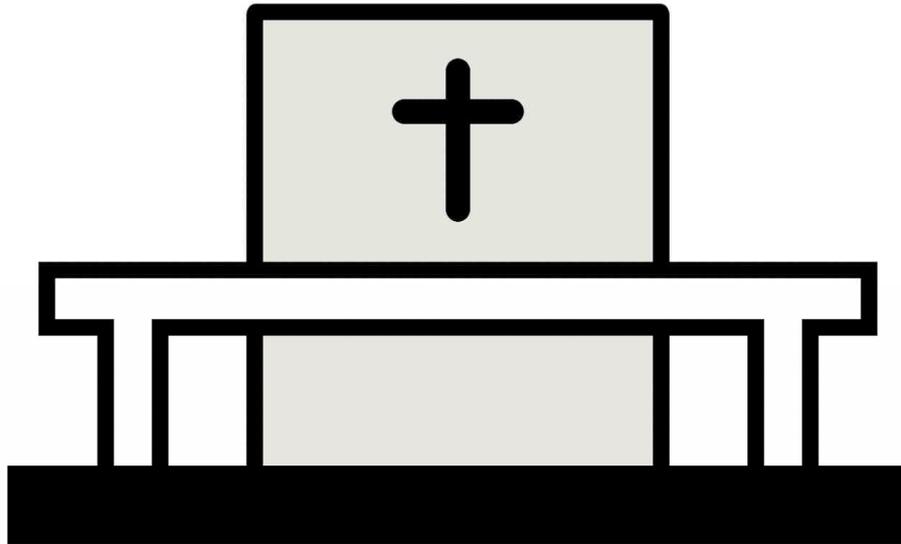


WATERLOOVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORTS 2016



Waterlooville Baptist Church

REPORTS

Year ended 31st December 2016

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Church Officers	3
Ministers' Reports	6
Secretary	8
Registrar	9
Administrator	10
Art Group	10
BMS Birthday Scheme	11
Boys' Brigade	11
Care Groups	11
Catering Committee	12
Church Cleaning	12
Communion Stewards	13
Community Choir	13
Door Stewards	13
Flower Ministry	14
Food Bank	14
Gentle Chair Exercise	14
Girls' Brigade	15
Life Groups	15
Lunch Club	16
Thursday Group	17
Toddlers	17
Women's Fellowship	18

Church Officers (May 2017)

Minister - Rev. Bill Longley

Pastoral Assistants- Rev. Elgan Evans & Rev Ray Burnish

Secretary - Mr. Ray Evans

Treasurer - Mr. David Barnes

Deacons

Mr. Derek Barkaway

Mrs. Barbara Cariss

Mr. Mike Davis

Mrs. Wendy Evans

Miss Pat Knowles

Mr. Gordon Peacock

Mrs. Janet Peck

Mrs. Rita Pethick

Mr. Richard Wort

Administrator

Mrs. Helen Wishart

ORGANISATION LEADERS AND CHURCH OFFICE HOLDERS

May 2017

Organisation Leaders

Art Group	Leader Helper	Mrs. Jan Peck Mrs. Pam Gray
Boys' Brigade	Captain Lieutenants Warrant Officers	Mrs. Wendy Evans Miss Pat Knowles, Mr. Richard Wort Mr. Paul Merriman, Mr. Nathan Taylor, Mr. Jonathan Butler-Keating
Community Singers	Leader Treasurer	Mrs. Wendy Evans Mrs. Janet Peck
Freedom Generation	Leader Helpers	Mr. Daron Blackmore Mr. & Mrs. Darren & Helen Wishart
Gentle Exercise Class	Leaders Helpers	Mrs. Denise Brewer Mrs. Mary Coe, Mrs. Nadia Martin, Mr. Richard Ostler, Miss Margaret Penson
Girls' Brigade	Team Leader & Treasurer Lieutenant Helpers	Mrs. Sian Evans Mrs. Maggie Stoppard Mrs. Sandie Davis, Miss Hannah Harding, Miss Lauren Smith
Junior Church	Co-ordinator Crèche Co-ordinator J Force Teachers Y Zone Teachers	Mrs. Helen Wishart Vacant Mrs. Sian Evans, Miss Pat Knowles, Mr. Daron Blackmore , Mr. John Fowler, Mr. & Mrs. Steve & Annie Harding
Life Groups	Leaders	Mr Derek & Mrs Lynda Barkaway Mrs. Barbara Cariss Mrs. Val Ormonde-Dobbin Mr. Clive Skeates
Luncheon Club	Organiser Treasurer	Miss Margaret Penson Mr. John Everett
RockSolid	Leader / Treasurer Helpers	Mrs. Helen Wishart Mr. Daron Blackmore, Mrs. Barbara Cariss, Mr. John Fowler, Mr. Steve Harding, Mr. Darren Wishart
Toddlers	Leader Helpers	Miss Pat Knowles Mrs. Pam Vickerstaff, Mrs Rachel Nassif
Thursday Group	Chairman Treasurer	Mrs. Rita Pethick Mr. Darrell Griffin
Women's Fellowship	President Secretary Vice Presidents Treasurer	Mrs. Lucie Whittaker Mrs. Joyce Nixon Mrs. Dorothy Earley Mrs. Enid Morton
Women's Prayer Group	Leader	Mrs. Angela Perry Mrs Jill Cawte

