

MULBARTON CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT

for 2014 – 15

[Note from compiler: the following reports are in the order of the agenda for the APCM]

ELECTORAL ROLL FOR 2015-6

Final numbers will be displayed at the end of March and announced at APCM. Please check your entry when the new Roll is displayed – currently there are 73 members (8 have come off; 5 have applied to come on since last APCM).

ADMINISTRATION

CHURCHWARDENS' REPORT – Becky Taylor & Patrick Theobald

Our sincere thanks go to the members of the Church Fabric Team who have once again done an amazing job of assessing damage, getting quotations, and making minor repairs as and where necessary. Please refer to the Fabric Team's Report (below) for a more details on the above. We are certainly blessed to have people in our church family who not only have practical gifting but are able to liaise with other departments within the Diocese as well as with contractors and then report back to the PCC in words we can all understand.

PCC LAY CHAIR'S REPORT – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

We have now completed the first year with Adrian as our Rector. As Lay-Vice Chair it has been a privilege to assist in this time of transition and huge learning curve, particularly for Adrian. Adrian is a 'hands-on' PCC Chair with excellent IT skills, so the role of the Lay Vice Chair is now quite different! However, Adrian had to hit the ground running as major decisions regarding the Budget, Parish Share, Fabric, Harvest House, Letton Hall w/e and staffing issues needed to be made. Extra meetings of the PCC and communication with Church Family all took place and Adrian has been a safe pair of hands steering us through some rocky waters. The shore is still some way off and we don't know God's plan for Mulbarton, but we have every confidence and faith that good choices have been made which provide a firm foundation for the future. I want to thank all the members of the PCC for their unwavering support and loyal attendance but particular thanks are owed to Tony Lovick for his outstanding management of the finances and clear presentations to us all and to Rosemary Swords who is leaving Mulbarton and therefore resigning as Secretary. She has been very efficient and much appreciated. For those who are not re-standing for the PCC thank you so much for all you have done as well as to so many who have contributed over the years. Jeanette has left us as our cleaner, so many thanks to her for her faithful service for so many years. Alison Cockrell has stood down as HH booking Secretary and has also been much appreciated.

HUMBLEYARD DEANERY SYNOD – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

Firstly many thanks to Jill Wright & Rupert Wilkins who have been our most conscientious and faithful Humbleyard Deanery Secretary and Assessor/Treasurer respectively for a number of years but both resigned before the elections last year. They have proved impossible to replace although Rupert has agreed to remain the Treasurer at present. Since the Deanery ceased to have responsibility for setting the Parish share there seems less interest, with only about a third of the possible membership now attending.

There have been three meetings since the last APCM. Each had interesting discussions with speakers, on the Subjects of Religious Education in Schools, the practicalities at the End of Life, (ensuring we have wills, Advanced Decisions, etc) and in February 2015, Angela George refreshed us on Youth and Children's work in the Diocese which was very encouraging. The new Dean of Norwich Cathedral, the Very Rev Jane Hedges, is the speaker in June. We are raising a question at the next Diocesan Synod to seek clarification on the role of Deaneries in the current climate. Nationally it is a very mixed picture with changing structures and roles for Deaneries as I learned at the excellent National Deaneries Conference which I was privileged to attend on behalf of Norfolk.

NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

Three of us are elected from the Deanery with voting rights at Diocesan Synod. This is a well-attended, lively meeting which the Bishops, Archdeacons and Senior staff attend. Three meetings in the last year have discussed amongst much else, Church Growth, Living Wage, Pastoral Care and Women Bishops. Reports on Parish Share, General Synod and national issues including Bishop Graham's work in the Houses of Parliament are received as well as links with Papua New Guinea and Sweden. In addition Vivienne attends the Bishop's Council which facilitates more questioning, thoughtful times with the Bishops, Archdeacons, Diocesan staff and reps from Committees and means items can be discussed in more depth than at Diocesan Synod. This year is the end of the quinquennium of the General Synod and Triennium of the Diocesan Synod, so all members and Committee Chairs, etc will be subject to new elections, so the elections to Deanery Synods are particularly significant as they elect the Diocesan reps. The electoral roll is the means for everyone to have a vote for General Synod. So please ensure you are on the roll and exercise your votes!

FINANCE REPORT FOR 2014 – Tony Lovick (Treasurer)

A Special Year

2014 welcomed Adrian as Rector and said goodbye to Dawn as she left to take a place in Adrian's old benefice. This was a record year for special projects, which saw Katrina leave for mission training in Hawaii and Sam & Charlie to visit Uganda.

The unprecedented drop in income highlighted in last year's report has continued unabated. From its peak in 2010 our income is now close to half that value in 2014. Accommodating this decrease and adjusting to live within our means has taxed the PCC many times during the year. However with Parish Share increasing rapidly under the new Trio regime to adjust to the new Diocesan demands for a 45% levy on top of underlying clergy costs, there is little that can be done to prevent the two conflicting trends from impacting in a future year. In the meantime we have established a minimum reserve policy, placed some stretching spending cuts for 2015 and accepted the rapid decrease of our reserves towards that number.

Strategic Vision

Our Strategic Vision has been adapted following the rejection of Harvest House Annexe plans. A refurbishment of Harvest House is underway and a future smaller extension will be planned later.

Funding North Aisle Roof

The PCC has continued to designate funding for the North Aisle roof at the rate of £550 per month. A surprise announcement by the Chancellor in his Autumn statement to provide grant funding for roof repairs caused us to make a swift application before the January deadline, and if successful will mean that our £20,000 contribution plus a grant may allow us to undertake the repair in 2015.

