our witness.

Our core group is small and it is our intention to consult with a wider circle of people and communicate plans across the parish. We look forward to your support and ask for your prayers on this exciting journey.

Hazel Ward, Tracy Ward, Joan Tanner and Janice Mason

Children and Young people

The Children and Young Peoples Consultancy group has met on two occasions. We have discussed how we can encourage young families and young people to become more involved in the church and how we can encourage them in this respect.

Mark Riley has had a meeting with Matt from Trafford Youth for Christ. This is a group that reaches out to children and young people in the community of Trafford. Jackie Sheldon will see if he is willing to come and talk to Senior Youth Group at some point.

We have also thought about an after school 'Drop in' where we could offer refreshments and see if we could start to build relationships in a relaxed atmosphere.

We are getting involved with schools in the area through the 'Experience Christmas' and Experience Easter' where we invite children from the local schools into church. Also the Mothers Union has been involved with Sale High and Moorlands and at present with Sale Grammar through the Moira Garnett speaking competition.

We are also holding young family lunches on occasions throughout the year and hope to hold a BBQ in summer.

We are also seeing if we can involve any keen young

musicians to join the Bands on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month.

Jackie Heaton, Mark Riley, Sally Peacock & Jackie Sheldon.

Christian Formation

Local Ministers Team

The LMT gathers to think through and resource the 'public-facing' element of our Church life. For most people, Church means what they experience on a Sunday, at baptisms (or Christenings as we are now learning to call them), weddings and funerals, so the LMT focus is around ensuring that this ministry is as appropriate as possible.

This year we have increased our membership. Tracy Ward joined us as curate and has brought lots to the table in terms of her experience from outside the parish. We look forward to Tracy's ordination as priest in June. Jackie Heaton, who coordinates the children's activities has also joined, enabling us to better liaise between what is happening in church and what happens with children, either in church itself on All Age Sundays or in the Church Hall.



This is the Year of the Bible (YBible) and we have tried to engage hearts and minds with the scriptures through our choices of bible readings on a Sunday and in our study groups, to help St Anne's congregation become more scripturally literate and more alert to the richness of the biblical tradition.

We constantly marvel at the way ministry is enriched by so many people—the musicians, singers, serving teams, chalice bearers, home group leaders and healing teams. Our liturgical ministry is but the visible Sunday element of God's committed people. We are hugely privileged to serve at St Anne's. We are aware that Abbie has just over a year to go before ordination. It would be our desire that others step forward to train for authorised ministry in our church.

Julian Heaton

Choir Report

This has been another busy year. We sang at Emily and

Ben's wedding, we have sung 42 anthems. There has been a service at St. Francis and a Bereavement and Confirmation Service at St. Anne's. Evensong on the third Sunday of the month remains a peaceful oasis. Christmas brought plenty of Carol Singing - Ferrol Lodge, High Lea, Sainsbury's (raising money for Betel) Sing-along-a Carol (for the Alex Hulme Foundation) Wythenshawe Hospital, and the Carol Service. Soup was prepared for Lent lunches, and we hosted a Coffee Morning - IN CHURCH – venue altered at last minute - not our fault - but which worked thanks to many pairs of hands making light work!

"These are a few of our favourite things" was an enjoyable social occasion, when hymns had been voted for and various fun songs were sung, Ken Bailey and his team providing much needed refreshment. A Vicarage gathering was a relaxing way of finishing the term - thank you Jackie and Julian.

Various hymns have been rehearsed, with the congregation growing in confidence. There was an excellent group of school Mums on Church School Sunday which led two hymns.

The "Jonnie" band has now become the "Lynda" one because Jonnie has moved, and it still meets on the 2nd Sunday of the month. The orchestra is on the 4th Sunday and both bands are looking for more instrumentalists - could that be YOU ?

Choir membership has increased, two new juniors - Alexander and Annabelle - and Mina has followed daughter Neusha into the sopranos.

Thanks as always to the Committee for their support, to the music sorting "gang," and to Ros for her secretarial and proof-reading skills.

Finally, after 34 years of commitment to all aspects of the music department, Albert took his well-earned retirement at the end of December. At the Carol Service we said a big thank you and a presentation was made. We wish him well.

Our thanks are due to Lynda Ukadia for stepping into the breach amidst her many commitments and we look forward to our musical life at St. Anne's in 2017 with renewed energy. Without our family of choristers, none of the above would be possible - a big Thank you to all of them.