Church Office Holders

Administration	Administrator	Mrs. Helen Wishart
Accompanists		Mr. Richard Wort, Mrs. Wendy Evans, Mr. Ron Forshaw, Mr. Martin Brooks
BMS Birthday Scheme	Secretary	Miss Pat Knowles
Care Groups	Co-ordinator	Miss Pat Knowles
Catering Committee	Convenor	Miss Margaret Penson
Child Protection	Co-ordinator Administrator	Mrs. Rita Pethick Mrs. Helen Wishart
Church Cleaning	Co-ordinator	Mrs. Jill Bowen
Church Flowers	Co-ordinator	Mrs. Maureen Walker
Communion	Co-ordinator	Mrs. Barbara Cariss
Door Stewards	Chief Steward	Mr. Will Barker
Fabric	Stewards	Mr. Derek Barkaway
Finance Administration	Administrator	Mr. Steve Foster
Fire Prevention	Officer	Mr. Richard Wort
Food Bank	Co-ordinators	Mrs. Rita Pethick and Mr. Alastair Pethick
Food Hygiene	Officer	Miss Margaret Penson
Garden and Grounds	Steward	Mr. Brian Pethick
Health & Safety	Officer	Mr. Richard Wort
Home Mission	Distributor	Mrs. Sian Evans
Leprosy Mission	Representative	Miss Pat Knowles
Marriage Registrar	Officer	Miss Pat Knowles and Mrs. Sian Evans
Membership	Registrar	Mr. Gordon Peacock
Operation Agri News	Distributor	Mr. Darrell Griffin
Shoeboxes - Christmas	Co-ordinator	Mrs. Julie Barnes
PA System Recording	Co-ordinator	Mr. Mike Davis
Video Projection System and PA	Co-ordinator	Mr. Darren Wishart

MINISTERS' REPORTS

Honouring and Serving Jesus – Caring for People – Building Community

Our Motto Verse for 2016 “CHRIST IN YOU – THE HOPE OF GLORY.” - Colossians 1:27

In the wider sphere 2016 was a year when anti-establishment feeling among the general populace was revealed in the referendum vote to leave the EU (Brexit) and the election of Donald Trump as US president. This ushers in an era of change and uncertainty, which may in itself present opportunities for churches and the message of the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. We especially need to be on our guard against a spirit of isolationism and xenophobia (hatred of foreigners), which can easily creep into the church and militate against Jesus' message to love God by loving your neighbour and to welcome strangers.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY:

We were encouraged that Rev Connie Sherman (St John's, Purbrook) was licensed to work on Berewood by the Anglican diocese but under the auspices of Berewood Community Ministry set up by WBC through Rev John Thompson. After an unsettled period when the Thompson family had to move house John & Lisa decided to return to North Wales so Lisa can complete her GP training. By the time they left at the end of November John had completed his 3 years with us as a probationary minister and has been recommended for full accreditation after interview by the local Ministerial Recognition Committee. The Thompson family have made a considerable impact on life at WBC and its outreach ministry on Berewood so we were sad to see them go and wish them well as John looks for new opportunities to fulfil his calling.

With John's assistance we quickly identified the key areas he would be leaving and thanks to the willing service of many we have been able to continue with Messy Church on Berewood along with the Wednesday term time coffee morning. We also recommended someone as a governor for the school, though this has not been taken up as yet.

YOUTH WORK:

Arrangements have also been put in place to continue the Youth Discipleship group (now Freedom Generation) and the ecumenical Youth celebrations. Particular thanks go to Helen and Darren Wishart and Daron Blackmore. Helen has also been given some extra hours until at least July 2017 to help coordinate Messy Church and Junior Church.

We are very grateful to Wendy Evans who has come forward to take on the Boys Brigade Captaincy.

It is unlikely that WBC will seek another ministerial appointment in the short term but explorations are under way for a Children and Families leader (part time) as this is an area where we have discerned that we need strengthening.