Funding Harvest House Annexe

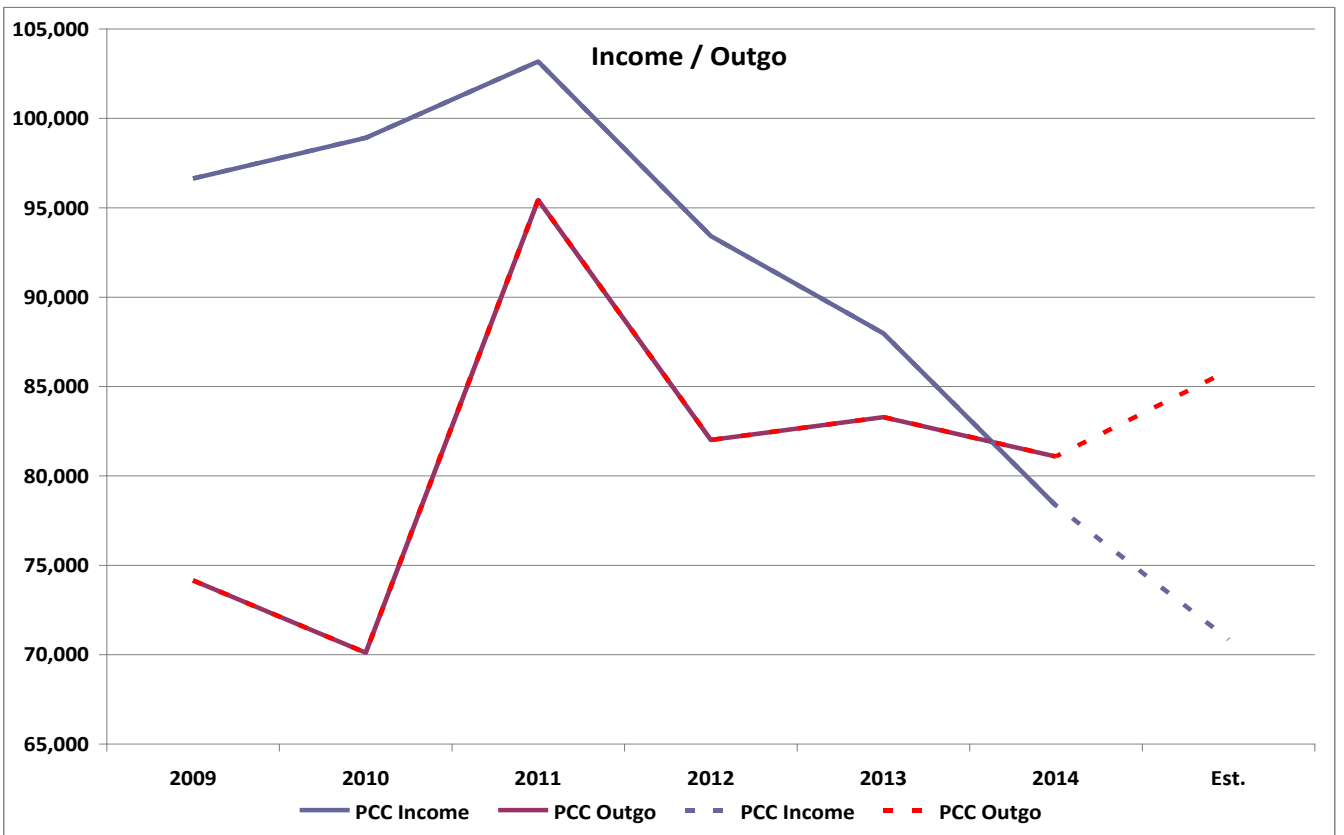
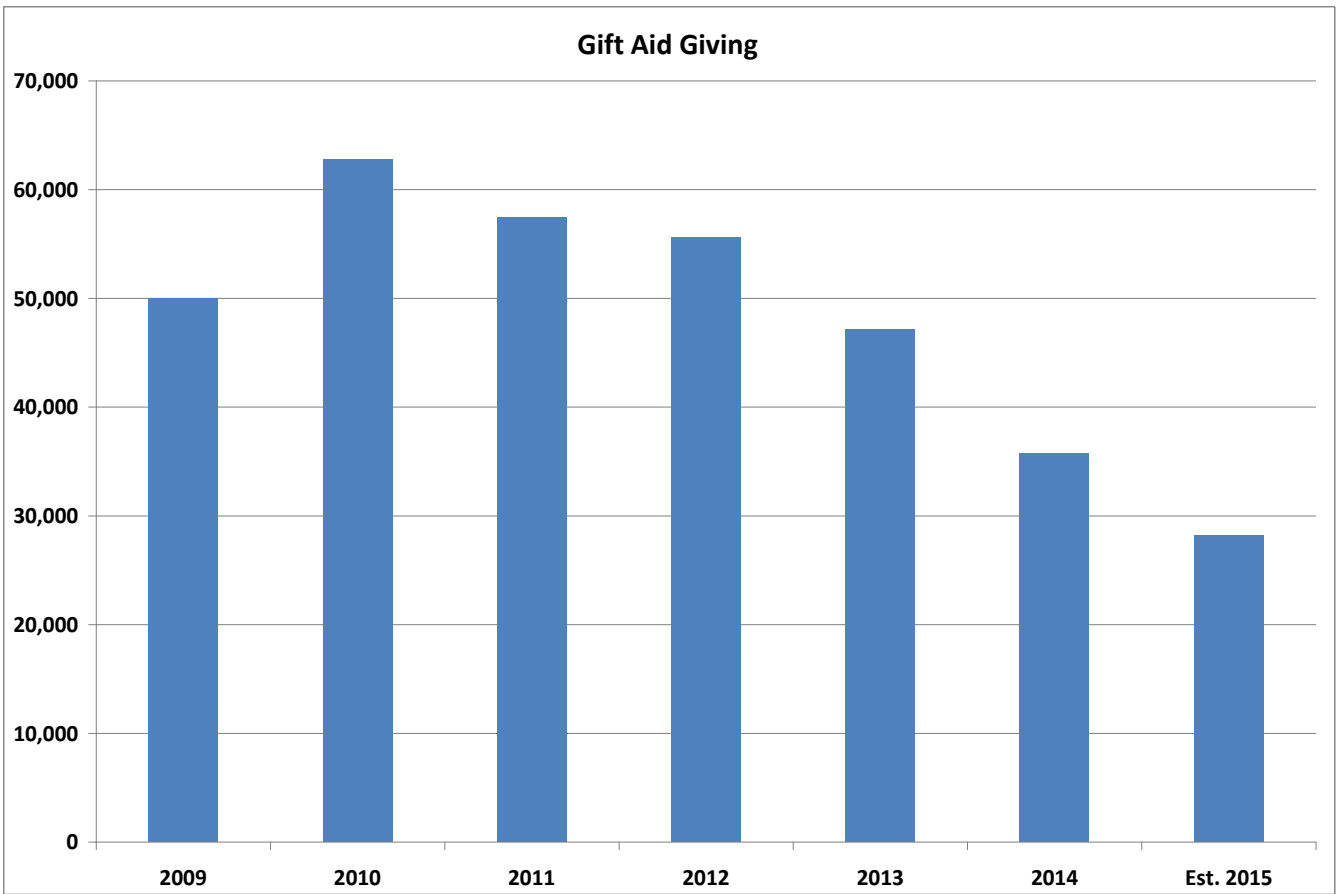
The PCC contribution to the Annexe vision was terminated early in 2014 when planning permission was rejected. In addition a letter was sent to all donors of the annexe fund offering back their contributions now the original vision was unachievable. Alternatives to reassign those donations to the refurbishment and future extension were widely accepted. The accounts show partial refunds totalling £16,000 to those who selected that option.

Welcome

Welcome to Bob Harris who has kindly agreed to succeed Symon Mellows as our Independent Examiner. Bob brings a wealth of experience as Treasurer of Shotesham and Attleborough to ensure our accounts meet best practice.

Special thanks to all the faithful and generous members who have continued to support us this year.

A COPY OF THE ACCOUNTS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE AFTER APPROVAL BY THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OR AT THE ANNUAL MEETING.



FABRIC REPORT

Chris Carter after some deliberation decided to step down from being co-ordinator and passed the baton on to Tom Taylor. Many thanks Chris for all you have done over the last couple of years. We have a dedicated and able team to oversee the work in the form of Rosemary Swords and Ian Dunlop. The fabric committees of HH and the church have now combined to be a 'super group' which means we can plan and coordinate both areas and use our time more efficiently.

CHURCH – Tom Taylor

With Adrian's arrival and him getting his head round some of the fabric issues both with Harvest House and the church itself we have found that outstanding issues and priorities change or are at least on hold for the moment as reassessment takes place.

At the end of last year we decided to take advantage of a tranche of funding made available through the diocese for the repair of leaking church roofs.

Adrian and Tony have been instrumental in going for the funding which has now been applied for in respect of the North Aisle roof, and we await the outcome. This funding is to pay for the removal the tiles re-felting and the replacement of gutters and channels, most of the old felt having perished over the years. Once this has been done we can start to think more seriously about the processes and costs involved in the replacement of the heating.

Eventually after much work we do hope to have the church opened every day.

