

# St Barbara's Church Earlsdon

The annual report of the PCC  
AGM meeting 13<sup>th</sup> March, 11.30 am 2016



# St Barbara's Earlsdon | Agenda

## ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING 2016

### *PRAYER*

Annual Meeting of Parishioners to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 11.30 am

- 1 Apologies for Absence
- 2 Appointment of Church Wardens
- 3 Meeting closed

Annual Parochial Church Meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016

1. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2105.
2. Matters Arising not on the Agenda
3. Reports:
  - (I) Revised Church Electoral Roll
  - (II) Proceedings of Deanery Synod
  - (III) Church Wardens Fabric, goods and ornaments of the Church
  - (IV) The Annual Report of the PCC.
  - (V) Consideration and Adoption of the Audited Statement of Accounts 2015
  - (VI) Appointment of Independent Examiner
4. Elections:
  - (a) Deanery Synod Representatives
  - (b) PCC Members
5. Appointments:
  - (a) Assistant Church Wardens
  - (b) Duty Wardens
  - (c) Sidespersons
6. Vicar's Address
7. Any Other Business
8. Proposed Date of Next Annual Meeting March 19<sup>th</sup> 2017
9. Closing Prayer

## **St Barbara's Church Annual Report for 2015**

### **Background**

St Barbara's PCC has the responsibility for co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

### **Membership**

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

**Incumbent:** The Revd Tulo Raistrick  
**Wardens:** Mrs Andrea Driver (since March 2002) - ex-officio on PCC  
Mr Ian Leitch (since March 2012) - ex-officio on PCC

### **Representatives on the Deanery Synod – ex-officio on PCC**

Mr. Keith Wright Elected 2014  
Mr Phil Weare Elected 2014

### **Elected Members:**

Rosemary Brotherwood  
Margaret Cuttler  
Andrea French (Sec) (elected March 2015)  
Suzanne Frey- Kupper  
Elizabeth Hearn (elected March 2015)  
Gill Nottingham  
Mary Owen (elected March 2015)  
Christine O'Brien  
Peter Shankster  
Anna Stevens  
Thomas Watts

**Organist and Music Co-ordinator** Mr Norman Owen

**Choir Leader** Mrs Katherine Owen

## **Committees**

The PCC operates through a number of sub- committees, which meet between full meetings of the PCC:

### **Standing Committee**

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

### **Property Committee**

Attends to matters relating to church buildings, fabric and content.

### **Mission Committee**

Attends to matters relating to ministry of the local church to the community and the world, such as ecumenical links, evangelism and the support of mission and relief agencies.

### **Worship Committee**

Attends to matters relating to all aspects of worship.

### **Children's Ministry**

Attends to the provision of Christian teaching for children 3-11 years old.

### **Safeguarding group**

Attends to matters relating to ministry to the children and young people in the church including Safeguarding issues.

### **Stewardship Committee**

Looks into the funding of our Church and the giving of its congregation

### **CTEC(Churches Together in Earlsdon & Chapelfields)**

St. Barbara's Church is one of 5 Churches in the Earlsdon & Chapelfields Area made up as a result of a covenanting of the churches listed:

- The Precious Blood and All Souls RC Church.
- St. Mary Magdalen. (Church of England) Chapelfields.
- Hearsall Baptist Church.
- St. Barbara's. (Church of England)
- Earlsdon Methodist Church.

. The five Churches work together wherever possible and come together for Worship 4 times a year. Each Church will send members to the Churches Together committee meetings, and in addition the Ministers undertake to meet regularly. We also support each other's work in the local Community.

Andrea Driver (Treasurer), Ian Leitch (CTEC Chair up to 2015) and The Revd Tulo Raistrick (From May 2014) are our CTEC representatives.

## Average attendance at regular services in 2015

			Children (under 16)	Adults
<u>Sunday</u>	8 am	Communion	<1	9
	10 am	Communion	11	67
	10 am	All Age worship (no Holy Communion)	14	61
	10 am	All Age Worship (with baptism)	27	125
	5 pm	Buzz@St.B's	19	24
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong	3	36
	6.30 pm	Soul Space	0	8
<u>Wednesday</u>	9.30 am	Communion	0	5
From 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	11.30 am	Communion	0	4

These figures exclude special services (see below).