Bridget Beggs

Sacristan's Report

It has been a good year for the serving team – unfortunately though, we haven't had any new members. We have served at all the major festivals, including the confirmation in November, when we welcomed Bishop Peter, and candidates from St. Paul's Sale, St. Michael's Bramhall and St. Anne's Sale. It was great to welcome Tracy Ward as our curate – she was deaconed in July 2016. .

We 'let our hair down' in September when a number of us went out for dinner at the Boathouse. It was a very enjoyable evening especially as we were able to rejoice with Paul Edwards - he was celebrating 50 years of being a server – Sylvia was able to be with us to. . He was presented with a bottle of malt whisky and a card signed by us all.

On a personal note, can I thank the serving team for all their help when I was out of action for a few weeks after shoulder surgery – thankfully, all is well now.

Can I also thank Julian and the LMT for all their support - greatly appreciated.

If any one would like to become a server please speak to Fr. Julian or myself - you'll be more than welcome.

*Susan Heath
Sacristan/ Head Server*

Churches Together in Sale

Eleven member Churches represent all parts of Sale which includes Brooklands, Ashton-upon-Mersey, and Sale Moor.

We welcomed Mrs. Helen Howe from Christian Aid who talked about opportunities presented by working in Partnership.

The Quarterly Services bring us closer to members of other Churches and allow us to experience each other's traditions and style of worship.

Homelessness has been discussed, particularly 'Places of Welcome' and 'The Greater Manchester Winter Night Shelter Project'. We hosted an open meeting with Guest Speaker Kath Leigh, Lead Community Builder from Transforming Lives Together and the Diocese of Chester.

Our Civic Service of Thanksgiving for HM The Queen in

celebration of Her Ninetieth Birthday was hosted by St. Anne's Church.

The Whit Sunday, Pentecost Service held in the grounds of The Avenue Church, Sale was promoted on BBC Radio Manchester with a live interview on Whit Sunday. It was again supported by the Salvation Army Church and the event was one of great fellowship.

In June we had a presence at the Sale Festival – Lions Fete, we had two Gazebos, offering children's activities.

Building on the success of last year, the Nativity Crib was placed outside Sale Town Hall on Advent Sunday and at The Blessing of the Crib the choir of St. Joseph's Primary School, sang Christmas carols.

On two Sunday mornings roads were closed for running events, causing problems for residents and the local Churches. CTIS has met with the event organizers and discussions are ongoing.

*Joan Tanner, Hon.Secretary
and lay rep for St. Anne's*

Pastoral Care

Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults

Policies for Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment are in place and are approved by the PCC annually. A "Parish Safeguarding Audit" will be undertaken before the next review is due.

A complete review of those working with children, young people and vulnerable adults, as volunteers, within our Parish organisations, has now been completed.

The work of recruiting and obtain DBS checks for those volunteering to assist in our other Church organisation and activities continues.

The Diocesan Safeguarding Officer has a training programme in place. Many of our Parish volunteers have undertaken training and others will do so in the near future.

Paul Edwards. Parish Safeguarding Coordinator.

Bereavement Ministry Team

Since our last report, the Local Ministry Team have carried out 35 funerals up to and including the April 2017 edition of the Spire Magazine. The next of kin of all



deceased have been either visited, if living within our Parish, or telephoned by our dedicated team of volunteers. These are Sally Beaman, Chris Davey and Sue Heath. We are very pleased to welcome this year to our team Daniel Bainton.

Since the last report we have held Sunday afternoon Bereavement Gatherings on 22nd May, 14th August and 26th February. We have

also held a Bereavement Service as part of our 10.30 worship on 6th November to include all of our parishioners who wished to remember loved ones, as well as the next of kin of those who had died during the previous year. This was followed by a 'Gravetalk' discussion and faith lunch.

Once again, we ask that anyone who may be interested in joining our team does please get in touch with Sally Beaman.

Sally Beaman Bereavement Ministry Visitors Co-ordinator

Baptism Sponsors

We have been involved with 29 infant or child baptisms in 2016/2017. The families attend a preparation session prior to baptism and (mostly) return to receive their certificate and candle at the All Age Service the following month. There have been some adult baptisms too, which the sponsors are not involved with.