CHURCHYARD – Tom Taylor

As we ever seek to reduce costs and improve the church inside and out we are currently investigating replacement lighting for the outside flood lights. Currently these are the old fashioned sort that although look great (except for the faulty one) are in fact a huge cost to run. The proposal is to replace these with soft light LEDs which will significantly reduce our power consumption, be more eco-friendly and give at least as much light, however the light at first may seem a little bluer than the ones we have at the moment; the up side being that they should more than pay for themselves over about three years.

The rest of the churchyard is going to be maintained as previously but we should all be aware that as costs rise the level of regular cutting in the less frequented areas may reduce.

The church path re-ordering has been put on hold for the present as we feel that the path comes second to the replacement of the north aisle roof.

We are still trying to bring some semblance of order to the rapidly growing trees in the churchyard and will be getting a tree surgeon to advise us on the best long term plans for the future, notwithstanding the removal of one or two of the more unsafe ones.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul Riches for his unstinting work in the church yard and his commitment maintaining it as well as he does for the hours allocated, and also to the Mulbarton Parish Council who sponsor much of Paul's work because this is the Parish graveyard.

Footnote from Rector: Memorials and pastoral churchyard issues

I have received several applications for gravestones with pictures on, which is unlawful under the May 2010 revision of the churchyard regulations, so after having spoken with the diocesan legal office, have applied for a relaxing of those regulations in the new part of the churchyard, so as to avoid unnecessary pastoral strain, and am hoping that the backlog of applications will be cleared soon. Issues with unlawful grave surrounds and chippings in the new part of Mulbarton churchyard remain not fully resolved. We have had a formal complaint issued about an overgrown bush on one of the gravespots in Mulbarton, for which we are in process of actioning removal.

We have had to cut down on expenditure for ground maintenance in Mulbarton a little bit in 2014, and generally the community has been supportive and understanding, with some who regularly visit graves undertaking some maintenance work themselves. All of our graveyards continue to be well visited and graves well attended.

HARVEST HOUSE – Ian Dunlop

The main event for 2014 was the installation of the heating system, just in time for winter!

We are now looking at having the roof stripped back, with effective felting; insulation, and removing all the areas where there have been leaks or overflows. We hope to be able to start this work in April 2015, which will then be followed by a gradual programme of refreshing and decorating.

As many are aware, we had applied for planning permission to build an annex onto HH, which would have provided more substantial meeting rooms; with a ground floor office and improved toilet facilities. Unfortunately, even on appeal with amended plans, our proposal was turned down.

During 2015, we have already started to look at what options may be open to us, so as to provide more space, but ensuring that we meet the suggestions of the planning inspector (such as a smaller floor area; not so large a building). We will keep the church apprised of progress once we start this work. Any suggestions or thoughts are more than welcome!

MINISTRY & OUTREACH OF MULBARTON CHURCH

RECTOR'S REPORT 2015 – Adrian Miller

“Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” - Joshua 3:5

Settling In

We took up office here on 6th February 2014. The year began with us settling in and getting to know people. We had 3 Open Rectory events, at which we met well into triple figures of local people. We had a pudding party with Mulbarton PCC, and I cooked a meal at the Rectory for the PCCs of the other 3 villages. I visited most of the ministry groups. I also wrote to 6 households each week from the church directory, inviting prayer requests and offering an opportunity to meet and chat in person, and I then prayed for all the people of each household each day for a week. At the end of this process, I had learnt a lot of names and heard many stories.

Discipling and Outreach

Lent gave an opportunity to engage in some deeper discipling through a 4-week learning programme, which I wrote around the themes in John 17 to which I was feeling drawn. Our focus for the summer term was to join in with the county-wide “Who Cares?” initiative, arranging personal visits to every home and business in the benefice. This was something Dawn had begun, and I was happy to take up the baton. Saying goodbye to Dawn in June 2014, and seeking to navigate through those changing waters was another big focus of that summer term.

After a reviving week at Revive camp in August, I spent the summer processing what I’d learned, praying, working on communication infrastructure, planning the remainder of the year and keeping the pastoral wheels moving.

It was clear that we had to reshuffle the benefice pattern of services after Dawn’s departure, and after much consultation and deliberation, settled on a new pattern, and also proceeded with diocesan authorising of worship assistants, so that Jill Wright and Peter Nicholls can lead worship and preach throughout the benefice. The new pattern remains something of a compromise but is about the best we can do for now. It will be reviewed mid-2015.

Alpha & Beyond

The autumn term provided an opportunity to follow-up the community outreach with an evangelistic effort, utilising the widely-known Alpha course, for which I did the talks myself. We had hoped to use Bracon Ash Village Hall as a neutral community venue for this, but a combination of fewer taking it up than hoped, and inadequate catering facilities meant that we moved to Harvest House, which worked very well. We enjoyed our Alpha day away at Quiet Waters Retreat House in

Bungay. Although fewer than hoped, those who did come on the course benefited from it, and it proved to be significant and fruitful.

This new year, 2015, has followed up the Alpha course with some deeper discipleship material. We have a brand new fortnightly men's group, using John Eldredge's "Band of Brothers", with 11 men attending for 6 evenings and one full Saturday, alongside a variety of Lent courses on different themes across the benefice.

Teaching and preaching

Teaching and preaching for 2014, aside from seasonal provision, generally flowed out of John 17 and Joshua 3 –considering the big prayers of Jesus and the lessons for church that can be discerned from Jesus' great prayer, especially the movement and flow of life, built on knowing God's protection and being set apart by God's truth. Through the summer we considered the 5 marks of church from John 17 (joy, love, community, glory and unity). The autumn term saw us focusing on spiritual gifts and ways of doing good, as we live out the love and community that we are called to express. The latter provided an opportunity to engage with some of the issues raised in the "Who Cares?" programme. Highlights were considering the challenge of adoption and fostering for Christian families, the need for the church to play its role and provide sanctuary for those experiencing domestic abuse, and some input on dealing with addictions.

Visiting Speakers

During 2014, we welcomed several visiting speakers:

- Christen Forster joined us for a weekend (15-16 March), teaching in Norwich on "The Supernatural Life", and then preaching at Mulbarton Church the following day, bringing a challenging word around the theme of living victoriously in Babylon.
- Racheal Mutesi spoke to us in the spring about her experience of growing up in poverty in Uganda and brought a pertinent message about the transforming love of God.
- Diane Devine and Sam Brinkley visited our evening healing services, Sam making a return visit to Mulbarton morning service in February 2015.
- We did arrange for Clifford Hill to visit us in June, as part of his national tour, talking about "Living Victoriously in Babylon", but had to cancel because of a clash with Dawn's farewell.
- Rev Dr Medad Birungi joined us for a few days (11-14 September), and spoke at Hanover and in the churches, bringing a moving testimony and a lengthy and searching message, covering a lot of ground with a distinctly African perspective.
- Natalie Collins, campaigner for gender justice, joined us for a weekend (15-16 November), to deliver some training for the curates of this diocese on the Saturday, which I'd arranged, as well as speaking at 3 services here on the Sunday morning. She offered an inspiring vision of the role church can play with really important contemporary issues.
- Jessica Taylor visited Mulbarton Church on 23 November to speak to us about her work with Operation Orphan.

Elders

Dawn, Patrick and Tom met with me several times in the settling in phase, and I was meeting with Dawn fairly regularly to pray together and chat. This was immensely helpful to me in processing all that I was learning. We were sad to say goodbye to Dawn – but we understood and supported her sense of call to pastures new, and were delighted with the fabulous send-off she was given. My evenings became quite pressured, and with family strains and special trips away for others, regular elders' meetings became difficult to maintain – although Tom, Patrick and I have continued to meet occasionally to talk and pray, which has been helpful. We also met together more Wednesday mornings than not after the summer for early morning prayers.