			Children (under 16)	Adults
7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2 pm	Friendship group annual service	0	15
7 <sup>th</sup> March, 2 <sup>nd</sup> May, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Oct.	8 am	CTEC Prayer breakfast	0	Unknown
18 <sup>th</sup> February	9.30 am	Ash Wednesday	1	9
18 <sup>th</sup> February	7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday	0	12
15 <sup>th</sup> March	10 am	Mothering Sunday (No Holy Communion)	22	87
29 <sup>th</sup> March	8 am	Palm Sunday	0	9
29 <sup>th</sup> March	10 am	Palm Sunday	15	81
30 <sup>th</sup> March, 1 <sup>st</sup> April	7.30 pm	Compline	0	11
31 <sup>st</sup> March	7.30 pm	Walk of witness	0	32
2 <sup>nd</sup> April	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday	0	35
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	2 pm	Good Friday Devotional service	0	36
3 <sup>rd</sup> April	1 pm	Children's workshop	18	12
5 <sup>th</sup> April	6 am	Sunrise Eucharist	8	32
5 <sup>th</sup> April	10 am	Easter Sunday	21	94
11 <sup>th</sup> October	10 am	Harvest	29	77
13 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30 pm	Bowls club carol service	1	32
8 <sup>th</sup> November	8 am	Remembrance Day (Holy Communion)	0	9
8 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30 am	Remembrance Day (No Holy Communion)	28	105
6 <sup>th</sup> December	10 am	Christingle (No Holy Communion)	39	99
13 <sup>th</sup> December	4 pm	Buzz Christmas workshop	39	54
20 <sup>th</sup> December	6.30 pm	Carol Service	3	104
24 <sup>th</sup> December	5.30 pm	Nativity and Crib service	340+	
24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30 pm	Midnight Mass	0	53
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10 am	Christmas Day	12	78

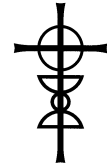
## Outside the Church building

Regular visits have been made to housebound members of the congregation and to residential homes in the parish to give communion, pastoral care or hold services. On average, 2 people per week benefited from this in their homes.

The table below shows the average attendance of care homes visited for services.

Belvedere Park	6
Melbourne House	15
Belvedere House	10
Aylesdene Court	5
Herald Lodge	7
St. Andrew's House	24

# St Barbara's Earlsdon | Minutes



Annual Meeting of Parishioners held on  
Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2015 at 11.30 am in the Church Hall

**Opened the Meeting in Prayer. 11.39 am**

**Present:**

First name	Second name		First name	Second name
Tulo	Raistrick		Doreen	Merlo
Andrea	French		Barbara	Metcalf
Ian	Leitch		Stephanie	Cotton
Andrea	Driver		Mary	Owen
Tony	Irish		Mark	Owen
Valerie	Irish		Dan	Rathbone
Ryan	Collins		Suzanne	Frey-Kupper
Sarah	Owen		Lara	Collins
Rachel	Owen		Christine	O'Brien
Katherine	Owen		Anna	Stevens
Norman	Owen		Don	Driver
Peter	Shankster		Elaine	Parnell
Jean	Rowley		Elizabeth	Hearn
Rosemary	Brotherwood		Jim	Griffiths
Margaret	Payne		Thomas	Watts
Bob	Payne		Pauline	Watts
Anne	Bissell		Keith	Wright
Margaret	Cuttler		Marion	Arkell
Mary	Maginnis		Monica	Harrison
Simon	Harper		Gerald	Harrison
Dorothy	Hope		Maureen	Shankster

**1. Apologies for absence were received from:**

First Name	Second Name		First Name	Second Name
Phil	Weare		Diane	Jones
Chris	Weare		Peter	Watts
Gill	Nottingham		Joseph	Owen
Linda	Colclough		Rosie	Owen
Lynda	Griffiths		Cyril	Hearn
John	McCutchion		Cynthia	Wheeler
			Peter	Wheeler

**2. Appointment of Churchwardens**

Andrea Driver has agreed to stand again as churchwarden for a 13<sup>th</sup> Year Ian for a 4th year. Andrea and Ian were thanked for their excellent work and commitment. They worked on a huge job during the interregnum and were celebrated by a round of applause Agreed by a show of hands.

<b>Andrea Driver</b>	<i>Proposed:</i>	Peter Shankster	<i>Seconded:</i>	Cyril Hearn
<b>Ian Leitch</b>	<i>Proposed:</i>	Keith Wright	<i>Seconded:</i>	Peter Shankster

Andrea and Ian are duly elected as church wardens for the coming year.  
The meeting closed at 11:42

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

**Meeting opened 11:42**

### **1) Approval of the minutes of the Annual Parochial Meeting Sunday 6th April 2014**

No amendments made

Minutes approved and signed by Revd. Tulo Raistrick

<i>Proposed:</i>	Rosemary Brotherwood	<i>Seconded:</i>	Doreen Merlo
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### **2) Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

None

### **3) Reports**

Tulo referred us to the reports as circulated in the reports and accounts booklet.

#### (i) Revised Church Electoral Roll

The Church Electoral Roll was updated by Keith Wright

Changes notified at previous PCC meetings.

Added	Peckham Banana
Removed	Dorothy Welford

Changes to be advised at the APCM on 22/03/ 2015

Added	Eva Cowlshaw
	Gilbert Cowlshaw
	Heather Gleave
	Sarah Raistrick
	Kay Whitney
	Gerald Harrison
	Monica Harrison

Total names	= 100
Males	= 33
Females	= 67
Names removed	= 1
Names added	= 8

Keith was thanked for his hard work.