NOTABLE EVENTS:

It was great on the weekend of 17th April to meet our BMS World Mission link missionaries Liz & Sergio Vilela with little Chloe and later hear of baby Joshua's eventful arrival
Rev Ian Coffey from Moorlands College preached on 24th April to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the current WBC building.

In September a number of folk with Bill & JT attended the first SCBA Home Mission Community Day at Winchester Baptist Church. It was good to hear other stories of pioneer ministries and be encouraged and envisioned.

The Mayor of Havant, Cllr Faith Ponsonby, attended the All Age service on 9th October and presented Brigade awards including 3 Queen's Award badges. As part of her year of office she is trying to visit all the places of worship in the borough.

John Bennett was commissioned as Moderator of Immanuel Baptist Church on 6th November, he will need the prayer support of the church in this challenging ministry.

A variety of successful and mainly well attended Christmas events and services included Breakfast in Bethlehem at Berewood School, Joint Churches Christmas Carols in the Precinct, a Candlelight service with puppets, and community choir etc., a Christingle on Christmas Eve and our usual Christmas Day service.

We have experimented with various formats and messages on the banners at the front of church with our motto text featuring strongly – many thanks to Lynda Barkaway.

Towards the end of the summer it became clear that the main boilers for the church and Owens hall had finally packed up after 50 years' service. The church agreed to take a £25k loan from the SCBA and after various challenges the work was completed in time for the Christmas events. Also during the year we are very grateful to a team led by David McDowell who re-covered all the sanctuary chairs to increase padding and blend with the new platform.

PASTORAL

A number of funerals took place during the year including John Voller, Trevor Giles, Doris Pond, Alan Thomas (one of the Winston Lodge residents), Merle Griffin and Pat Keay.

We are glad of the feedback that we 'do a good funeral' at WBC. There was standing room only at Trevor Giles' Thanksgiving Service with many past and present BB members coming to pay their respects – a great tribute to his 40 plus years as BB Captain.

We were delighted to welcome back Rev Elgan and Wendy Evans into membership, though sadly this was an early retirement due to ill health. Also during the year we have welcomed Darren & Helen Wishart and Daron Blackmore. We shared the joy of believers' baptism with Colin and Carole Wells, Zina Robertson and Darren and Helen Wishart. Weddings included Jane Kneller to Andy Shepherd, Sharon Wiseman to Robert Tapley and of course the wedding of the year, Beth Bowpitt to Liam Ceaplen. Significant birthdays and anniversaries have included Derek & Lynda Barkaway both (70th), Ada Smith (80), Richard Walker (80 on Boxing Day), Jack & Marian Elliott Diamond wedding, Angela & Alan Perry Ruby Wedding.

I have a sense that having weathered a couple of years with a variety of challenges and changes we now face the future with a new sense of freedom and openness to what God may have in store for us. At a multimedia prayer evening in October through a variety of means and voices we discerned two main things God was saying: I want you to continue what I have begun and I will lead you step by step. Appropriately, our Motto verse for 2017 will be ***“MY PRESENCE WILL GO WITH YOU.”*** (Exodus 33:14) God's promise to Moses leading the people on their Exodus journey through the wilderness into the Promised Land.

Rev. Bill Longley

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Looking back on 2016 it was a year of considerable change and a year that did not work out as I anticipated it would at the beginning of the year.

At the beginning of 2016 the Thompson family needed to move house as the landlord had sold their house in Ferndale and they moved to the house in Gloucester Road. It was in some ways a blessing since the children could now walk to school and Sam proudly told me he could go from bedroom door to school in nine minutes walking! However clearly there was considerable disruption but they quickly settled in and made good connections with the neighbours. I know that Freedom Generation (Youth Group 12 to 18 years old) meetings there always went well despite the change of venue.

When John resigned on 17th August that had quite an impact on Church Life in a number of ways. The Berewood and Messy Church work we knew we needed to continue to support and the great work John had done to encourage the youth. Creating the role of Berewood and Children / Youth Co-Ordinator has gone some way to stepping into John's shoes. It has also created opportunities to step back and consider what next for the Church.

The two areas that John said were essential we continued to drive forward were Berewood Messy Church and the children and youth work. We did consider if we wanted to look for another associated minister but with large bills for heating replacement (some £30,000), SCBA struggling with Home Mission funding (we were still receiving £7,500 a year from them) and also not sensing that God wanted us to continue down this route it has given us an opportunity to explore other options. It looks as though WBC will appoint a Children and Families Leader towards middle of 2017 which will very much pick up in the areas identified by John and drive them forward. The real area of focus particularly needs to be children under 12 where we have very limited church families in this age range and that will be the focus for the CFL.