Prayer

The **prayer chain** was renewed by Dawn just before she left. We appealed for someone to take on the administration of this from Dawn, but with nobody forthcoming. It has continued to function in an *ad hoc* manner, sometimes with people calling me to activate, and sometimes people activating it directly by calling the top 3 people. Some names have since come off the list, and others need swapping about to reflect changed circumstances, and there is a plan to make an electronic facility available alongside this.

Prayer ministry continues to be made available after church services in Mulbarton, and there is ongoing prayer informally offered in the other parishes, often outside of church. The 2 early morning prayer meetings in the Harvest House prayer room at 6:30am on Wednesdays and Saturdays have continued to function (see below under 'Other Ministries'). Patrick has been exploring the possibility of beginning a Local House of Prayer, to join in with the Ffald-y-Brenin initiative, in partnership with the Norwich House of Prayer, where I serve as trustee.

Financial challenges

With falling income and increasing costs, we experienced a continuing squeeze in 2014. We applied as a benefice for some transitional relief with the parish share increase for 2015, and were granted an increase of 10% rather than 15%, bringing the share request to £51,000. I have had to focus on how best to manage this situation and to plan for growth in it over this past year. We have cut some expenditure, reshaped staffing, applied for grants, formulated a reserves policy for Mulbarton Church and are making plans for a benefice-wide stewardship focus later this year.

Staffing changes

Letton Hall provided space to think about team building and staffing, and I caught something of a vision there for a pastoral assistant post. In casting this vision tentatively among our own folk, an anonymous donation made it possible to bring this speedily into reality. As this was in process, Danny handed in his notice in mid-December, to bring his work with Mulbarton Church as youth work facilitator to a close at the end of January 2015.

After much consultation around the 4 villages, we settled on a radical reshuffling of employed staff. The end result is that we have a pastoral assistant on a one-year placement, working 36 hours per week, the administrative assistant increasing hours from 8 to 20 per week, and the youth work being carried for the time being by a combination of volunteers and me doing much more with them. We invited Holly Newbery to apply for the pastoral assistant post in January 2015, and after a solid application letter and CV, and a convincing interview with myself and 2 other representatives, agreed to employ Holly, beginning on Mon 16th Feb 2015. The brief is to have wide experience of all the facets of church ministry, with a particular focus on home visiting. The post pays the minimum wage, plus training costs, and that includes paid time set aside for study.

I have had conversations with our bishop about the possibility of a stipendiary curate joining us in summer 2016, and that interest has been registered.

Baptisms, weddings & funerals

I've established a shared online spreadsheet to keep track of occasional offices, including fees, contact details for next-of-kin, and other helpful details. Those who have access to this document are treasurers, service leaders, churchyard managers and magazine editors. It assists treasurers in keeping track of fees and diocesan returns - providing an audit trail – and also gives magazine editors a way of accessing information from the church registers.

During 2014:

- we had 10 baptisms in Mulbarton (3 conducted by Dawn and 7 by myself) and 2 in Hethel (both conducted by Cathy).
- I buried 4 sets of ashes in Mulbarton, and Philip Butcher buried one more set.

- I conducted 3 funeral services at the crematorium, 2 for Mulbarton residents and 1 for Flordon.
- I conducted 7 funeral services in churches, 1 in Flordon, 2 in Bracon Ash and 4 in Mulbarton. Jess Stubenbord also conducted a funeral service in Mulbarton Church.
- Dawn conducted 9 wedding ceremonies, 1 in Flordon, 3 in Hethel and 5 in Mulbarton. I conducted 1 wedding ceremony in Mulbarton.

Visiting

I have been aware of following the ministry of an excellent home visitor and I know that the bar has been set very high by my predecessor in that regard. I have sought to undertake as much visiting as my diary has allowed, but have often felt frustrated that it has fallen short of what I would like. With the change in staffing, I'm hopeful that more home visiting might be accomplished.

Personal Reflections

I've really enjoyed the company over this last year as we've navigated the sometimes choppy waters of change. There have been comings and goings among the worshipping community, and much adjusting for us all to do, but there have certainly been signs of growth, and the promise of good things to come, for which we are keen to prepare ourselves. It has taken the full year to get the Rectory and office sorted and functional in order to give us a good base from which to work. It has been good to see our children settle so readily here. Despite some challenging health issues through the year, and the on-going challenges of parenting, seeking that elusive work-life balance and making new friends, we feel absolutely in the call of God and we are grateful for the warmth and support which has come to us from so many.

Future plans

I can see us pushing the question of relevance – being relevant as church to the communities we serve, and helping people see the relevance of the message we bear to their daily lives. This is about facing up to and overcoming the “church-in-a-bubble” syndrome, the circling of the wagons, which can so easily beset us, and which Kim spoke into at Letton. I see us breaking new ground in terms of our ministry to the elderly, in showing Jesus' love in action – and I look forward to welcoming Suzi and team soon to offer some training on that. I see us developing welcome as an overarching theme in what we do, so that we provide that safe space, that security in shaking times – not only as a safe harbour in which to moor, but as a lifeboat that ventures out to people struggling on the choppy waters and storms of life. I see us developing the eldership, the leadership team, reaching, raising and releasing leaders in different spheres. I see a strengthening of that which remains, a going deeper in our discipleship. I see blessing and opposition. I see a shared adventure to be had, and a vital role for us each to play – and underneath it all the call for us to rise and love one another, according to Jesus' new commandment, the verse for 2015-16:

“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.” - John 13:35

Worship Team Report – Becky Taylor

What a joy it is to serve God in this way. It was wonderful to see the youngsters taking part as Danny led worship for us. A big thank you to them and please do let me have your contact details if you would like to know when practices are. We are always happy to have new musicians join us for practices if you want to have a go without any obligation to play for the service. We are adapting well to the new service rota. Our aim is to use a variety of music to enable us all to come into a closer relationship with God. If you hear a song/hymn which you feel might be good for us to use either when you are worshipping elsewhere or listening to the radio please do let us know. Ideally we would love to meet together as a team for fellowship but members' lives are busy and this hasn't happened in the past year. We are in the process of transferring the music into files rather than

using the suspended filing system as replacement files were proving too expensive. The drumming Rector is very encouraging and a great asset!

'FRESH EXPRESSIONS'

Café Church – Bev Theobald

We run café church on a monthly basis. The format is similar each month but the themes are varied. We try to consider themes that reach out to others such as bereavement. The café church team are very grateful to those who have supported either by serving coffee, baking cakes or setting up the room. It would be good to see more people joining us from the village but I suspect we need to personally invite them along. The aim continues to be making God known to those who don't come to our church based services.

Church @ Hanover – Nina Davey

When we were planning Church at Hanover the decision was made that we would have a 3-month trial to see how it would go. Our first service was 22nd Jan 2012 when 30 people came – 2/3rds were Hanover residents; the others were friends living locally. Now we are well past our trial period! Our January 2015 service started our 4th year.

The average attendance at the monthly 4th Sunday service is 40 people, which is made up of approximately half Hanover residents and half friends living locally. At Christmas 2014 the Carol Service was held on the morning of Christmas Eve and was very well attended.

We have Bible-based teaching; our prayers are often led by members of the congregation, and the hymn-singing is always enthusiastic. Almost everyone stays for refreshments and a chat after the service, which is very encouraging. People give generously to the offering, which is sent to various charities in alternate months, with the offering in the other months contributing to our Benefice parish share.