#### (ii) Report of the Proceedings of the Deanery Synod



Keith spoke about the Deanery Synod meetings and informed us that the meetings are always open without being a member of the Synod and he encourages us to attend them. There are four in a year. If interested speak to Keith or Phil for the agenda.

(iii) Churchwarden's Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Ian referred us to page 16 on the reports booklet.

Andrea and Ian completed all inspections and everything is as expected.

Ian thanked Mary Owen for the kind gift of a silver server set in the memory of her parents.

(iv) Annual Report for 2014

Tulo enquired about the shortened leaflet and email of digital booklets. There was a general consensus of agreement to these changes.

All reports were accepted with a show of hands.

(v) Consideration and Adoption of the Audited Statement of Accounts for 2014

Andrea Driver took us through the accounts, the main points were:

- General fund deficit £5270
- Andrea gave a breakdown of the income totals and the sources of this money.
- She also took us through the expenditure details.
- Diocesan quota £55,069.
- We are in dispute with eon with regards to the gas bill (our usage has been attached to that of the vicarage)
- Andrea Driver enquired after tables for the May Day fete- Mark Owen will look into borrowing the ones from the tennis club.
- Mission giving has been reduced for the forthcoming.

Questions:

- The choir and Norman Owen were thanked and appreciated for their incredible kindness in returning their income to the church.
- Elaine Parnell was thanked for her hard work in securing the rental for the Church buildings.

*Proposed*

Barbara

Metcalf

*seconded*

Mark

Owen

Accepted by a show of hands.

Andrea was thanked for her hard work.

Andrea D informed us of an increase in the monies by approximately £1200. This is caused by an increase in the numbers of standing orders (25 to 41 people). £42624 projected as opposed to £35294 last year. This should move us into the black next year rather than a deficit.

Thanks to those people who have altered or considered their giving since the stewardship campaign.

Tulo also expressed thanks for prayer and action over the stewardship campaign. In particular thanks are given to Andrea Driver and Christine O'Brien.

(vi) Appointment of an Independent Examiner

Andrea Driver recommended the firm Harrison Beale & Owen.

#### 4) Elections

##### a) Deanery Synod Representative

Elections are required for a three year term of office, from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2017.

No elections needed this year.

Keith Wright and Phil Weare remain our representatives.

##### b) PCC members

Thanks given to Josie Howie who stepped down during the year.

Members who are ready to step down are:

Andrea French

Jim Griffiths

Elizabeth Hearn

Mary Owen

Thanks were given to those members.

#### The following were elected by a show of hands as members of the PCC until 2018

Name:	Proposed:	Seconded:
Elizabeth Hearn	Linda Colclough	Don Driver
Andrea French	Margaret Cuttler	Suzanne Frey-Kupper
Mary Owen	Mark Owen	Andrea French

Jim Griffiths was thanked for his 9 consecutive years on PCC, he will remain working on the property committee.

All Agreed by show of hands.

The next PCC meeting takes place this Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm in the meeting room.

Apologies to Revd. Tulo Raistrick please.

Please note that you can be on a committee without being on the PCC. Please see your PCC members if you are interested.

#### 5) Appointments.

##### a) Assistant Churchwardens

The following were appointed as Assistant Churchwardens:

Keith Wright

Mark Owen

Simon Harper

All agreed.

They were thanked for their hard work.

##### b) Sides-persons

The following were appointed as sides-persons

Peter Watts	Joseph Owen
Pauline Watts	Jill Nottingham*
Maureen Shankster	Andrew Pitcher*
Andrea Driver	Doreen Merlo

\*Not present at meeting

All agreed by a show of hands.

If you would like to be a sidesperson, or a standby have a word with our Wardens. These will be accepted by the PCC.

## 6) Vicar's Report - APCM

### Introduction

We moved into the vicarage exactly 11 months ago, and I was licensed 3 weeks later.

It has been a great privilege and joy to be serving with you all in the work of God in this place.

As a family, we feel we have settled very quickly into life in St Barbara's and Earlsdon, and are very grateful to be here. Thank you for making us so welcome. Thank you too for the commitment, the time, the energy that so many of you give to this church - it is a source of huge encouragement to me. Thank you. Many of you I will mention, but I may not mention all of you by name - time will not allow. But please do know - how much your work is appreciated.

My report covers most of what I will say, but I wanted to highlight a few things, under three headings: Worship, Spiritual Nurture, and Outreach.

I hope that as we review some of these things now you will be encouraged by all that God has done, and is doing, among us. I certainly am!