As can be seen by the registrar report below WBC has had a number of people leaving and some people being "promoted to glory" in 2016 taking the membership down below 120 for the first time in a good number of years. The morning services on occasions reflect this but particularly when BB and GB Parade Services happen there is a feeling of a full Church of youthful energy and excitement. These services are now being planned by the All-Age planning group working with Rev. Bill Longley and Rev. Elgan Evans and this has transformed them into something accessible for all whether young or old and so that everyone learns something and worships God.

One other aspect of Church Life in 2016 that was also not expected was having to replace the main Church Heating for Sanctuary and Hall. It started with a boiler service, they discovered carbon monoxide issues could not repair them and then suddenly we needed to replace them. After a considerable amount of work by the Fabric team led by Derek Barkaway they were replaced though we did have some interesting ad-hoc heating arrangements for some of the services in October and November! As part of reviewing the heating more generally in the Church we also took the decision to update the rest of the building heating with a more modern arrangements and in 2017 the toilets will be heated – I know a lifelong ambition for some Church members !

When I look back on 2016 it was another year of considerable change but as we continue our journey to reach out with the love of Christ to the community much good as been achieved and as we sensed at the Prayer Meeting in October to discern next steps following John's resignation we strongly felt God telling us he always finishes what he starts and that we must continue the work we started on Berewood.

Ray Evans

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 2016

Membership Statistics

Membership on 31st Dec 2015 was:

Active - 128.

New Members added in 2016:

By PoF	5
Reinstated	2

Members lost in 2016:

Moved	5
Lapsed	6
Resigned	1
Deceased	4

Total: 7

Total: 16

Membership on 31st Dec 2016 was:

Active – 119.

2016 was quite a busy year on the membership front with seven people joining us but sadly sixteen people leaving us. This means a drop in membership of nine leaving us with just 119 members at the end of 2016. We do have many people involved with the fellowship who are not members, it would be good if we could encourage these folk to come in to full membership.

We have been very thankful to have Helen Wishart in the Administrator role for the last year and it has been a great joy to welcome Helen and Darren in to membership. Also it has been lovely to have shared in Colin and Carole Wells wedding and then to welcome them to membership as they had become very much part of the fellowship. Daron Blackmore has become very involved with our young people's work, providing good leadership. He has been keen to become a member of the church and we had the pleasure of welcoming in to membership in November. Finally it has been a great pleasure to welcome Elgan and Wendy Evans back in to full membership on Elgan's retirement from Immanuel Baptist, it is a pleasure to see them with us so regularly and we are thankful for all that Wendy has taken on

Sadly in 2016 we had four of our members pass away. Trevor Giles who had been a member since 1963 and played a very prominent role within the fellowship, most notably as the Boys Brigade Captain. Merle Griffin another long time member, joined in 1974, and very active person within the church. Also Pat Keay and Doris Pond both of who joined us in recent years and had become very involved. We had five members, Brian Cariss, Chris George, Richard Bowpitt, Lynda and Toby Nel, move to other areas. Unfortunately Julian Saines has resigned his membership and we have lost touch with six of our members: Ben Ormonde-Dobbin, Lisa Adams, Mark Sayers, Katherine Bull, Harriet Glass and Harriet Bull, who have all been removed from our membership list.

Gordon Peacock

ADMINISTRATOR

2016 was an exciting year as I fully took on the role of Church Administrator. After attending the church for many years, I am now the person responsible for ensuring that the administrative activities within WBC run efficiently and I'm the one to blame when it all goes wrong.

My time is spent working from home and on Wednesdays I work in the Church office. You will find me replying to emails, answering calls, preparing music, producing weeklys, co-ordinating rotas, arranging & invoicing room bookings, turning meeting minutes into reports for you to read, ensuring refreshments, stationery and cleaning products are well stocked, reporting to CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) - ensuring every piece of music we use is reported, keeping the contractors sweet (and my, we have had a few in the last 12 months, the tower repair, front door repairs and heating replacements), arranging leaflets for Easter, Harvest and Christmas, displaying posters, keeping up to date on social media and ensuring the weekly's are available on the Church website all but to name a few. Yes there are more tasks that keep me busy!

In an attempt to lower outgoings, a lot of leaflets & posters are now produced in-house and all printed music is now kept in files for use over and over again. I continue to keep costs low by searching for the best stationery deals & buying biscuits in bulk from a cheaper supermarket. I've also helped increase the revenue at WBC by securing long-term bookings for hall hire and re-negotiating the rates of existing arrangements.