During these past years we have become a really close church family and we give a warm welcome to everyone who visits or comes regularly. We praise God for all that has passed and wait on him for all that is to come.

Hanover Thursday Group

A group of 15 – 20 people meet in the Hanover Lounge for an informal service on the 2nd Thursday afternoon each month – mostly Hanover residents, but some local friends, too. This has a strong teaching element to complement the monthly Sunday service.

OTHER MINISTRIES

Saturday and Wednesday early prayer groups – Tom Taylor

We would love to say that the numbers were now so many that we have had to move downstairs: sadly this isn't the case and it remains as the five or six hardy souls who brave an early start to the day (braving the wind and rain as well as witnessing the glory of some majestic sunrises), to call out to God for the church and the village in all their different aspects.

We praise the God of creation and thank him for all he has done, intercession follows and we finish by praying for unity and revival in our local churches and for healing for those whose names are in the basket at the foot of the cross.

We try to keep to time as much as possible starting at 6.30am and praying for an hour.

Come on give it a try!!

Moms in Prayer breakfast – Helen Pennington

"Imagine what God could do with a generation of prayed for children!"

Moms In Prayer International is a non-denominational prayer ministry whose mission is to impact children and schools worldwide for Christ by gathering mothers to pray.

Aim: To introduce mums, grandmas, aunties and ladies who want to impact our children and schools for Christ through prayer to Moms in Prayer International (MIPI) and their prayer format, the four steps of prayer; to equip mums with the confidence to form their own group to pray for children and schools.

When: Once a term in Harvest House

What: We start promptly with an hour of guided scriptural prayer following MIPI's four steps of prayer (Praise; Confession; Thanksgiving & Intercession) at the end of the time of prayer there is a simple breakfast with conversation, laughter, sometimes tears and the question when is the next breakfast, providing an opportunity to suggest they may like to start their own MIP prayer group with one other mother. The table is set so we are all able to sit around a large table family style with a small gift and scripture for each mum to take home. This year the gifts have included a fridge magnet (3 John 1:4) a heart bookmark (Romans 8:39) and a post-it book decorated with Psalm 27:8. Two of these were gifts from a Mums in Prayer Area Coordinator.

Attendance: This has grown to include mothers from seven churches in and around Norwich with an average of 12 women attending. There has even been interest expressed to join us from as far as Essex.

Growth: This year my MIPI group of two or three opened up to any mum who wanted to join us. We now have six members of which only two live in this benefice. The other Mulbarton group remains stable. There has been much positive feedback from the mothers at the timing of joining a group and their personal prayer life growing.

Me: I am a Contact Person for Mums in Prayer UK for Norwich and beyond which realistically covers all of East Anglia. I was privileged to attend the Moms in Prayer International celebration, 'Festival of Joy' in Dallas, USA during October 2014 to celebrate 30 year of MIPI worldwide. There was a worldwide attendance of over 1000 women. During this time I attended specific training for international leaders as well as received training, equipping and fellowship for this prayer ministry. I have brought back a few MIPI prayer booklets and leaders' guides which are available to purchase, and free flyers available on request. More details about MIPI can be found on their websites www.momsinprayer.eu and www.momsinprayer.org.

An area dedicated to Moms in Prayer can be found in Harvest House prayer room.

Church weekend away – Sue Mellows

As usual our church weekend away in October 2014 was at Letton Hall near Dereham. 71 of us, including all the children and babies, were resident for the weekend plus day visitors, (19 on the Saturday and 3 on Sunday).

The youth stayed in dormitories in Dolphin Court, with their activities in the meeting room there, while the adults and children stay in the Main Hall. Everyone met up at mealtimes taken in the Main Hall together and for the Saturday night's entertainment.

The theme for the 2013 weekend was 'The Butterfly Effect' The speaker for the adults were Kim and Penny Swithenbank who among other things headed up Alpha USA for some years. Their teaching for the weekend was based on New Testament Characters. Danny and Lauren Ellero led the youth programme. Andy Jones from Hope Church led the children's work.

Once again we were very grateful to Tom who masterminded our Friday and Saturday night supper and our Sunday lunch superbly. Thanks for all the hard work of the committee planning this event over the year, with a special mention for Danny Ellero and Adrian Munn who have left the church and who both served on the committee for some years.

The committee for 2015, comprising Liz Jesse, Jim Harrald, Adrian Miller, Andrea Lovick, Claire Cormack, Sally Hayward, Stewart Burchell and myself, would welcome ideas to encourage more church family to come and join in the whole weekend and also would be very glad to receive your comments generally on the weekend away.

OUTREACH

SODA (School's Out Dad's About) Dads and kids mornings – Bev Theobald

Although a school event this couldn't happen without the support of the church. It is mainly Becky and Tom but a couple of others have helped out too. We try to have one session a month or at least half termly. The atmosphere is great and the morning very much appreciated by the 20+ number of dads that come along. It is an easy way to link up with families in the village.

Men's breakfast – Ian Dunlop

Not quite faded out, but only one breakfast organised in the past year.

TIFFINS – a Wednesday morning coffee morning in Harvest House pioneered by John & Maureen Blakey and aimed primarily at Mums and tots. This faded out during 2014. (Ed.)

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Mulbarton Christmas Fayre – Jill Wright

Following a successful start in 2013 the Parish Council again organised and funded a Village Christmas Fayre with more marquees, more lighting and more activities. The church played a part in the planning and participating at the event. We had a small display with free leaflets that attracted very limited interest, but puppets in the Jubilee Room (near the WI refreshments) and carols round the Christmas tree did draw people. Unfortunately some key people were unavailable which reduced the impact of both the display and the carol singing, and the clearing up fell to Adrian and very few helpers.

WORK WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Bouncers – headed up by Alison Pond (report by Rachel Burchell)

The wonderful thing about Bouncers

Is Bouncers do wonderful things!

We sing and make and play games lots

And learn about life Jesus brings!

We're bouncy, trouncy, flouncy, pouncy

Fun, fun, fun, fun, fun!

But the most wonderful thing about Bouncers is

We love everyone!

A fun, bouncy group with 3 - 4 regulars and a gorgeous group of leaders and helpers. Many thanks to them all!

CCC (Children's Christian Club) & Revelation – Rupert Wilkins

CCC and Revelation met as a single group downstairs in Harvest House, whenever there was not a family/café church service during term time. We typically had 5 children, led by Sarah Miller, Liz Jesse and Rupert Wilkins, with several great helpers.

We used the Energize resources from Urban Saints, which give a good mix of games, drama, teaching, crafts and lively activities. We worked on the following sets of meeting plans:

- Christian commitment
- Apologetics – Tackling some of the big questions in Christianity
- New Testament letters – Taking an overview of one of the letters each week.

Xtreme – Adrian & Sarah Miller

Xtreme continued through the year, a little fewer in number, and reshaping to be volunteer-led from February 2015, and with the launch of “Xtreme Screen” once a month, where the youth watch a film together on Saturday night and then discuss themes on Sunday morning.

Switch – Adrian Miller

Meets on a Thursday evening for young people from Year 8 to 18+, a place for fun, food, fellowship, engaging Bible study and prayer. Switch continued strongly under Danny’s leadership in 2014, and this term I have been preparing some of the young people for confirmation, and plan to continue leading through 2015, along with Sarah and Holly.

Mission Academies – Adrian Miller

6 of our young people graduated from the Norfolk Mission Academy. Although they have talked around various possibilities, they have not yet put into practice the specific mission initiative that had been hoped for. The planned launch date for the 2nd intake into the Mission Academy was delayed from September 2014, and no more of our young people have enrolled onto this course.

