

MULBARTON CHURCH



ANNUAL REPORT 2012 – 2013

ANNUAL REPORT OF MULBARTON CHURCH 2012-13

(the order of items is linked to that of the APCM Agenda)

NEW ELECTORAL ROLL for 2013-14 – John Blakey

Every 6 years a new Electoral Roll has to be drawn up, and 2013 is the year when people had to re-apply. Forms were enclosed with letters from the Rector and Churchwardens to all on the 2012-3 Electoral Roll and other listed in the Internal Directory. 12 people did not reapply. The new roll has 77 members, of whom 24 live outside the parish. 18 new names appear on the 2013-4 roll, including some young people who are now over 16: we are delighted they have joined the roll. In 2012-13 there were 71 names on the roll, so at a time when numbers in many churches are shrinking we praise God for our numbers increasing.

ADMINISTRATION

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT – Tim Davidson

Tim Davidson has been joined by Becky Taylor this year as Churchwarden. The past twelve months have again been an interesting experience, highlighted by:

- The Church of England encouraging 'Open Church'
- Our own plans for refurbishing the church (which are slowly gaining approval)
- The retirement of George Moore (many thanks for your hard work and dedication) who has handed the baton on to Chris Carter and his able team.

But the biggest focus by far has been the preparation for and the retirement of Jess. We wish him and Anne Mary every happiness in this new chapter of their lives.

As Churchwardens we know there will be many challenges and opportunities ahead. But with the help of God and the church family, the future of Mulbarton Church will be in safe hands.

ELDERS – Jess Stubenbord

Our present eldership team is Dawn, Tom, and Patrick. We have tried to meet each Thursday evening (or sometimes Saturday mornings) for fellowship, prayer, to review what we believe to be going on in church and to seek God's ways forward for the church. We also prayed for current pastoral needs. We began to review all the church ministries by inviting the co-ordinator for each ministry to a time of review and encouragement and then praying for their future service. Jess has found the elders a great source of support, challenge and inspiration.

Our relationship with the other main leadership group within the church, the PCC has been one of mutual respect.



(Above) Elders' outing with spouses.

PCC REPORT - Jill Wright (PCC Secretary)

The PCC consists of 12 church members + Jess and Dawn. It has been a busy year, but attendance has been good at 6 long evening meetings plus a Saturday morning 'Away-Day' kindly hosted by the Lovicks at Little Melton. Occasionally we invite others along to introduce or update us on a topic – Bev came to talk about

All Age services and Café Church; Danny to update us on developments in youth work.

We have authorised considerable expenditure on the church building (see Fabric Report) including work to tidy up the space at the west end of the North Aisle (but we were ticked off for misunderstanding the procedure and had to apply for a retrospective faculty – now received). The handbells were refurbished (see bell report) and we had to authorise a new church ‘party tent’ (and a contract for users) after the one we had was damaged when lent out. There have also been a number of finance matters to discuss (including stream-lining the small charities) – all made easier by our treasurer’s hard work in advance (see Treasurer’s Report).

We have continued to be very involved in the process of applying for permissions to make the church building warmer and more useable and planning permission for an annexe to Harvest House. To our great disappointment it seems that both the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the South Norfolk planners are not in favour of our plans – but we must pray on that God’s will is done in God’s time.

When we thought most challenges had been dealt with, Jess dropped the bombshell that he would retire in early 2013! The main task of the PCC has been to ensure a smooth take-over and that the various vacancies that already existed, and would be added to with Jess and Anne-Mary departing, are filled or covered.

There are still a number of gaps that need filling.... Dawn and the Churchwardens have added responsibilities during the vacancy, but some of these can be shared with the elders. Whilst the Mulbarton PCC is only responsible for Mulbarton parish we are suddenly even more aware of the need to work with the PCCs of other parishes in the group. We ask the whole church to join us in praying for unity at this time.

HUMBLEYARD DEANERY SYNOD – Jill Wright

Our 3 elected representatives are Maureen Blakey, Vivienne Clifford-Jackson (Vice-Chair of Synod, also an elected member of Diocesan Synod and – since Jan 2013 – of Bishops’ Council) and Jill Wright (Synod Secretary). In addition Rupert Wilkins is *ex officio* as Deanery Assessor and Treasurer. Jess and Dawn are clergy members. So Mulbarton is quite influential in the Deanery!