We continue to evolve our ministry in this area. Sharp eyed readers of the website will discover that all references to baptism are now renamed as Christening. This came as a result of nationwide research which told the church that despite centuries of calling the service baptism and despite the bible using this word, the public don't recognise it and use the word Christening. On the understanding that we could do a King Canute operation and ignore reality or change, we have changed our orders of service, application forms and website. We commend to the congregation the link on the website to the Church of England's Christening site. It is full of really interesting and engaging ideas. We have much to do in this area.

The key ministry which all members of St Anne's can do is actively speak to young people with infants who come into church, escort them to the Church Hall and sit with the family until members of the LMT arrive. In doing this, you will be truly exercising a ministry of welcome and hospitality.

Julian Heaton

St. Francis' Food Bank Report

The Foodbank is busier now than at any time in its 3 ½ years, such that at the end of 2016 our two cupboards could not hold the amount of food needed for each session, so we frequently ran short. Our problem was solved by the loan of the large vestry wardrobe which, once shelves were fitted, doubled our original storage capacity. We are very grateful to the Wardens and the PCC for this generous gesture and, of course, for the free use of St. Francis' each week.

Reasons people use foodbank: Low Income is way ahead of the rest followed by Benefit Delays/Changes, debt, child holiday meals, etcetera

We are often given cheques and goods following celebrations where guests were asked to donate to the foodbank instead of taking a present; baptism parties at St. Anne's are asked to do this rather than donate to the church.

We continue with two Tesco supermarket collections each year where in addition Tesco gives 30% of the value of the food given by customers.

Foodbank Plus: we recently began a Free Tea and Toast session from 10 – 11 on Mondays before Foodbank at 12. We use bread donated by Tesco through Fairshare, which I collect on Sundays just before the store closes.

St. Francis' Foodbank Centre is fully staffed by 33 volunteers and run jointly by Lily Lloyd and myself. Together with Paul Edwards we have twice attended 'Beyond Food Parcels Events' run by the Chester Diocesan Committee for Social Responsibility.

Joan Tanner



Lunch Club

The group of people that attend the Wednesday lunch has stayed much the same as last year, between 33 to 40. So we could accommodate a few more people, but the group that do attend are a very friendly lot and certainly enjoy the food provided.

As we have 5 teams of workers, the menu is very varied, because we have 5 teams, we are always interested in new volunteers to join us.

In September we joined the Fare – Share scheme with Tesco Sale. Every Monday evening Elizabeth and Ian collect the food from Tesco for which I am extremely grateful. Most of the food is from the home bakery, some of this we can use, a lot e.g. Breads are not useable for a cooked meal. We have discussed this with the Tesco Manager and he is quite pleased if we pass the excess on, so the Sunbeams, Toddler Groups and any other church groups has access to any left. Elizabeth also passes any excess to the Women's Refuge in Stretford and any money donated for food is saved and passed on to a charity, usually to 'The Women's Refuge'

Each year any money that is extra to our needs is passed to church funds. This year 2016 we passed on to church funds £2,032.56.

Margaret Ward

The Spire

The Spire has continued regularly in print, then later each month on the website. Demand for advertising remains buoyant and we still now carry more than our usual six pages out of 20.

The monthly routine was disrupted in the summer when our printer ceased trading without notice and without letting us know that the magazine with them at the time would not be printed. We were fortunate to find a very helpful local firm, Anthony Wood Printers, who have taken on the monthly printing and this has included a full colour cover. We hope you like the new look and feel.

We are as ever grateful to our regular contributors but we would also really appreciate items from others: they don't have to be long, they don't have to be centred on church activities and they can be a one off when inspiration strikes. We also appreciate feedback and suggestions. Janice and I have now been editing the Spire for 20 years so we are always keen to make use of fresh eyes and new ideas.

We also thank our readers, advertisers and distributors, to our printers and, of course, to Hugh Beggs for organising the distribution and to Tony Kershaw and his team who deliver spare copies around the parish.

Howard & Janice Mason

Traidcraft

What a great year for Fair trade in our parish. We were so pleased to work with other organisations to focus upon fair trade, for example hosting an event with MU in March to hear about the work of Justica in Bolton. The Senior Youth Club organised the 'Fair trade Bake off' in May. What a great afternoon. We would love to link up with other parish organisations on a Fair trade theme, please ask us!