Making the use of the wonderful facilities we have here at WBC on offer, room bookings now operate each day of the week. You can often find some toddlers jiggling, delicious lunches being prepared and eaten, fifty's keeping fit, youth learning rock, along with the regular Sunday services. This all keeps me busy, ensuring everyone is able to access the building, are kept warm in the winter, cool in the summer and above all happy. (Believe me this is harder than you think).

I am grateful to everyone who makes my job easier, through your flexibility and encouragement. I am pleased to hopefully have helped each of you and the organisations function well within the community that is Waterlooville Baptist Church and for that I thank you all.

Helen Wishart

ART GROUP

The group continues to produce some excellent works of art, despite not having a teacher at the moment. The group help each other, giving advice and support to the varying types of art tackled. Numbers on the register stay constant, although being mainly retired people holidays also figure in their diaries and sometimes we are just a few in attendances! We all enjoyed coffee and cake at the end of the summer term and a Christmas Lunch at the restaurant at Blendworth Fabrics in December.

Jan Peck

B.M.S. BIRTHDAY SCHEME

Through the Birthday Scheme the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS) aims to raise money for its medical work.

Thanks to the generosity of the WBC scheme members £847.26 was sent last year, to help with the society's work amongst needy people worldwide. Those people experienced Christian love and care in practical and life enriching ways.

If you would like to know more about the scheme or are thinking of joining please speak to me.

Pat Knowles



BOYS BRIGADE

And still they come ... following many leadership changes in the last 15 months, the boys keep coming! - a tribute to the lifelong work of Mr and Mrs G. We currently have 21 boys and 2 young helpers

As Captain since Nov 2016 I am pleased to report we continue to deliver a varied programme, with lashings of fun and with support both practical and prayerful from WBC members and BB parents.

Highlights include Go-karting, BBQ, wood craft, guest speaker and of course our Christmas party.

Please pray for us as a team continuing to gel together, and for the boys as we venture forward in 2017. Early notice that Car wash coffee n cake is back May 13th.

Wendy Evans

CARE GROUPS

"Caring for People" is part of our church's strap line, and our 12 Care groups are one of the ways we seek to do this. Each Care group has a leader who is a link between their group members and our minister. We meet together twice a year to discuss how things are going and share any cares and concerns.

Each year the Care group leaders take round pot plants, donated at Harvest time to those over 80 and others who had significant life events (bereavement, serious illness etc.) Later they take cards and small gifts at Christmas. Many of our church family are Care group members, and anyone who is not is more than welcome to join us. I usually approach new people after they have been attending for some weeks. If you are not in a group and would like to be, or you would like to know more about the groups and how they function, please speak to me, our minister or one of the deacons.

Pat Knowles

CATERING COMMITTEE

You may wonder what we do as a committee, well we prepare and serve and clear up after our Songs of Praise teas, funeral services when asked and other occasions as requested. We also serve mince pies & drinks after the carol service. (A big thank you to everyone who made and provided mince pies on this occasion.)

The Harvest supper is a big occasion for the committee and was organised and led this year by Rita Pethick who ably stepped in at short notice after my accident. Thank-you Rita.

Thank you to those who though not on the committee helped through the year by making delicious cakes for us, helped with furniture moving when required, and also for help received in the kitchen afterwards.

On a personal note I would like to thank those ladies of the committee who so willingly give of their time and expertise to make my job so much easier, especially Rita and Brenda Bennett who have taken over my work while I have been incapacitated.

This year we have said goodbye to Joyce Nixon after many years of loyal service, I will miss her particularly as she acted as minute secretary for us. We are only a few ladies on the committee and would love to have new members join us. No experience needed just a willingness to help, not necessarily on every occasion but as and when. Men would be most welcome. (Thank you to those men who do help regularly in the kitchen) Please speak to me for more information.

Please continue to keep the kitchen facilities up to the standards we have come to expect. Thank you all for being so diligent in taking dirty tea towels home for washing but please return them ASAP, so that there are always plenty for those who next use the kitchen.

Every Blessing.

Margaret Penson

CHURCH CLEANING

Yet again the small band of helpers has been depleted and we would wish to thank Julian for his help over the years. This year has also seen several members of the team on long term illness and we have been very grateful for the extra help provided by Denise and Helen during this difficult time. Although I have returned to the fray several other have not and, with no replacements coming forward to volunteer their services, we are now running well under numbers. Does anyone have the odd half an hour a week or a month for a very good cause?

Until our numbers are replenished I would ask the groups using our premises to please make sure they leave the rooms as clean as possible. Can I make a special plea to users of the Owens Hall to make sure that they leave the floor clean and that the bins are emptied as the hall does not appear on the cleaning rotas.