Synod meets 3 times a year, and the highlight of 2012 was a well-attended Deanery Conference in Little Melton Village Hall on the theme ‘Hand in Hand in Mission Together’. The keynote address was given by Jean Kerr, Canon Missioner for Rochester Diocese, and participants had the chance to attend 2 out of 4 workshops on ‘What makes churches grow?’, ‘Great ideas to grow youth & children’s work’ (with our own youth worker, Danny, as leader); ‘Prayer, the heartbeat of the Church’ and ‘Discipleship in small groups’. Parishes have reported back during the year and some interesting outreach initiatives have emerged as a result of the Conference.

Speakers and topics at the two ‘ordinary’ meetings in 2012 were Nicholas Warns, architect on the Diocesan Advisory Committee (May) and Rupert Wilkins leading discussion about the Parish Share (Sept.).

NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

This momentous year in the Church of England as well as for our country has been reflected at the Norwich Diocesan Synod. The Synod meets three times a year and in 2012 discussed a wide range of issues - momentous and esoteric - including Church Schools, the impact of bats on our churches, Women Bishops and a review of the process for collecting parish share. Members have been reminded that “before the welfare state the church was the welfare state” and may be on the brink of regaining that role. The Synod is well attended by around 50 clergy & lay members from across the county and looks forward to welcoming the new Archbishop of Canterbury to Norwich Cathedral on the 14th March at the start of his pilgrimage to meet Church of England members. The Diocese is improving its communication and information systems with e-newsletters and a new Churchwardens magazine as well as ‘Across the See’ which featured the Jubilee events in Mulbarton and the Humbleyard Deanery Conference.

FINANCE REPORT for 2012 – Tony Lovick (Treasurer)

Main Church Account

In addition to the Harvest House fund-raising, the main church account recorded a further £11,955 surplus making a record total of £53,494 surplus between the two.

Comparing the year's accounts with the previous year shows a slight decrease in giving to the main account, and relative stability in other items. The main explanation for the church surplus was the lack of spending on Harvest House alterations, as in the previous year around £10,000 was spent on the kitchen. Tithing of our income continued, with a number of supported charities from home and overseas. In total we distributed slightly over our target of £9,711 this year.

Next year the parish share will rise by 3%. We are the only benefice in the Deanery to be given an increase: a result of the fact that we are the only benefice to show a strengthening of numbers.

We have been blessed with an increase in our numbers and strong support from our members; everything we do is made possible by this support, and nothing would happen without it.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the work this year. Please tell us your thoughts and dreams for what we should aim to achieve in the coming year.

Church Maintenance Trust

This year the Maintenance Trust undertook four significant projects.

- > Finishing the East Window work carried over from 2011
- > Emergency repairs to the North Aisle roof
- > Complete revamp of the choir vestry area with installation of new furniture
- > Restoration of the hand bells and return from Whitechapel foundry from their decade-long absence

Needless to say this substantially exceeded the available income from the fund, and hence reserves were used to fund the work.

The window fund has been exhausted; the Bell Fund has been reduced to £1,940; general funds to £7,298. The main church account transferred £1,100 in funds, and the Parish Council contributed £1200 just after the year end towards the £2500 costs (our churchyard being the village's only graveyard).

Outstanding work for the current year is to determine a long term funding plan for maintenance; to seek to reduce the churchyard deficit by bearing down on costs; and seeking an increase in funding from the parish council for the first time in five years.

Many thanks are extended to George Moore for his work on Church Maintenance over many years.

Harvest House Funding

This year church began fundraising for the Harvest House Annexe. A total of £47,774 was raised through a combination of one off gifts and a number of regular monthly donations. £1,200 has been spent on planning permission and £5321 on Architect fees, leaving £42,033 carried forwards in funds for this year.

Overall the fund raising for the Annexe has made a fantastic start. We estimate that £250k will be needed in total, of which we might support £100k with borrowing. Therefore we are not finished yet, but when planning permission is granted we will have a timeline and target to work to, and this year's result gives us a head start.

Small Charities

Some tidying up activity was completed this year, with the Arthur Bussey Music fund being wound up. The Benjamin Bennett Bequest was merged with the Sick Poor Fund.