We continue to supply Traidcraft products to Sale URC and always enjoy the visit of Sale Grammar School pupils to church in the autumn. We were inspired by a Traidcraft Roadshow in Liverpool Cathedral in February. We learned that Traidcraft are seeking out the world's most marginalised communities to help them trade and tackle poverty, for example to grow rice in Myanmar and tea in the remotest north eastern parts of India.

We have sent £500 for 2015 and 2016 to Traidcraft Exchange to develop such work. But we couldn't do this without your support. Our turnover in 2016 was £3,482. It may not seem a huge amount, but every purchase you make supports a small farmer somewhere in the world. So thank you to our regular buyers on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month and to occasional buyers at events and Christmas. Keep on buying the staples and always ask to see the latest catalogue. A huge Thank You from the Traidcraft team (Joan Tanner, Lynda Ronan, Pauline Weeks, Janice and Howard Mason.)

Church Bookstall

The bookstall has sold a number of books, cards and gifts during the year 2016/2017 and has been able to donate the sum of £115.47 to church funds. This being 10% of the sales of books, cards and gift from Deny's and we are grateful to Deny's Bookshop for the discount they let us have each year.

Pauline Weeks and Alistair Egarr.

Adult Ministry

House groups – There are currently three house groups meeting regularly (fortnightly) on weekdays.

Adult Sunday School – this follows the 8 am service on the first Sunday of the month and every Sunday during Lent.

Wednesday Group – this follows the 10 am service on the third Wednesday of the month and on every Wednesday during Lent.

Advent Booklet – ‘For Your Journey’ (new for 2016) with contributions from members of St. Anne’s, provided daily reflections for Advent

Other Courses - Baptism; Marriage Preparation; Confirmation are held as required.

Web Based – Suggestions for home learning, topics for prayer, and widening of viewpoints are published from time to time in Spire, InSpiration and selected service sheets.

Home Communions – Thirteen short and long term visits are shared by the clergy and Readers.

‘It’s My Funeral’ Booklet – Revised (Nov 2014) is available in church for those planning their funeral in advance.

Messy Church – This is held at St. Francis’ on the first Saturday of the month except August and when Good Friday occurs near the first Saturday of the month. Invitations are extended by email, local advertising, word of mouth and Facebook pages.

Time and Talents Survey – This is on-going and asks how you do/could deploy your time and talent either in St. Anne’s or in the communities we are called to serve. The intent is to make this a real, living resource for our parish.

Alan Ward

Overseas Group

We have been busy this year starting to build **links with the four mission agencies** the PCC agreed, on your behalf, to support. They are, Bible Society, Trafford Youth for Christ, USPG (United Society Partners in the Gospel) and Church Army. 10% of St Anne’s gifted income will be shared between these four agencies for the next few years.

But the link is not just a financial one. We hope to get to know them really well and look forward to your support on this exciting journey. We started by inviting speakers to the 10.30 service, firstly from Church Army in September and then from the Bible Society in December. The drama by the Bible Society, Northwich ‘Open the Book’ team inspired a number of us to set up a similar ministry to local primary schools. Watch this space!

We also have a link with the **Boaz Trust** in Manchester and each term we will have a collection for their ‘Free Shop’ which supports destitute asylum seekers. The Harvest donations were divided between Foodbank and Boaz.

We changed the format for **Lent Lunches** in 2016. Instead of making a donation to one charity we asked the four church organisations making soup to choose a charity. Four charities each received £262. Thank you all for your support.

Margaret Ward, a valued member of the group resigned in 2016. We thank Margaret for her long service and we welcome the new members to the group.

Janice Mason

Mothers’ Union

We started and finished 2016 with 33 members: sadly Eirwen Dewsnip, Kath Hanstock and Joan Watkinson left through age related ill health but, wonderfully, Deborah Bell, Adele Kain and Tracy Ward have joined. Deb and Tracy have jumped (pushed?) in at the deep end, each having agreed to lead a meeting in 2017.

We raised monies for MU charities but also participated in Women’s Mission Trip to Uganda, donating many packs of knickers and sewing home-made toilet bags by the dozen. For the fourth year we bought dozens of bags of presents for the mums and children at Trafford’s Women’s Refuge.