To the rest of the team who have turned out in all weathers to make sure our premises are spotless for not just us but for the many other people passing through our buildings during the week a grateful vote of thanks.

If you do have some spare time please think seriously as to whether you could help in any way. Please give me a ring or contact Helen - any help no matter how small will be gratefully appreciated.

Jill Bowen

COMMUNION STEWARDS.

The communion rota team suffered the sad loss of Merle Griffin this year. She had faithfully helped prepare communion and clear away for 14 years and so will be sadly missed from the team. It is with grateful thanks also to all those on the team who routinely prepare and clear away the communion.

Barbara Cariss

COMMUNITY CHOIR

The Community Singers have had a great year of singing and fun, due to Wendy Evans who plays the piano and leads us very ably! Our numbers have increased during the year including the number of men. We sing a variety of songs from shows and popular songs to more challenging songs like Les Miserables and generally have a good time. We end each term with a social and bring and share supper, to give us chance to get to know each other better and the group are bonding together well. We sang at a couple of Nursing Homes at Christmas and also at the Candlelight Service. We are always glad to welcome more new members if anyone would like to join us, just contact me or Alan Perry or Wendy Evans.

Jan Peck

DOOR STEWARDS

A big thank you to our door stewards who welcome us with a smile and a “weekly” each Sunday, and especially to Sue Bayliss who left the team last year. Her thrice-weekly position by the office door entrance is now filled by Valerie & Tony Ormonde-Dobbin (on half wages).

The chairs/tables in the Owens Hall get stacked after coffee following the morning service by anyone who feels inclined to help, chairs being placed four high facing the wooden partition: we seldom concern ourselves with the placing of them ready for us before the service, so a debt of gratitude is owed to David McDowell who invariably sets the tables and chairs for us.

For a few years now, chairs in the sanctuary have been placed in a sort of arc emanating from the position occupied by the speaker. This is why the ends of the rows appear quite ragged in the side aisles, but preferable at the moment to a regimented look. Please discuss with me if you have any comments.

Events organising: when we are considering organising events connected directly with the congregation and wanting a clear car park for them, thought must be given to the small numbers of regulars who use the car park being warned in advance. This can be done some three days before the event by pinning up notices of the day and date at ingress/egress points, where boards have been nailed to trees for this purpose.

Will Barker

FLOWER MINISTRY

Once again I have great pleasure to be able to say that during 2016 we had flowers provided for every Sunday of the year and for this I wish to express my grateful thanks to all who gave so generously to make this possible. It was good to have several special occasions celebrated. A Ruby Wedding Anniversary, Silver Wedding Anniversary and a Wedding as well as all those who hold special memories for various reasons and unfortunately the sadness of those who have passed away during the year so thank you to all of you for sharing with us all in this way. A special big thank you also to the ones who actually arranged the flowers because without your help the Ministry would not be possible.

This is an important Ministry. Firstly to adorn the church then afterwards gives pleasure and an expression of love to those who are ill, housebound, or even have a special event. So a big thank you to all who distributed among our fellowship too.

I am very pleased to say that there has been some new offers to help with the flower arranging for which I am very grateful. If you feel your talent is flower arranging I will only be too glad to hear from you and add your name to the rota so please see me, ring 9225 7305 or email walkerm.ashby91@virginmedia.com

Many thanks,

Maureen Walker

FOOD BANK

Address: Living Waters Church, Kite Close, Wecock, Cowplain PO8 9UJ

The food bank continues to give parcels of food and other daily essentials to those who have difficulty purchasing enough due to unforeseen circumstances.

100 special Christmas parcels were given out in December 2016

There are volunteers from churches and other walks of life who help to make this possible by making up the parcels for collection on Mondays between 9.30 and 11.30am and on Fridays between 12 noon and 2pm and collecting from the various collection points.

Collection points are in local supermarkets, churches and offices in the area, we would be unable to do this work if it wasn't for the generosity and good will of all concerned for example from April 2016 to end of year Sainsburys customers donated £5169.14 of goods.

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat....."

Rita Brian and Alastair Pethick

GENTLE CHAIR EXERCISE

Gentle Chair Exercises meets on Tuesday mornings from 11.30-12.30 pm, and has an average attendance of 22. We have 42 clients on the register and we always welcome new faces. Terri Bryant, from BodyFocus, a member of The Register of Exercise Professionals, leads us in both chair-based and standing exercises, followed by well-earned refreshments and a chance to

meet new friends. In July we had a bring-and-share lunch before the summer break, and at Christmas festive food was also shared.

The Church is represented by Mary Coe, Nadia Martin, Richard Ostler and Denise Brewer. With many thanks to Janet Cafferky, Janet Peck and Angela Perry who have helped out during the year when one of us is away. Boys Brigade have also helped us with the chairs during the first half of the year and we thank them for their support.