No other significant activity took place.

FABRIC REPORT for 2012 – George Moore (Fabric Officer to end of 2012)

CHURCH

External Structural Repairs: Works which were reported as needing repairs due to severe frost damage in previous years were completed during 2012 by Bruce Riley, stonemason, including:

- (1) North-West aisle buttress at eaves level.
- (2) Copings and lead flashings to Vestry roof.
- (3) Stonework kneelers and flint stonework at eaves level each side of main entrance porch.
- (4) Renewing stone slab to external angle of porch.
- (5) Replacing several flint stones around base of Church.
- (6) Renewing length of cast iron gutter to east side of porch. [Total cost £1885.00]

External Roof Repairs: Repairs and renewing sections of leadwork to Church Nave roof as reported necessary in our Architect's latest Quinquennial Inspection – carried out in November by Eastern Foundry Lead Ltd. [Cost £1224.00]

Internal Structural Repairs: At the start of 2012 the final adjustments were made to the refurbished East Window (see last year's Annual Report and cover photograph).

The 'Hour Glass' above the Rich memorial at the west end of the church at high level was dismantled several years ago because some of the members became defective and unsafe if left in position. Parts of the stonework have been repaired and new stonework prepared and moulded to match existing. All fitted together with its wooden balusters and securely fixed to the top of its memorial by Bruce Riley, stone mason. [Cost £425.00]

Routine Equipment Servicing and Testing: The following items in Church and Harvest House were attended to in 2012:- 5 extinguishers; portable electrical appliances; organ tuning; War Memorial clock (serviced on behalf of Parish Council)

Internal refurbishment: The PCC purchased 12 folding chairs with padded seats to replace the old wooden stacking chairs. This led to decluttering the former choir vestry which was refurbished by Earsham Hall who fitted made-to-measure hardwood cupboards. The Wingfield window and plaque can now be seen properly and there is now extra space for seating or for serving refreshments.. Earsham Hall also fitted new entry doors to the tower, enabling the old doors to be put back on the cupboard in the Vestry. Due to a misunderstanding a retrospective faculty was applied for and granted.

CHURCHYARD

All churchyard areas were again well maintained during the 2012 growing season by Paul Riches, our main contractor. He has confirmed that his hourly rate will have to be increased to £9 per hour in 2013 (having been £8 for the past 3 years). Church mowers and strimmer are being serviced ready for the coming season.

The total cost of churchyard maintenance for 2012 was £1957.30 for which a grant of £1200 was again received from the Parish Council for upkeep as this is the graveyard for the whole village.

A survey of the Churchyard Extension was carried out in January 2012 to give an up-to-date plan and to determine vacant lots. Many families were contacted personally to ascertain further confirmation as to who these plots were reserved for.

A report was prepared in February 2012 for siting of future Cremation slabs. After discussion and visiting the areas involved, the PCC agreed to reserve an area at the North end of the Churchyard Extension.

George Moore has been our Fabric Officer for more than 20 years, and has not only been thorough in supervising and reporting on work, but has done many, many jobs himself. We want to record a huge vote of thanks to him on his retirement – he will now be replaced by a team of 4 people.

The Mulbarton church development plan – Jess Stubenbord

A small group of faithful men and women have spent several months producing this very detailed plan to develop the interior of the parish church for worship and other suitable uses for the 21st century. Its considerations include adding a glass porch door, upgrading the audiovisual facility, removal of the nave pews, new heating systems and replacement and moving of the font.

HARVEST HOUSE: On-going Maintenance & Use – Ian Dunlop

2012, in the main was uneventful, with perhaps the only significant event being the blocked drains after the Jubilee event!

The introduction of a Maintenance Book held in the kitchen seems to have helped to get the general maintenance issues dealt with, and to keep on top of them. For 2013, there will be some interesting challenges, as several identified "maintenance" issues could end up being quite significant. Harvest House as well as being maintained, also needs to be reviewed from a longer term upkeep perspective, which may require additional expenditure to ensure we keep the property in good condition, and hopefully prevent any major works. To that extent Ian will be preparing a paper for the PCC to consider and discuss, so if there are any issues "burning" that you think should be included, then please let him know.