Our entries in the Diocesan 140th anniversary year Competition won in two categories: Linda Bowyer as “best cake baker”; and our Garden Rail Open day won in ‘unique fund raiser’. If only I had thought to enter our Moira Garnett Project! This competition has gone from strength to strength and in 2016 pupils from

Sale Grammar School produced some magnificent presentations. This project has proved itself a resounding success; it continues to achieve everything it set out to do – raising awareness of the work of the mothers' union in schools and homes and at the same time keeping alive the memory of Moira.

We hosted the Bowdon Deanery Quiet Afternoon led by Fr. Julian at St. Francis'. Meetings have included speakers from Justica, a fair trade shop; Corrymeela (Peace) Community in N Ireland and a return visit from Street Angels.

Joan Tanner

Association of Church Fellowship

The aims of ACF are Worship, Fellowship, Study, Giving and Service and our programme is carefully chosen to reflect these aims.

Following talks with Chaplain Olwyn and the Vicar on the future of the Fellowship we asked our members at the AGM in July to complete a questionnaire stating their preferences as to programme, the way the Fellowship is run and how we are to go forward. The general outcome was that overall our members are happy (with a few tweaks) for the Fellowship to continue on the established lines.

The programme started in September with a talk from Olwyn on 'Hopes and Fears' and ran each month until Christmas with Alan Hayhurst's 'Lady Killers', the Deanery Afternoon Tea at St. Peter's, our own afternoon tea at Wyevale Garden Centre and Christmas Lunch at The Boathouse.

In November we hosted the Deanery Advent Carol Service which was led by Olwyn where 25 ACF members from three churches met for worship and fellowship.

The rest of the year fulfils our aims of Study, Fellowship and Service. Sophy Bell came to us in February to talk about our chosen charity for this year, Wood Street Mission, Janice and Howard will give us an insight on their visit to India. Our outing is afternoon tea at High Lea Garden Centre and there is to be a **Coffee Morning on June 10th open to everyone in aid of Wood Street Mission.**

It has been a successful and interesting year and only continues to be so because of a loyal and supportive membership. Thanks are due in great measure to a very hard working committee and to Olwyn all of whom give their time and resources unstintingly.

Barbara Abell

Book Group

The book group is still thriving. We meet on a Monday evening towards the end of each month, usually at the vicarage to discuss a book chosen by the group the previous month. We can have up to 14 people present, and we always have a very lively discussion.

Books this year have included: 'The girl on a train' by Paula Hawkins, 'A shepherd's life' by James Rebanks, 'According to yes' by Dawn French, 'The Goldfinch' by Donna Tartt and 'Golden hill' by Francis Spufford. A combination of non-fiction, and contemporary fiction of many different genres.

We welcome new members and new ideas for books to read.

Jackie Heaton

Thursday Girls

The Thursday group continues to meet on the last Thursday of each month. We have had some new joiners but we rarely mass to more than a dozen hardy female souls. Our activities have included trips to the theatre, games nights and dinners out; with the annual picnic in the park and bar-b-que. We do not use St Anne's or St Francis 'halls' so we do not collect any subs or have any books to keep. When we don't have specific activities planned we meet at one of the group's home for a drink and a chat, and never fail to use the opportunity to consume cakes and other edible goodies!

We continue to advertise our events in Inspiration and it is still a lovely opportunity for ladies to meet and have a chat. We span generations, interests & backgrounds but it would be a shame to stop the group. We do suffer when the PCC is held on the last Thursday of the month too and if that could be avoided in the future then it would make a difference to our numbers. Events planned for 2017 include theatre and wine tasting.

Nicola Harrison

Children's Ministry

St Anne's CE Primary School

St. Anne's remains a popular school within Sale providing at least good or outstanding learning opportunities for children from 3 to 11. Attendance last year was 96.24% which is above the expected level of 95% and shows an improvement.

We have 224 children in the main school with 26 in Foundation 1.

There has been a focus on improving the standards in writing over the last 12 months with excellent results and school is working towards achieving the dyslexia award.

As you may be aware Mrs. Brahney will take early retirement at the end of the school year. She has been a member of staff here for the last 29 years and will be missed. Governors have advertised and recruited into her post.

Mrs. Polly Goodson will take up the position of head teacher at St. Anne's in September.

Our site manager will retire in May and school is in the process of recruiting his replacement. Mr. Brookes has been an active member of the school community and his contribution to school life will be missed.

Mrs. McLoughlin will return from maternity leave in the summer term.