### WORSHIP

#### Buzz at St B's.

- Started in September. Now had seven, including last week, when we walked around the church as if it were Jerusalem.
- Very encouraging numbers - still averaging 60 plus
- Attracting families either who only come irregularly to church or for whom Buzz is their only service
- **Thanks** to great team of volunteers who make it possible - catering, serving, crafts, drama, music
- **Action:** lets keep inviting people and spreading the word

#### The continuing growth in our Sunday morning services.

- Seen significant growth in our Sunday morning services.
- Church did amazingly well in the interregnum - growing rather than declining in numbers.

- Growth continued since then. In last nine months (Jun 14 to Feb 15) we've seen an 18% growth in our average Sunday morning congregation compared to the same nine month period in 2013.
- Our All Age services have grown by 35%
- **Huge thanks** to Katherine and Norman and our choir, to our readers and intercessors, our ministers and preachers, servers, sides people and duty wardens, and caterers
- **Action:** do invite people along. People like to be part of growing churches.

### **Beginning of Choral Evensong & Soul Space**

- Began in September a new pattern of monthly evening worship with choral evensong (quarterly) and Soul Space (twice a quarter)
- Both services attracting people who don't come to our other services - good outreach.
- Also providing a place for reflection and prayer in our busy lives.
- **Action:** Do consider coming along - first Sunday in the month

### **Choir's contribution to the worshipping life of our church**

- Great to see the choir continuing to grow and develop under Katherine's excellent leadership
- As well as the choir's centenary, other highlights for me were the release of the CD and the Christmas Carol Service.
- **A huge thank you** to Katherine and Norman and all the choir for their commitment and time
- **Action:** Do consider joining.

## **SPIRITUAL NURTURE**

### **Homegroups**

- Now have 4 home groups (fortnightly on a Tues afternoon, monthly on a Thurs evening, and two at the vicarage fortnightly on a Wed and Thurs evening)
- Very positive feedback from people attending
- Both new groups at vicarage initially only for a term but people wanted to continue
- A place where we can talk about faith in a safe and encouraging environment, and where we can get to know each other better
- **Thanks** to Ian and Liz for leading the groups
- **Action:** Do consider joining a group. It would be great to see more of the church involved with these. Speak to me if interested.

### **Financial giving**

- We have seen a significant increase in our giving in last 12 months.
- Stewardship campaign in October an important part of this.
- Reduced our budgeted deficit for 2015 by almost £10,000.
- **Thanks** to Andrea Driver (treasurer) and Christine O'Brien (stewardship officer), the stewardship committee, and all those who give generously to work of the church.
- **Also huge thanks** to all those who give so much of their time to do jobs that most other churches would need to employ people to do: cleaning and care taking of the building; managing the bookings of the church hall and liaising with all our user groups (Elaine - thank you), much of the daily administration of the parish (Ian & Andrea - a particular thanks)
- **Action:** Still spending more than we are receiving so work still to be done

## **OUTREACH**

### **The updating of our communication with the parish.**

- Newsletter: colour for the first time. Very positive feedback. Good to hear how many people are reading it.
- **Thanks** to Josie and Christine & all those who distribute it.
- Website: redesigned and relaunched
- **Thanks:** Jim Griffiths and Simon Harper
- **Action:** do use website; do help to deliver newsletters

### **Caring for the elderly.**

- Recognise this is an important issue for our community.
- Run a number of hospitality events: teas, afternoon quizzes, Christmas lunches
- **Thanks** to Jo and the social committee
- Regular team visiting individuals and care homes
- **Action:** Do let me know if you would like to get involved.

### **Special Church Services**

- A number of special services that have reached out to large numbers of our community: Mothering Sunday, Service of remembrance and thanksgiving, Harvest, Remembrance Sunday, Christingle, Christmas workshops and tree decorating service; bowls club and church carol services, crib services. All seen growth in numbers this past year.
- More involvement of cubs and beavers

All of the above has been achieved through the incredible commitment and service of a very large number of people within the church, to whom I am immensely grateful.

### **PLANS FOR THE YEAR AHEAD**

1. Build on what is already happening
2. Continue the new initiatives started already in 2015:
  - Prayers and Bears
  - Edge
  - CTEC Arts Festival in October
3. With the help of the diocese, the PCC will look to review which areas of our church life do we need to give more attention to if we are going to continue to grow as a church

May God continue to guide us and lead us all as his church, that we may grow deeper in our love for Him and in our service of this community.

#### **1 Any Other Business**

Ian proposed thanks on behalf of St. Barbara's to Revd. Tulo Raistrick.

#### **2 Date of Next Annual Meeting**

The next Annual Church Meeting was arranged for 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 11.30 am.

Closed the meeting in prayer 12.41pm

## Review of the year 2015

Full PCC meetings were held during January, February, March, May, July, September and November with an average attendance of 13.

The standing Committee met during February, April, June, Oct and Dec with an average attendance of 5.