HARVEST HOUSE DEVELOPMENT PLANS – Timothy Jackson

For some time Harvest House has been showing its limitations in terms of size and facilities, particularly for large gatherings. A few years ago, a member of the congregation had a vision of a new, well-appointed hall adjoining Harvest House and the aim of this project is to make that vision into a reality.



Harvest House and Annexe as seen from the car park

Anyone who has come to coffee after the services recently would recognise the need for more space for church use, so the majority of the annexe will be a large hall. This is designed to be suitable for receptions, social occasions, café church and children's groups (due to lack of space some youth groups have been meeting at the Rectory). To service this space there will be new toilet facilities including a proper disabled toilet, storage and a large kitchen. Though it is not part of the current project, it may be possible to change the current toilet and kitchen into a parish office at some time in the future.

Currently, we are awaiting planning permission for the project. Before Christmas we understood that the application was going to be rejected, but at a recent meeting with the planners we found that it is actually being sent up to the planning committee. This means that we get another chance to put our case for the project, and with sufficient local support and prayer we hope that we may still get permission without major changes. The main objections seem to be the size and parking and noise concerns. Unfortunately, to make a significant difference to the size, the hall would have to be made too small to be useful. However, if all the congregation help in whatever ways they can, be it maintaining relations with the Parish Council or merely parking considerably (in the village hall or World's End car park if Harvest House one is full), then there is a reasonable chance that these plans can be realised.



Annexe floor plan (proposed building shown in blue)

CHURCH SUPPORT FOR HOME & OVERSEAS MISSION

The **GIVING TEAM** has been the Rector, Treasurer and reps from each organisation we currently support. We meet once or twice a year to review how we share out the 'tithe' of church income and any specific donations and when we might allocate a Sunday to focus on each of the organisations.

SUPPORT FOR D.R.CONGO – Jess Stubenbord

We have forged close links with **Kindu and Bukavu** diocese in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This is the second year we have had no visitors from these dioceses, but we have just heard that Bishop Bahati (Bukavu) has got a visa to come to the enthronement of the new Archbishop of Canterbury.

Diocese of Kindu

This diocese is well run by Bishop Masimango and is reaching out with the love of Jesus. It was in this diocese that Louise Wright (our CMS Mission Partner until she retired) worked for her last 13 years in Congo. Like Bukavu diocese, this is a large diocese and after 15 years Bishop Masimango has probably not even yet managed to visit every parish in his large diocese! The church there is basically in good heart. There are no longer any CMS mission links in the diocese and so less money will be coming in to the diocese.

Diocese of Bukavu

This region of D R Congo is still recovering from multiple problems, especially the long civil war within its borders. Generally the diocese seems to be doing very well under Bishop Bahati who has been bishop for about 9 years. I marvel how active so many of the local churches are in outreach, youth work, running dispensaries and provide humanitarian aid... even though they have next to no financial resources.

Mulbarton church family pays the monthly wage of the diocesan secretary, Rev. Jules (\$40) and Rev. Bernard, the diocesan education director, who receives a few dollars less. Bernard still occasionally suffers from an on-going illness. (Medications are expensive and some help has been provided by members of Mulbarton Church.)

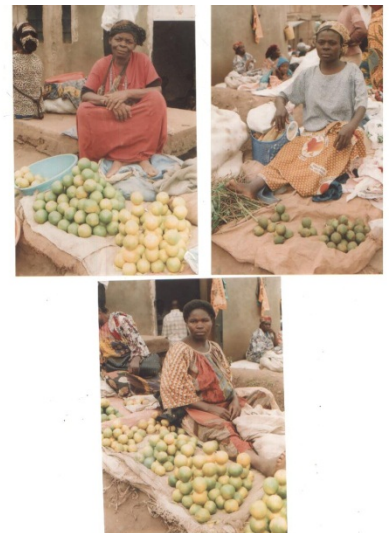
The Bishop and others, such as the heads of Youth and Development Ministries, bring many needs to our attention. We frequently hear from Rev. Desire, the Development Officer in Goma. He tells us of the on-going needs of the displaced people and from time to time we have sent a couple hundred dollars for relief. The second "gutters project" in a volcanic village, Ngangi, just north of Goma is now complete and Louise Wright visited it in 2012 and even drank water from it. The photo (right) shows a large water-storage tank being built – several of these now conserve water from the church and school roofs and save local women walking many miles to find water.