Building works undertaken this year include phase 1 of the roof replacement at a cost of £11000 to the school and PCC. Your contribution is appreciated. There have also been some essential alterations in the kitchen. Our school budget is going to be challenged over the coming years despite its prudent management by our Business Manager and Headteacher.

The school web site has been changed and improved and contains further information about our school. As always, on behalf of the school, I would like to thank the church, clergy and parishioners for their continued support.

*Bev Hobson
Chair of Governors*

Sunday School Report

The Sunday School meets in the Church Hall every Sunday from 10:30 and the number of children fluctuate from week to week. We make use of the 'Roots' resources to help us plan and deliver the sessions that supports the main service theme. There are now four teams working together to plan and deliver one session per month.

The teams are made up of 3-4 volunteers from the congregation. In June 2016, a meeting was held to discuss the year ahead for our Sunday school work. We decided to make adjustments to the format of each Sunday School session – we try to have a 'welcome activity' for the children and families to join in as soon as they arrive and

the more formal teaching session for once the child and families have had a chance to greet each other and share news. The children enjoy the opportunity to share what they have been learning with the rest of the congregation after they have returned to church, when appropriate. It was also decided that we would now compile a collection of plans and session reflections, which can be referenced for future planning.

Mark Riley has taken the lead role on this and we now have a useful electronic and hard copy database of past work to share. We are planning to purchase a shared craft trolley to facilitate the provision of craft and activity resources for the children to access independently during each session.

Beena Thomas

Sunbeams

Sunbeams is our After-School Church, meeting in term time and now in its amazing 11th year. We continue to attract younger children (pre-school to lower infants) and try to model the Jesus Shaped life for them in our telling bible stories and responding these by way of arts and crafts. Research tells us that early encounter with the church matters hugely for people coming to faith as adults so this activity is the essential laying the foundations of belief and trust in God.



Our worship is enhanced by Tom (the Music Man) Hockley and the craft work is led by Jackie Heaton, who prepares all the materials the children then

work with. Their ministry is amazing. We have, of course, been much blessed by Tracy's presence, who now shares with the vicar the task of leading each week.

Julian Heaton

Experiencing Christmas and Easter

We have begun to evolve a new ministry towards primary schools. Before Christmas and Easter this year local schools were invited to come and explore the respective stories, rotating round six stations where elements of the story were retold and displayed. We were well supported by members of the congregation who sat and told their section of the story for each small group of children. These activities were well received by the schools and we hope

to evolve this ministry to children in the future. Huge thanks to the helpers as we evolve this new initiative.

Jackie Heaton

Junior and Senior Youth Club

Junior Youth Group is still going strong and we have an average attendance of 34 children aged between eight and eleven. They enjoy all the activities offered and the Adults could actually do with some earmuffs. At the present time we are all looking forward to the summer months when they can run their energy off outside with Football, Swing Ball and Basket Ball. Once the older children have been at Senior School for the first few weeks they are then eligible to join Senior Youth Group.

Senior Youth Group started two years ago and is going from strength to strength; we now have about 32 regular attendees. During the past twelve months we have held a 'Bake Off' where money was raised for Fair Trade and this was a great success. We held an Advent Sleep Over to raise money for The Church Urban Fund and very grateful thanks to Sarah McLoughlin and Helen Beswick who volunteered to sleep or not sleep!!! with the young people. We also designed one of the areas for the 'Christmas Experience' and collected goods for the Reverse Advent.

We could not manage either of the groups if we did not have the support from a band of willing helpers and Sarah and myself are very grateful for the time they give. If any one feels that they are prepared to help just one week out of six then they would be welcomed with open arms.

Jackie Sheldon and Sarah McLoughlin.

Mums and Toddlers

How quickly the years pass- and our little customers grow and move up to school. Over the past year many new and regular faces have enjoyed our wonderful hall and the playful nurturing atmosphere we create. Craft weeks have become very popular –messy but fun, Easter chicks, playdough, autumn pine cone hedgehogs, sparkle messy play and 80's dancing in memory of Cat, dressing up days, fundraising for Charity days throughout the year.

I try to use my Childminding background to give the children variety, stimulation, fun, social skills and learning- and that's just the kiddies! I hope all the adults have fun and make friends and enjoy our happy atmosphere.

Days which stand out for me are last years end of term beach party- I created a summer beach with props and fishes which the children had painted the week before,

pool with balls in and grass skirts and flower garlands to wear.