In January we discussed the findings of the Mission Committee, agreed the allocation of Mission funds and looked at the accounts of 2014.

In early February we approved the finalised accounts of 2014 with Andrea Driver. Thomas Watts also reported on the findings of the Inventory Log.

During the standing committee in February we began to look at the possibility of children taking communion. We discussed this at length during the May meeting and accepted the proposal. This was implemented with the first group of Children taking communion in September.

Rev. Canon Martin Saxby spent the March meeting with us to explain the eight essential qualities of a living church. We learnt about the characteristics of these properties and the 'Natural Church Development Survey' that can analyse them in our church. We agreed to carry out the survey in the May meeting with the results discussed in July. In September and October we analysed the work of the sub-groups who had worked on the findings with many positive ways to move forward. During the April standing committee meeting we evaluated at length the services and events over the Easter period.

Stewardship has again been a focus this year with a stewardship campaign initially discussed in June and carried out in October with many helpful comments and offers received. Throughout the year we have discussed the 'How great thou art' festival and 'Noyes Fludde' and how we can support it.

In November we agreed to implement the new safeguarding policy as updated by the diocese.

In December we looked through the budget for 2016 and started to think about the opportunities for development in the forthcoming year.

Through all the meetings we have overseen the excellent work of the sub-committees and been involved with supporting new initiatives.

Throughout the year the PCC have been supported by the entire congregation in various roles. Thank you all for this.

Thank you and God Bless

Andrea French, PCC Secretary

## Vicar's Report for Year Ending 2015

2015 has been a full and active year in the life of St Barbara's, with much to give thanks to God for. I am particularly thankful for the incredible commitment of so many people in the church, whose dedicated service enables so much to happen.

Here is a summary of just some of the highlights of the year, none of which would have been possible without such commitment and service.

### **Church Services**

**Sunday morning services.** During 2015, we have continued to grow in our worship, led musically by our choir, and in prayer through our team of intercessors. We have explored a number of important themes through the sermons, including a series exploring the significance of communion, and a summer series on the letter to the Ephesians. It has been encouraging too to see a growing involvement of the scouts, cubs and beavers in some of our recent All Age Worship services.

**Buzz at St B's.** Our monthly afternoon service for young families has become well-established, with a good committed core of families attending every month, and with an additional number of families attending when they can. The combination of music, craft and drama has helped to keep the services fresh and creative, and a positive environment for families to explore faith and build friendships.

**Prayers and Bears.** This weekly mid-week service for the under 5s and their parents and carers began in February. Led by St Barbara's Church and hosted at Earlsdon Methodist Church, it has attracted a small but very loyal group. It has been very special to see the young children growing in their engagement with the service and it has also provided an important place for parents and carers to find support but also take a moment of stillness in their day.

**Evening services.** Our quarterly choral evensongs have created a space of beauty and reflection, and our regular Soul Space services a place of quiet and meditation, which have attracted a committed core, and have provided an important alternative to our other services. It would be good to see the attendances at these grow in 2016.

### **Growing in faith**

**Home groups.** Our four home groups have continued to meet throughout the year. Highlights included a series of Lent reflections on the cross, a series on the Lord's Prayer, and an Advent series using the book *Walking backwards to Christmas*. Home groups have been an important place where people can talk and share about issues of life and faith in an informal environment, and we would hope to see more people join these in 2016. It has also been encouraging to see the emergence of EDGE, a group for young people in the church.

**Baptisms and confirmations.** We had the privilege of welcoming a number of children into the life of the church through baptisms during 2015, and the joy of seeing two of our adult members baptized and confirmed by Bishop Christopher in May.

**Children Admitted to Communion.** After an extensive consultation and discernment process, the PCC unanimously agreed a policy to allow children to receive communion before confirmation,

and in the autumn it was a great joy to see seven children admitted to communion after a thorough preparation course.

### **Connecting with the wider community**

**How Great Thou Art Festival.** St Barbara's played an active part in the inaugural CTEC Arts Festival. Events such as the memorable Noye's Fludde, the film night and the concert attracted large numbers of people, and built good links with the wider community.

**Social Events.** The Church Christmas Party was a very successful mix of church members and people from two of the local care homes, and the Earlsdon Fete was once again a huge success, with hundreds of people enjoying the church's hospitality. Building on these successes should be one of our aims for 2016.

**Care Home and Pastoral Visiting.** Our committed team of care home visitors and those who do pastoral visiting has been an immensely appreciated ministry throughout the year, and one that brings much comfort to those who are house-bound or isolated.

**Children.** Growing renewed links with Earlsdon Primary School through the opportunity to lead regular assemblies, and through taking sessions with our local uniformed organisations, has led to an encouraging attendance at some of our special family orientated services, such as Christingle and the tree decorating service.

**Parish communication.** Throughout the year we have had excellent feedback on both our parish newsletter and website. People have greatly valued their relevant, informative and thoughtful content and style, and appreciated the opportunity it gives them to feel in touch with the church.