Newday – contributions from some who went

About 15 young people from Mulbarton joined around 8000 others at the Norfolk Showground for a week of worship, teaching, challenge and great fun. The weather was good all week, which was great for camping! At least one person committed their life to Christ for the first time, and others were challenged to a deeper commitment.

Overseas visits: 3 of our young people have had direct experience of overseas mission and service: Sam Theobald and Charlie Moore went to Uganda in August with a group from Holy Trinity, Norwich: *In the summer Charlie and I went to the Uganda, it was an amazing trip. We went to two places, Mbale and Kampala. In Kampala we did general clearing of rubbish and gardening. In Mbale we built and painted a playground. The trip was amazing and wonderful:, seeing the joy of the children and the adults at the work we did was heartwarming. It was a spiritually fulfilling trip and I can't thank the church enough for funding us to go. It wouldn't have been possible without you and thank you so much for your prayers as well: your prayers sustained us for those two very emotional two weeks. Thank you so much*

Katrina Taylor was accepted on the YWAM (Youth With A Mission) ‘Fire & Fragrance’ Discipleship Training School in Kona, Hawaii, after which she was sent to Nepal for 3 months.

All 3 had to raise a considerable amount of money to cover expenses, and church members rallied to their support. (compiled by Sam Theobald with additions by Jill Wright)

Storykeepers – Bev Theobald

This has been a popular after school club for many years but it does take a lot of organising. After a considerable amount of thought and prayer I decided to finish running Storykeepers. I was finding it difficult to run in my new role at school and no-one else was offering to lead it. Thankfully Adrian and a band of willing volunteers are now coming into school (since Feb half-term 2015) to open up the Bible to all the children. Pray that this new venture, **Open the Book**, touches families with the good news of God's love.

Energy – Holly Newbery

Energy was running up until the end of the Christmas term 2014, each Wednesday from 3.15pm – 4.30pm at Mulbarton Junior School with around 15 children attending each week. Themes such as Healthy Body and Handling Emotions were tackled. With Danny resigning as the church youth worker, the decision was made that Energy had run its course and that it would not continue after the Christmas holidays.

Schools – Adrian Miller

The ministry at Mulbarton Infant and Junior Schools has changed shape, with Storykeepers and Energy coming naturally to the end of their lives, after years of significant and fruitful service. We are immensely grateful to those who laboured in these ministries. This term we launched Open the Book weekly at the Infant School, and hope to be able to take that into the Junior School as well.

Scouts – Adrian Miller

We welcomed 1st Mulbarton Scout group to church for St George's Day on 27 April, and I have joined the exec committee. We have various church members volunteering there, and really do value the links we have.

YOUTH MANAGEMENT TEAM – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

This dissolved when Jess retired but in the short term Danny was overseen by myself, Tom & Dawn. His management transferred to Adrian & Sarah in March 2014 and his good work continued until he left us in January 2015. We had the joy of seeing Danny & Lauren married in July and they made a terrific contribution to the Letton Hall family w/e. Danny is greatly missed, especially by the young people, but we do wish him well.

CHILD & VULNERABLE ADULT PROTECTION – David Pollard

During the year two people were checked and passed for service as voluntary young people's workers. Three people reached the five year expiration limit for their checks but did not need to have these renewed because two had left the parish and the third is no longer working with young people. The new Pastoral Assistant is currently in the process of being checked.

We would like to express our thanks to Fiona Munn, who has been serving as our Named Person for Vulnerable Adults, and wish her, Adrian and their family every blessing in their new church. It is essential that a replacement for Fiona in this position is found as soon as possible and certainly before the next Archdeacon's visitation.

MINISTRY / DISCIPLESHIP / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS FOR ADULTS

BARNABAS GROUP – Jill Wright

We have continued to meet at my house on alternate Monday evenings, with a few gaps for holidays. During 2014 most of our studies were based on leaflets from one or other of the 'Mapping....' series published by the Diocese. The visual impact helps some members, and everyone can take a leaflet home for further study. At the start of 2015 we looked at the life of Peter as recorded in the Gospels and Acts, in preparation for a weekly Lent series on his first Epistle. About 7 people come regularly (including 1 from Flordon and others who do not normally attend the Mulbarton 10am service), with one or two joining occasionally. During Lent 2015 we have welcomed additional people, including a small contingent from Flordon, and Felicity McIlwrath has kindly hosted those meetings in her more spacious sitting room. But there is room for more at our regular Bible studies which start at 7.30 with refreshments and end by 9pm and don't include any singing (!)

CAMEO (Come And Meet Each Other) – Felicity McIlwrath

During the past year numbers attending remained more or less stable, with only one loss due to ill health. It has been a happy year meeting together at The Gables on alternate Tuesday mornings. One further loss has been Helen Pennington, with us from the beginning of CAMEO and now in a new situation as a professional carer. She has been a stalwart with her lively caring nature and will be greatly missed – as will be her interesting cookies!

I would like to thank, too, Diane Robinson, another stalwart from the beginning, whose help with lifts, cooking cakes/cookies, crafts and ideas has been invaluable. Eleanor Burchell has also recently been supplying us with lovely cakes and cookies as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award endeavours. Edna Pollard produces an amazing quantity of knitted squares and a number of other members faithfully knit or crochet, too, in order to provide the basis for the lovely blankets that we send to 'Link to Hope'.

As often as possible, the ladies are entertained by a visiting speaker or someone demonstrating a craft activity. Among those visitors have been Adrian, our new Rector; Dawn Davidson, now at Saxlingham Nethergate; Cathy Nichols on her life's journey; Rachel Burchell giving a musical interlude with Christmas carols; and Elizabeth Gill telling us about the work of 'Grass Roots' in Tanzania. In addition there have been mornings with special emphasis on various crafts such as knitting, painting eggshells, and making Christmas wreaths.

Finally, but certainly not least, the annual 'shoe-box' operation in support of 'Link to Hope' - formerly 'Link to Romania' but now with a wider focus on other countries where there is a need for something to brighten up lives lived in excruciating poverty and oppression. This year CAMEO, with the help of churches in the Benefice, Church @ Hanover and other friends, produced 31 shoe boxes. In addition 2 large blankets and 7 small blankets were knitted by group members.

CAMEO's aim is to provide companionship and an escape for ladies who are shut-in or lonely. We heartily welcome newcomers and can arrange for lifts to and from The Gables.

TUESDAY EVENING MINISTRY GROUP – Patrick & Bev Theobald

We are a small group but we are very committed to supporting each other. We meet each week and enjoy fellowship, prayer and Bible study. Sometimes the study takes the form of a DVD and at other times we have used a published Bible study. We have also enjoyed social events like carolling around Southern Reach followed by a shared meal.

WEDNESDAY MORNING MINISTRY GROUP – Pauline Jones

We are a small group and would welcome others to join us with open arms. We meet on Wednesday mornings 9:30 - approx. 11:00 in different homes and Margaret Fenn is our contact:- she is at 29 Wood Lane , Swardeston , Tel. 578123 .

Sometimes we use Bible study books or sometimes we take a subject e.g. Faith and do our own research looking at the lives of people of faith like Enoch, Abraham, etc. and this is both challenging and rewarding as we try to learn from them. The past few months have been very difficult for us to always be all together because of illness, family problems etc. Through all this we have kept in close touch by phone, text, visiting, and this seems to have brought us closer together. At the moment we are enjoying a study called " Jesus our Wounded Saviour " looking at how He can empathise with us through all our trials and troubles because He has been there too and totally understands, which has given us great comfort .