I look after front of house- toys, play themes , store cupboard, meet and greet etc. and we have a great team in the kitchen lead by Kate Higgins who's little one actually graduated to school last year but Kate still comes to run the kitchen aided by Laura Gibbs, and Ruth who have little boys at the group. I am very pleased to say that at tidy up time everyone helps to put toys away, a very good sign that our group is well liked and valued as an important part of our community.

Janet Plumb

Guides.

The guide unit continues to flourish and develop, and is still a full unit. This year has seen the annual indoor residential trip to Waddow, as well as a very successful summer camp at Pettypool, where the theme was "I'm a Guide, Get me out of here!" Several of the new guides made their promise at camp – a lovely end, after the excitement of bush tucker trials, archery and den building.

Girls have achieved many badges – including Performing Arts and First Aid, and have completed many challenges too, including the local chip shop challenge! Fundraising was an important part of our year; we were proud to contribute £550 to Millie's Trust.

The highlight of the year for the girls was probably our day trip to Cadbury World– a fun, choctastic time was had by all!

2nd Sale Moor Brownies

The Brownie unit currently has 34 brownies and four leaders. We have had a very busy year. In May we took 17 girls on an activity holiday to Waddow a Girlguiding centre near Clitheroe. The girls did archery, rock climbing, zip wire, crate challenge, caving, and grass sledging. It was a very successful holiday. In the summer the brownies organised a Fair to raise money for unit funds. We went swimming and had a campfire to end our term.

In the autumn we learnt how to play dodgeball and raised £483 for the British Heart Foundation. We visited Sale Fire station and took the Fire safety badge. For Remembrance Day we had a sleepover in the church hall followed by church parade

At Christmas we made snowmen as gifts for some elderly or housebound people in the parish which the girls delivered themselves.

In the new year we have been doing the Designers badge and had fun holding a fashion show.

For Thinking day we had a airplane ride visiting China, Brazil and USA organised by two of our oldest brownies.

The brownie unit currently has a very large waiting and we are looking for extra adult help to allow a second unit to be opened.

Louise Pickford (Brown Owl)

Rainbows

St. Anne's has two Rainbow Guide groups for 5 to 7 year old girls. We follow a programme of activities based on the simple Promise based on beliefs and being kind and helpful, involving looking, learning, laughing and loving. Ideas are provided by girl guiding and added to by lots of seasonal activities connected to festivals and national events such as the Queen's 90th birthday, which we celebrated with a party in a tent. We also made cards for the Queen and got a thank you card and letter back from Buckingham Palace. We do lots of craft, play games, and do some simple cooking and a range of outdoor activities. We also enjoy singing and stories.

Our outing last summer was to the Museum of Science and Industry. Early this year we took a group to the players pantomime at St Francis.

Unfortunately the waiting list to join is hugely long, we could easily have enough for a third group, if we had leaders to run it, but sadly it is really difficult to recruit and keep leaders. Currently I am the only qualified leader at the Wednesday group, so if I am not available the meeting can't take place, so if anyone feels they could help, I would be very happy to hear from you.

Jackie Heaton

9th Sale Scout Group

I am pleased to report that the group have had a successful year joining in on District Activities as well as fulfilling the programme appertaining to each section. Many badges have been earned and personal challenges met. All sections took a part in the annual swimming gala and walked away with all three trophies. The scout section in particular has been on numerous hikes both locally and within the Peak District. The cubs celebrated 100 years of cub scouting with both district and county cubs at Bispham Hall Scout Camp where there were a

feast of activities lots of mud! And a fantastic display of fireworks to end the weekend.

We had a very successful AGM which covered both 2014 and 2015 of which 42 parents attended. We received a welcome cheque from HMRC in gift aid as we claimed for 3 years.

However we receive with one hand and left with the other. This was due to a fire outside which fortunately due to eagle eye neighbours called the fire brigade so damage was minimal. However a blessing in disguise as we were under insured so we had to foot some of the fire damage ourselves. Had the whole building gone up we would not have been able to continue.

Our numbers have increased this past year and membership is over 100 which have been the highest for some time.

Our goal is to get the out of date lease sorted but is proving difficult. We hope to have our 2016 AGM in May so more than welcome as we will be celebrating 85 years of 9th Sale.

I would like to thank all for your support with our Plant Sale which is still a good fundraiser.

*Chris Gleaves
Chairman*