### **The Year Ahead**

During 2015, the PCC and some other church members participated in a survey to help us reflect on what need to be our priorities as a church in the coming months. The survey highlighted that whilst as a church we are good at using our gifts in the service of the church and being well organized, areas that we could develop further were in the areas of prayer, spirituality and relationships.

With this in mind, during 2016, we will be looking at ways to:

- Encourage more prayer within the life of the church
- Grow deeper, more caring relationships within us as a community

Linked to this, and recognizing the challenges of poor health and the demands of caring for others that many in our congregation carry, we will look during 2016 to explore ways in which we can better support those in our congregation who are in need.

May God continue to guide us and lead us all as his church so that we may grow deeper in our love for Him and in our service of this community.

Tulo Raistrick  
Vicar



## CTEC Report for the Year Ending December 2015

In an exciting year of work the Committee embarked on a number of new ventures. In May Rev'd David Sutcliffe, pastor of Hearsall Baptist Church, was elected as Chairman to replace Ian Leitch. Anne Thompson (Hearsall) and Andrea Driver were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

The main event of the year was a Christian arts festival titled 'How Great Thou Art'. After 18 months of planning it ran for 17 days at the start of October. The 23 varied events of festival included classical, religious, folk and steel band concerts, opera, film, poetry and photography competitions, iconography and craft workshops. It also embraces an arts quiz night and a variety show. The public was invited to write their hopes or fears or wishes of dreams on to bunting, which was blessed by the Bishop of Coventry before being flown around each church. Each event was open to the public without charge. The festival was largely planned and coordinated by an HGTA Working Party. To herald its arrival HGTA had been launched in April with an imaginative service in Earlsdon Methodist Church at which Rev'd Richard Kidd, former principal of Northern Baptist College, was the preacher.

During Lent two study groups met weekly. One group followed the theme of "Generosity" by studying the seven signs of Jesus in John's Gospel to ask "Who is Jesus?" The other group discussed the book *Centred on Christ* by Michael Baughen.

The study groups met again during In Advent. One group followed a course called *The Promise of Messiah*, examining how Jewish and Christian scholars examined the words of the prophets for the signs of a promised Messiah to connect with the roots of our faith. The other group followed the York Advent Course *Making Room*.

CTEC members shared regular table fellowship at the monthly Prayer Breakfasts, and throughout the summer months followed it with a litter picking session in the nearby streets. During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January we met for a United Service of worship at St Mary Magdalen Church. In the same Week we also enjoyed a Fellowship Supper and Variety Entertainment provided by Hearsall Baptist Church. We marked the Week with a pulpit exchange between the clergy. During Lent we met for a simple lunch each week, and the proceeds were shared between CAFOD and Christian Aid. We joined together for a Pentecost Picnic at Hearsall Baptist Church. We also met for united worship and witness on Advent Sunday. In Holy Week we made a Walk of Witness in the form of the Stations of the Cross.

We have continued our efforts to interact with the public informally. On Maundy Thursday we offered Coventry God Cakes to the public in Earlsdon Street, and we used the opportunity to explain the importance of Easter. In May we participated in the Earlsdon Festival with a stall in Earlsdon Street, in addition to the activities by churches in their own premises. In December we toured local public houses sharing the celebration of Christmas by singing carols. We also took up an invitation to sing carols in Earlsdon Street during late-night shopping.

In May Rev'd David Butterworth, Methodist chaplain at the National Exhibition Centre, led a Day of Reflection on the theme *The Art of Listening* in Berkswell parish room. It was a most stimulating day giving much food for thought.

Each year CTEC supports a Charity. This year we selected the Coventry Resource Centre for the Blind and Partially Sighted as our charity. We continued to donate goods twice a year to Carriers of Hope,

We continue to rejoice that for more than four decades our understanding and co-operation have grown. We are confident that, as our revised text states, "Jesus Christ is calling us to love one another and to serve God's kingdom in the world as one Church".

Ian Leitch    CTEC Representative

Churchwardens' Report on the Fabric, Fittings, Furniture and Furnishing of the Church 2015

We have inspected the church property register, the log book of alterations and the inventory, and each is in order and up to date. We have checked the inventory and found all items to be present and correct.

During the year maintenance and repair work has been undertaken continuously to ensure it remains in good order. Completed works include:

- a. Four new wall-mounted heaters were installed in the Hall to replace eight failing ceiling heaters.
- b. All the hall cupboards were re-painted.
- c. Five light fittings in the Storeroom were replaced with those taken from the Hall in previous years.
- d. The element, heater and thermostat were renewed in the water heater in the Kitchen.
- e. In the Gents' toilet the flushing system was repaired, a faulty light was corrected, and a hand towel dispenser was installed.
- f. A handrail was fitted to the boiler house steps to give safe access to this storage space.
- g. New bicycle stands were installed in front of the Shed.
- h. In the Church the lock on the door leading to the vestries was repaired and the chairs in the Children's Corner were refurbished. The window frames on the North aisle were re-painted on the outside.