WEDNESDAY EVENING MINISTRY GROUP – Tom Taylor

At present we have about nine regulars with the occasional visitor. Enthusiastic worship is followed by a study time or occasionally a focused time of prayer.

This year we have been studying Jill Wright's excellent study booklet on Ephesians and had one or two guest speakers such as Bal from northern India who encouraged us in the word and in prayer. We are currently listening to some of the Nottingham Christian Centre talks and are looking at the possibilities of starting a new course called 'Weird'.

We would love to have some new faces join us so come and give it a try.

MUMS TOGETHER (Thursday Mornings) – Julie Wilkins

Mums Together continues to try to meet weekly during term time. As before Mums Together Plus is on the first and third Thursdays of the month, but we now meet in the afternoon to suit people's other commitments and usually but not always at the Rectory. Lately we have been studying a Women of Faith study "*A Time For Everything*", which we have been enjoying. Our numbers have been lower with just four of us meeting regular to study. The Mums Together coffee mornings have been even quieter. We have tried to vary the times we meet for this to allow different mums to get along. A combination of children growing up and lives getting busier might explain our numbers.

TREE CLIMBERS – Rachel Burchell

Tree climbers continues to meet on Monday evenings, though recently merged with the *Mapping Lent* course. We are a small group that supports each other through the difficulties life continues to face us with, and enjoys varied discussion and honesty about any topic. We have recently been using some short films by Adrian Plass ('Yorkshire Pudding') and notes connected with these to discuss relevant church and spiritual issues. We thoroughly enjoyed the *Mapping Advent* course we worked through before Christmas, which led to some new insights and ways of looking at the Christian life and the coming of Jesus. New members are always welcome who would value an open-minded, accepting environment to discuss the thornier questions of life and our faith.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON MINISTRY GROUP – Lynne Lambert

The Friday Afternoon Ministry Group has met regularly over the last year with a steady attendance of six ladies. We finished our study "*Developing Power Thoughts*" by Joyce Meyer and since then we have been enjoying "*A Time for Everything*" by Margaret Feinberg based on Ecclesiastes. For our Christmas Social we met for afternoon tea at "The Station Bistro" at Wymondham and enjoyed coffee and cake and of course, Secret Santa lucky dip! We are now embarking on a Lent study by John Birch based on Isaac Watts' hymn "*When I survey the wondrous cross.*" We meet from 1.30pm for coffee and chat then have prayer, study and worship from 2pm until 3.30pm.

CHURCH SUPPORT FOR HOME & OVERSEAS MISSION

The GIVING TEAM met once in 2014 to recommend that Operation Orphan replaced Norwich Youth for Christ for our regular support, and to agree a minimum figure for supporting each Mission organisation. As the 'tithes' of the church accounts was well below the agreed level of support, further meetings were not needed.

SUPPORT FOR CONGO – Jill Wright (+ Rachel Burchell on 'Awake Mother')

The total given specifically for Congo amounted to £725 (including GiftAid). The PCC had agreed to guarantee support for the 2 Diocese at £800 each for the year (down from £1000 in 2013) so the additional £875 came from regular giving to the church. [Also a small part of the 'Gutters Project' giving from 2013 was forwarded in 2014.]

Diocese of Bukavu

We continue to receive Reports and e-mail updates on developments in this large Diocese on the eastern border of D.R.Congo, centred around the towns of Bukavu (at the south end of Lake Kivu) and Goma (at the north end). The Bishop, Rt Rev Bahati Bali-Busane Sylvestre, has visited us in the past, but was unable to fit in a visit during his last trip to the UK. We guarantee the salary of the Diocesan Secretary.

Desire Mukanirwa Kadorho, a Vicar in Goma, has overseen the completion of the 'gutters project' (to conserve rainwater) and has seen encouraging results from several Missions in the area. He has recently become the *Provincial* (i.e. covering ALL D R Congo and part of neighbouring Congo

Brazzaville!) Evangelism Co-ordinator and has sent reports on evangelistic campaigns eastern Congo, around Uvira (bordering on Burundi) and around Aru and Boga (bordering on Uganda). I have circulated his reports and prayer requests for outreach to soldiers, school pupils, prisoners, pygmies and Muslims. The 11th Diocesan Synod held in 2014 agreed to create a new Diocese from the part of Bukavu Diocese that is north of Lake Kivu, so do pray for wisdom as to how that is divided and who becomes the new Bishop.

Diocese of Kindu

Kindu Diocese was the result of another division of Bukavu Diocese some years ago and is based around Kindu, a city that straddles the River Congo. Bishop Masemango heads up work in this Diocese with very little in the way of support staff – people with qualifications can get much higher and more regular salaries in secular work than with the Anglican church. Such problems were explained to us when the Bishop visited us in May 2014 and I hosted an open evening for Adrian and church members to meet him. We also had a brief visit from Rev Bisoke in November who is the *Provincial Youth Work Co-ordinator*. He met up with Adrian and Danny to compare notes on youth work – on rather different scales!

Awake Mother – Rachell Burchell

Awake Mother is a small project in the city of Bukavu, Congo. It continues to provide assistance for vulnerable widows, visits sick people in hospital and at home as well their main aim of training and encouraging women in small businesses. They continue to value our support hugely and with much appreciation. It is a privilege to hear about their prayers for us too and to hear about Bernard and Ntakwinja's growing family as their children marry and have children of their own. Nearly £900 was raised from various projects in 2014, of which £625 was sent to Congo as promised and the rest carried forward to 2015.

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY – supporting Ram Prasad Shrestha in Nepal – Rupert Wilkins

This year we continued to support the work of Ram Prasad in Nepal funded by CMS as a 'Timothy' mission partner. He is director of the National Mission Commission of Nepal. NMCN's role is to support and link together the work of the several Christian denominations, and to train pastors and evangelists.

A year ago they had just finished building a new mission training centre, which is now complete and running.

Ram was able to attend an Asia-CMS conference in Malaysia.

Missionary training was held from March to May 2014, resulting in 11 students graduating and being sent out into the most remote, unreached parts of Nepal.

In July we received a report of work done in supporting people in the slums near Kathmandu since 2009, especially in setting up kindergarten and schools for about 80 children, and in providing water tanks for fresh drinking water.

We held a service at Mulbarton, focussing on CMS, in October 2014. We were able to see a video showing the missionary training work, the work in the slums, and evangelistic work in prisons. The video can be seen on the internet here: <https://vimeo.com/102798185>

In September NMCN held a big conference attended by 70 missionaries working in Nepal, India, Bhutan and Malaysia. Ram reports:

Four Days Missionary Conference was a breakthrough experience in renewing the vision and commitment that the Lord has bestowed on each one's life. Missionaries have shared their stories, struggles and prayer concerns. A missionary from Bhutan shared his struggles. He said; "I found it very tough to evangelize people in Bhutan due to harsh policy and treatment to Christians by the government. However, God has enabled me to plant a church of 20 believers".

In January 2015 Jess & Anne-Mary Stubenbord stayed with Ram in Kathmandu for a week – their visit to us to report on their experiences will be in next year's Annual Report.

In 2014 we sent £800 to CMS: £475 from specific donations and the rest made up from our tithe of church funds. Please continue to support CMS financially and in prayer.

TEARFUND – Tim Hayward

This year has seen a change in the way our Church supports some charities and Tearfund was one of those affected. We no longer give a yearly donation, but instead support its work through donations given at a service.