Older Persons Day organised by Chair exercise group

On 1st October the Church hosted "Life Begins at 50!" organised by Terri Bryant in conjunction with Havant Borough Council, Community First, and Helen Wishart at WBC, to celebrate the United Nations Older Person's Day. The Mayor of Havant opened the event, and we listened to the Southsea Skiffle Orchestra and the Cowplain Ukulele Players. There was a demonstration of Gentle Chair Exercises, and many local organisations and charities had stalls giving information of their activities. Craft, table tennis and short mat bowls were available to play. Thanks to Terri for her vision in putting the day's events together, and for Helen Wishart's organisation of us all.

Denise Brewer



GIRLS BRIGADE

Girls Brigade has had an exciting year, starting with a day trip to the Harry Potter Studios Tour.

We went to "camp" at PGL Liddington in April taking with us some lads with Darren Wishart to assist us. We had a fabulous time with good weather and great fun, a giant swing, zip wire and many other challenges that all the young people rose to.

The summer term saw us looking at a different country each week and walking up Butser Hill to raise money for the District charity and the company. We enjoyed a barbeque before the rain started. We had games in the park and a craft evening.

Some of the girls provided a Guard of Honour at the wedding of Beth and Liam.

After the summer holidays we started badge work again and rapidly approached Christmas when we celebrated with a carol service when all the girls took part in various roles.

Many thanks to Beth Ceaplen, Maggie Stoppard, Sian Evans, Jane Smith, Helen Wishart and Hannah Harding.

Mandy Bowpitt

LIFE GROUPS

Monday Evening

Our group meets during term time on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month. As we gather we start the evening with worship, ably lead by David McDowell on guitar.

We found that the Cover to Cover study on Barnabas, that we started in September 2015, so interesting and thought provoking that we had not completed the study and so continued to work through the study guide. As each Bible passage and the related questions led to lively discussions, sometimes challenging our viewpoint, we did not complete the study until the end of May. Following this we looked briefly at the life of Stephen on his influence on the Early Church.

From September this year, we have been taking a closer look at the book of 1 Peter, again being guided through by a Cover to Cover study guide.

The numbers attending the group fluctuated this year. We started the year with 8 attending, but due to family pressures it reduced to 6 in the Summer. September saw 4 new people join the group, and the 2 people who left returned, and so the group now stands at 12 attending.

Barbara Cariss

LUNCH CLUB

Lunch Club is a time of outreach and Christian fellowship while sharing a meal together, open to primarily the elderly but others welcome.

This year has been another good year where our volunteer cooks have provided us with varied meals that are tasty and nutritious, and enjoyed by those who attend. A time of fellowship is enjoyed by all and there is always a lot of nattering and catching up to be done.

We have been blessed that Barbara Cariss has volunteered to join us as a cook this term.

I would personally like to thank Alan and Angela Perry and Rita Pethick for all the extra work they have taken on replacing me, since September. And of course the lovely meals that they prepare for us.

John Everett continues to serve us well as our accountant.

Where would we be without Pat Davies who with Ros Jackson, Pat Mant, Sue Baylis and Doreen Adcock come very early each week to lay tables and prepare the coffee etc for the early birds, and then find the energy to serve at table and clear up after wards, not forgetting Fred Mant who washes up for us each week. Also thanks to John Symons who helps to put the tables up for us.

We have welcomed several new people to our lunches and are pleased that some are able to come to fellowship, church activities and some services as well, may we continue to encourage and welcome them and pray that more will join us in the wider church activities.

It was good that some of those attending lunch club with other church friends were able to join us in going to Fareham to see the pantomime, this was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. A big thank – you to those who provided the tickets and organised it for us.

Our Christmas lunch was again a big success enjoyed by all, overseen by Rita but helped by all the team.

Due to the expert management of those buying the meals we have yet again been able to purchase small equipment for the kitchen and also make donations to the church, and adding a little to the 'new cooker fund' for when it is required.

Please pray for us as we endeavour to show Gods' love in this tangible way.

Margaret Penson

THURSDAY GROUP

The numbers attending Thursday Group continue to be most encouraging averaging over 30 men and ladies each month.

During the year the talks are given by a wide variety of speakers from all walks of life telling us about different aspects of the Lords work, historical events, and places of interest, charities, the local area and hobbies.