We wish to express our thanks to the Property Committee and to all who have taken part in the caring for church property in any way and to all who have assisted us in carrying out our duties.

Andrea Driver and Ian Leitch  
Churchwardens

## Deanery Synod report 2015

There were four meetings of the Synod during the year. The meetings tend to follow the format of an opening act of worship followed by the main business of the evening which is usually a presentation of some initiative taking place somewhere in the diocese. They are open meetings and anyone from our church who would like to attend is most welcome to do so.

Our first meeting in February was held at St. John the Baptist, Berkswell and the main speaker was Malcolm Tyler who was vicar at Walsgrave for 24 years before taking on the role of talking about NCD – Natural Church Development – something that we have talked about a lot over the last few years and which has resulted in St. Barbara's taking on the challenge of first discovering which two of the eight qualities we were not very good at and then agreeing a plan to do something about it. Malcolm's presentation was on two organic growth forces, symbiosis and interdependence, which could contribute to the overall growth that all churches are looking for.

Our next meeting in May was held at St. John's Westwood and we continued our look at the natural growth principles at work in healthy churches; our Area Dean Steve Burch talked about fruitfulness and Kenilworth Deanery Dean Mark Bratton's presentation was about multiplication. Lots more information about all this can be found on the Coventry diocese website. The vicar at St. John's the Reverend David Hammond introduced us to the idea of a "Missional Community" which can best be described as like an extended family with people living together, spending time together and worshipping together. The community is bigger than a group but not too big that people don't know everybody in the group. He said the rhythm of the group will include worship, fellowship and mission.

At the meeting in September at St. Mary's Stoneleigh our area deans completed the series of presentations about natural growth forces with Mark Bratton's talk on Sustainability and Steve Burch's talk on Energy Transformation. At the end of his presentation Mark commented as follows: - "For me, sustainability is perhaps the most interesting of the core principles because it forces us to consider a number of important points. Firstly, there is nature of leadership, who are the leaders in a church and, in this connection, what is the role of the parish priest? Secondly, what is the role of the laity and to what extent are they responsible for sustaining the Church? Thirdly, at any given time, what should the Church be doing?"

The final meeting of the year in November took place here at St. Barbara's; the first time we had hosted the synod for as long as anyone could remember. The opening worship was led by Tulo which was then followed by a question and answer session by Tulo and three of our congregation telling of their experience of Buzz at St. B's, Prayers and Bears, and the CTEC How Great Thou Art festival. We then listened to the work of a recent diocesan appointment of a young man, Jonny Dant – he has only been in the job for 6 weeks – whose work will be to try and encourage more of the 20-30 year age group into our churches. He is based at St James' Styvechale. Graeme Pringle, from the Diocesan office, asked us to think about anything we might like to do as a diocese to celebrate 100 years of the diocese in 2016. We also learnt that Offa House will soon be welcoming up to 40 Syrian refugees for up to 10 days at a time whilst they become acclimatised to England and before they move on to more permanent homes.

If you are interested to hear more about any of the topics mentioned in this report or if you have an idea which you think might be of interest to the other churches in our deanery please speak to one of your deanery representatives.

Keith Wright  
Deanery Synod member

## Social committee report

Money collected from 9 film nights	£186.43
Fete May 2015	£2,305.00
Bar B Q	£47.25
Pies & Poetry	£58.00
Christmas Lunch	£127.50

The social committee have had another busy year, with film nights and children's film afternoons; our pie and poetry event, the summer BBQ and sports day, and of course the May Fete. Many thanks to the fantastic support we have had throughout the year. The Christmas lunch and more recent CTEC dinner were real team efforts. We hope that 2016 is as successful! Please let Andrea D, Andrea F or Jo Johanson know if you'd like to help at any event !

Joanne Johanson  
Chair

## The Choir and Music during 2015

There has been significant turn over in the choir this year mainly due to people moving in and out of the area. The regular choir for services had settled at about 15 this year with about 25 for special services. There are choristers that would like to progress through the ribbons but this has been a bit slow this year due to demands on the available choir time and Katherine.

The instrumental side of the music has continued to develop with instrumentalists from the choir and congregation able to accompany some of the more modern hymns. It is difficult to develop this aspect of the music without a regular practice time. It was hoped that this would be addressed in 2015 however, this did not happen. We are hoping that progress will be made in 2016 although finding a suitable time is proving to be problematic.