This year we collected for its No Child Taken Appeal. The money donated will help Tearfund and its partners in Asia and Africa, amongst others, to fight the growing trafficking of children into various forms of slavery. This cause is close to my heart, as the majority of children affected are girls.

Besides the Harvest offering, Church @ Hanover has supported Tearfund generously. Thank you for the sum of £647 that was raised in 2014.

OPERATION ORPHAN: creating a brighter future for orphans and the vulnerable – Becky Taylor

We continue to support the valuable work of Operation Orphan and gave £217 in 2014. Jess Taylor, Operation Orphan's Operations Manager, visited us at our morning service on Sunday 16th Nov. when she thanked the church for their generous support, spoke about their Keep a Child Scheme, gave an update on Pencott Valley School, Nabigyo in Mbale, Uganda and also talked about the pioneering work of setting up homes for child Ebola survivors in Sierra Leone. In March an assignment of clothes left Nottingham, where the charity is based, for the Syrian refugees in Jordan. Operation Orphan is fairly unique in that all their administration costs are met by a sponsor so that all giving goes directly toward their projects. Children's hats, coats, gloves and scarves are always gratefully received and are stored in Nottingham then packed up and transported to the projects in Hungary, Serbia and Moldova. More information is available on their website <http://www.operation-orphan.org>.

FAIRTRADE – Rachel Burchell

This year has been another quiet year with Fairtrade due to other family commitments. However, we still enjoyed our annual Christmas ordering evening, with some lovely gifts from the online version of what was the *Living Rooms*, the Fairtrade shop at Poringland that shut down. We had over £1000 worth of orders, which meant £200 to Awake Mother – which was wonderful.

Unfortunately it will be the last year of the *Created* catalogue, the shop part of Tearfund, as they have had to make the sad decision to close this. It does continue to stress the importance that we still support Fairtrade, however we can, to ensure its presence is in mainstream shops and it does not have to rely on specialist ones. Hopefully, as a result of this topic at Café Church in Fairtrade Fortnight, many of you were able to give in your 'Stock it' postcards to shops you regularly use to encourage them to put Fairtrade goods on the shelves.

Also, over £100 of Real Fairtrade Easter eggs were ordered and we continue to see as a church how we can increase our range of Fairtrade goods served at church functions.

'Until the great mass of the people shall be filled with the sense of responsibility for each other's welfare, social justice can never be attained.' [Helen Keller](#). Let's be part of that mass and encourage others to be the same. Many thanks for all your support and help in small efforts to do this.

FOODBANK – Charles Strafford

Our continued support, with donations added to the box at the back of church each week, is much appreciated.

OTHER MINISTRIES

BELL-RINGING – George Moore

We continue our practices on Wednesday evenings from 7.30 to 9pm. Our membership with the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers has slightly increased to 9, with 4 ringers as full members and 5 ringers elected to Associate membership. Two of these ringers started this year.

Our standard of ringing has greatly improved with an ability to ring many methods. Assistance for visiting ringers has helped achieve this.

We were able to ring for our Midnight Christmas Communion, but have not managed to achieve our aim to ring once a month for a 10am service, mainly due to members not all living in Mulbarton. We did ring at 10am for 4 services in the past year.

We have been able to practise on our handbells at times throughout the past year, but to achieve this art a second evening would be necessary, which is not possible at present.

Our bells were rung before and after 5 weddings during the past year, by ringers from Hethersett, Ketteringham and Blofield as well as Mulbarton.

Permission was given for a Ringers' outing from Northamptonshire to ring our bells at the end of August. The Suffolk Guild, SE District Bell Ringers' outing rang our bells for 45 minutes at the beginning of November. Due to St Remigius Church, Hethersett, having major building repairs during 2014, its team of bell ringers had two of their practices at Mulbarton in September and October.

To date, no maintenance work has been carried out on the bell frame, etc. Due to various problems and work load, the original contractor who supplied an estimate and detailed specifications has not been available for further site meetings to discuss any amendments necessary.

FLOWERS IN CHURCH – Felicity McIlwrath

Diane Robinson, Sally Hayward and I take care of the presentation and renewal of flowers every week in church – we trust our efforts are pleasing to everyone and glorifying to our Lord.

We are very thankful to those who allow us to take from their gardens or leave flowers after weddings. In order not to burden church funds too much, we make use of hedgerow and garden material wherever possible to minimise costs. With this in mind we also keep a stock of imitation flowers.

We are grateful to Tom Taylor and John Moore for assistance with decorating the church for special occasions. Working with ladders they put up the fairy-lights and other decorations which were so effective at the candle-lit Carol Service.

Our main need is for additional people to join the rota. We would welcome help with clearing away old arrangements, making new ones, mid-week watering and collection of material. A larger rota would also provide wider cover at times when all three of us have other commitments, or for special occasions. It would also help to spread the cost which is currently borne by team members.

It is a pleasure, a privilege and a joy to see our church tastefully adorned with the Lord's creation. Beauty lifts the spirit and reminds us of Him. Flowers spread God's peace among us and delight the soul.

(Contact Felicity on 01508 571254 if you would like to help in any way with this ministry – Ed.)

MARDLE & PEWS NEWS – edited by Becky Taylor & Chris Carter

Produced 10 times a year (monthly, with double issues for July & Aug; Dec & Jan). They would love another person to join them with a view to sharing the editing. Our paper publications continue to be of relevance in this digital age, making for handy provision of information and making things accessible to our offline contingent, whom we value greatly and don't want to feel left behind. The Mardle is the magazine of the people, and the editors would be happy to receive more content from anybody within the 4 churches, be it book reviews, testimonies, feedback from other learning,

interesting stories, reports from trips away, seasonal reflections, recipes, poetry or whatever. Our hope is that the Mardle will reflect the diversity of experience and opinion present among us and be a safe space to share ideas and information. It is what we make it!

SOUND SYSTEM TEAM REPORT – David Pollard

The team suffered a grievous loss when Tim Davidson moved to Saxlingham Nethergate . We thank Tim for his many years of faithful service leading the team and wish Tim, Dawn and Joel every blessing and happiness in their new parish. However, this reduced the team to just two members, Sam Theobald and David Pollard. Whilst we were able to cope most of the time, the Summer holidays and a period of illness caused difficulties. We were therefore very thankful when Christopher Pidgeon offered to join the team in January. Any further offers of help will be gratefully received. A knowledge of acoustics or electronics is not essential and it is not as difficult as it may seem.

We would also like to express our thanks to Steven Kittle for his invaluable technical assistance through the year and the loan of equipment for the Cafe Church meetings and at other times.

PROJECTION – Sue Mellows

Many thanks to the small team who have manned the projection keyboard this year. Plus grateful thanks to all those who help with the set-up at Café Church on the first Sunday of the month. Thanks especially to Adrian Munn who has now left our church family who helped for several years and to Tony who had to soldier on alone for most of October and November last year. We do need more volunteers to join us and take a turn at operating the song words projection during the services (you don't have to be a computer wizard).

If you have any questions or observations about the display each Sunday – do tell whoever is on duty - we do value your feedback and ideas.

WEBSITE – Adrian Miller

I took on hosting the benefice website early in my tenure, and transferred the site to my own content management system in the summer. I am working with Dennis and others to get the content maintained and up-to-date, and also working on sorting some more of the infrastructure for this, such as automatic posting to our Facebook page when content is updated.

[Compiled by Jill Wright from contributions from Adrian Miller and most of the people involved in leading groups, teams and projects. Many thanks to you all. And grateful thanks to Sue Mellows for proof-reading, and to Caroline Dunlop for producing printed copies for those who need them.

March 2015]