Roy Godfrey from Solent Bee Keepers started the year in January 2016 with an interesting talk about the life of the busy bee, the following 4 months we had talks by Dave Allport who took on a virtual cruise down the River Thames, MAF, Hampshire Fire and Rescue about how their work has changed over years and how to have a safer home, Phil Bryant who told us about the work of the Seamens Christian Friendly Society. In June 50 members, friends and relatives enjoyed a day out to Mottisfont House and Gardens owned by the National Trust exploring the historic origins and delightful gardens.

We returned in September and learnt about the work of Shelter with families and children, and in October Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust told us about their work, in November Rachel Nasif told us about The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) and her involvement, and we finished the year in December with a Christmas get together where we enjoyed one another's company with food, Christmas quizzes and finished with some Carols accompanied by John on the piano and David on guitar.

Meetings are on the third Thursday of each month September to May starting at 7.30 pm for a chat, tea, coffee and biscuits before the talk starts at 8 pm for about an hour. In June we have a Saturday coach outing usually to a National Trust property with gardens Programmes are available at the front and side entrances.

Please join us you will be warmly welcome.

Rita Pethick

TODDLERS

Looking back, 2016 has been a year of ups and downs for us at Toddlers; there have been challenging times, but also ones of blessings – and lots of fun too!

Rachel and Pam are regulars most week and new helpers have joined us. Zina does a sterling job each week, putting out equipment before she goes off to work, and support from Barbara, Josie, Gill and Linda and our dedicated band of tea ladies has also been much appreciated.

On the other hand, at the end of the summer term we were very sad to say goodbye to Chris, who has since moved away from the area. He has been a great help to us over a number of years.

John Thompson took our Easter and Harvest services as usual but then moved back to Wales, we have appreciated his input at Toddlers during his time at the church. However, Bill coped really well at Christmas, despite a rather too enthusiastic toddler demolishing the Advent candle arrangement during his talk!

Our numbers range from around 20 to 30 children each week along with their mums, dads, grandmas and other carers to play, sing and share (and occasionally squabble!) together. Activities this year have included a riotous session with boxes of all shapes and sizes (thank you everyone who supplied them), sand and water play, our ever-popular Messy Mornings and equally enjoyed cooking sessions.

Our Autumn term was “interesting”! No heating in the Owens Hall meant a certain amount of room alterations and, just to complicate matters, the new boilers were fitted on a Thursday, as was the ducting a week or two later. Whist I was sure the toddlers would have loved to help the workmen; I felt that perhaps large chunks of metal and small children did not really go together, so we had to cancel our meetings, as we did another week, as the kitchen and hall were needed. But we finished the year on a high note, with a happy Christmas party, to which a very special visitor and his elf helper were enthusiastically welcomed!

If you would like to know more about the group or even come and help us from time to time, I would be more than happy to talk to you. As it is, all of us at Toddlers thank you for your prayers and support, which is really valued

Pat Knowles

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

2016 was a challenging year and it wasn’t just the thought provoking messages our speakers have brought us!

Prayer, Fellowship, Friendship and Support combined with interesting speakers are the backbone of our programme to which in 2016 we added instant adaptability. We welcome all to our worship meetings including men!

We found that we require a D. I. Y. programme available in case we need a sudden substitute as health problems have resulted in several booked speakers reluctantly cancelling at short notice. We have, as usual, welcomed excellent speakers arranged by Peggy Chamberlain. A challenging task. However the speakers have themselves suggested other folks and we even had a visitor to one of our meetings offer to come back as a speaker. We also enjoyed member’s afternoons, a Bible ABC. Easter Meditation, Songs of Praise and the annual Baptist Women’s World Day of Prayer

We held our Anniversary on 19th April with Major Gill Smith from the Salvation Army as our speaker. We enjoyed the service followed by an excellent tea whilst entertaining friends from other local church fellowships

As the weather became cooler and the church boilers were dead we moved out of the Owen’s Hall for seven meetings and into the Lancaster room. Here we were a bit squashed but warm! We did manage to work the PA system (just.) We cancelled the meeting on 25th October.

During the year we mourned Doris Pond and Christine Newton and our friend Trevor Giles as they left us to be with the Lord.

Four new members were welcomed and they very quickly became fully involved, helping with the washing up, clearing the room and chatting to other members.

Janet Thornhill is a regular speaker and she always shares with us the antics of the animals at Green Pastures in Hambledon. On 5th July, a glorious sunny day, we travelled in private cars to meet Janet and her helpers for a very enjoyable afternoon of worship, songs, viewed pictures of the animals (positive characters), culminating in an excellent tea.

During the year we were able to contribute over £1000 to various charities. (including W.B.C.)

Lucie Whittaker and Joyce Nixon

Anyone wishing to join or help with
any of the activities mentioned
in these reports should contact
the person listed or any Church Officer
for more information.