The main thing for music this year was the involvement in the HGTA festival where we put on a performance of Noye's Fludde involving approx. 70 instrumentalists, 60 singers as animals and 11 singers in a solo role. This included people from our congregation, choir and instrumentalists as well as the local area and schools. Several from outside have expressed an interest in becoming more involved in the future opportunities within the church and Matt has joined our choir as a direct result of his involvement of the production. The dancers (not strictly music) were also from our congregation. The other events that involved our musicians in the festival were the choral concert and the final service.

Here are some other highlights in the musical year.

- Several members of the choir took part in the recording of BBC Songs of Praise in February.
- We were privileged to sing at Patti Settles wedding in May
- In May were also supported the Historic Churches trust service at St. Mary Magdalene's church where we had to sing whilst a drone representing the tongues of fire for Pentecost was flying around behind us!
- We had a joint evensong with St. Nicolas Nuneaton in July, firstly at our church and the following weekend at theirs.

Norman and Katherine would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported them behind the scenes in their mission to enhance the music making at St. Barbara's, without whom they could not have made the progress you see today.

Katherine Owen

Choir leader

## Children and Young People's Committee annual report 2014

This year has seen Hive continue to thrive and meet weekly except when we have the monthly All Age Service. We have a lively group of children from babies and their carers through to secondary school aged children. We have begun to provide a time of Bible story and teaching all together as a big group and then split into age groups to allow the children to explore the themes in age appropriate ways. As a result of this we have needed a few new helpers and are grateful for people who have offered to join the Hive team.

2015 -after consultation with the church and agreement of the PCC and Bishop - saw us admit 7 children to communion. We had fun meeting one Saturday to have a time of sharing a pizza and a Passover style meal (with Andrea's homemade flatbread), learning from the bible and encouraging one another in preparation for taking communion. The children involved were all definite in their commitment to want to be a full part of the worshiping heart of St Barbara's and wanted to share and meet with Jesus through communion.

There were busy Easter and Christmas workshops where children from Hive and others from school and the community made crafts and biscuits and we hope to continue these again this year.

The Christmas Eve nativity was a "simple nativity from scratch" with the younger children doing great improvisations and the older ones and adult helpers narrating the amazing story of Jesus birth. We loved the costumes many of which were made years ago for children who are now adults in the congregation but the outfits are still splendid today, notably the sheep and star costumes. EDGE, a youth group has made a tentative start this year with Simon Harper as a leader. We began to explore peoples faith journeys and had "guests" tell us about their life and faith. There were talks from a policeman, doctor and a multimedia discussion about heroes. The group is reinventing itself over the coming weeks to provide for both teenage youth and young adults.

### **Safeguarding Report**

The members of this group are: Tulo Raistrick (designated person) Elizabeth (Liz) Hearn (designated person) and Linda Colclough.

Tulo and Liz met to discuss the new guideline set out by the diocese. The policies that are set by Coventry Diocese were discussed and passed at PCC and are to be displayed in the foyer along with contact details of the Safeguarding officer Liz Hearn. A dedicated email address has been set up for people to contact Liz if there is a safeguarding issue. A photograph of Liz Hearn is to be added to the contact information to enable people to identify her as Safeguarding officer.

Liz Hearn/Sarah Raistrick  
Hive Leaders

## Mission Committee Report Year Ending 2015

The Mission Committee met twice in the year.

At the meeting in January the mission allocations for the year were discussed and fundamental changes were made in the way that the money available to mission was assessed. Against a backdrop of setting a budget over many years which resulted in a deficit of income against outgoings, it was realised that within our parish share which pays for the cost of a fulltime minister for St. Barbara's, there was also a sum of £2000 which went towards the costs of paying for a minister in poorer parishes in the Coventry diocese. This was deemed to part of our mission giving and the allocation of monies available to our mission partners was reduced by this amount to a figure of £2600. At the same time the number of mission partners was reduced to three overseas missions and three home missions.

As has been the practice over recent years the profits from our Sunday refreshments have also been given to charity and it was decided at the meeting what those charities would be for the four quarterly sums available during the year.

These recommendations were passed to the PCC where they were agreed. The meeting also decided various other fundraising events including our Lent and Harvest Appeals, our Carol service, the Christingle service, Christian Aid week and Samaritans Purse Shoebox appeal.

The second meeting took place in September and mainly concerned itself with the HGTA festival to be held in October and to ensure that we were ready to reach out to people especially to those coming to events at St. Barbara's.

We also talked briefly about the Christmas card which we subsequently provided to all homes in the parish in collaboration with Earlsdon Methodist church.

Tulo spoke about two organisations in Coventry which had a local element but which worked all over the world and with which he felt we might be able to develop links; they are CORD and Coventry Cross of Nails (CCN); both organisations received donations from our Lent and Harvest appeals especially for their work in Burundi.

If you feel that you might like to get more involved in the mission of St. Barbara's or to have more of a say in what you think we should be doing please talk to me, Tulo or any of the PCC members. Thank you.

Keith Wright  
Mission Committee Member