Bukavu diocese has no CMS missionary and very few visitors pass through these days to encourage the church family.

Awake Mother Project (Bukavu) – Rachell Burchell

A Congolese project, training women with skills so they can support their families. Many are widows, or experienced rape, in the recent conflict, and are the ones their families rely on. It also supports those in prison and the church. We send a regular amount, every 3 months, to aid their work. This comes from Fairtrade Christmas orders, Fairtrade Easter trail at the Cheshire Home and the sale of Tom Taylor's wonderful honey. This is then topped up by the church missions giving.



Some of the women helped by the project >

SUPPORT FOR RAM (Nepal)

via Church Mission Society – Jill Wright

Our link with Ram Prasad Shrestha was wonderfully strengthened by his visits to us in 2012. Early in the year he came with his wife and then he paid a final visit in September before he went back to Nepal after being awarded his MA. He continues to send regular updates about the work of the Mission Commission Nepal as well as keeping in touch by e-mail. He is deeply involved in training mission teams to go to remote areas of Nepal and also into Bhutan (a country otherwise closed to the Gospel). In Kathmandu, the work with prisoners has seen many conversions and the slum project has been resumed after the area in which they had been working was bulldozed.

In 2013 I will be taking over the Congo links from Jess, and I am delighted that Rupert Wilkins (who has visited Nepal with Julie and the family) will take over our link with Ram.



Sarah serving at Café Church (before going to Rwanda)

SUPPORT FOR TEARFUND – Simon Davies

This year, our harvest service was held during the new format “Café Church” in the village hall. We showed the video supplied by Tearfund and encouraged people to think about sharing the abundant resources God has given us.

Another encouragement for the church has been the way Sarah Theobald, one of our young people, was accepted by Tearfund for their International Citizen Service programme. She will be in Rwanda, supporting rural development from January to March 2013.

SUPPORT FOR NYCS (Norwich Youth For Christ)

The initial link was set up through Danny (our Youth Worker) but Tim & Sally Hayward have recently taken over looking at ways to support this organisation that benefits young people throughout the Greater Norwich area (including our own).

FAIRTRADE – Rachel Burchell

Festivities at Christmas meant Fair Trade catalogue orders,

About £700 of gorgeous goods bought

In addition, All’s Fair* pressies were on sale

Relieving people of over £100, and further benefitting others

The people who helped - very much appreciated

Rachel says many thanks!

Awake Mother helped again, with over £100

Easter Trail at the Cheshire Home, in the process of being planned

Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Martin Luther King, Jr.

As a church, as individuals, let’s keep working to get rid of that threat.

*All’s Fair – St, Gregory’s Alley, Norwich for gorgeous Fairtrade gifts – check it out!

THE MINISTRY & OUTREACH OF MULBARTON CHURCH

STAFF

Our Rector, Rev Jess Stubenbord, has been at Mulbarton for almost 20 years and he and Anne Mary are much loved throughout the Benefice. He will be sorely missed...

Our Associate Minister

Dawn Davidson is now in her third year as an ordained, non-stipendiary worker amongst us. In 2012 she was awarded a good Honours Degree in theology. In all the parishes she is being very well received. From October we dropped the title of curate and Dawn became Associate Minister within the Mulbarton group. Jess has had monthly meetings with Dawn to review the ministry, share and pray together.

Our Trainee Reader

Jan Hunt has begun her studies to be a licensed Reader within our group of churches.

The Benefice Team, made up of reps from each parish in our group, is due to meet with Jan about three times per year. We also think and pray together about how we can do more with our other sister churches within the benefice as well as seek to support Jan (and Dawn) in these early days.

Those we employ: We have a great small team of part-time paid workers (not to mention that great and wonderful army of volunteers!)

Youth Worker - Danny Ellero. In Danny we have a wise, energetic, inspiring Christian leader for our young folk in church and local schools. He tirelessly tries to encourage our young folk to go to events that will encourage, enthuse and challenge them. Our sharing him with Hope Church, Wymondham, works well (20 hours per week). We congratulate him on his engagement to Lauren!

Administrative Assistant – Caroline Dunlop has been a thoughtful and conscientious help to Jess. She still continues to make our publications look much more professional (8 hours per week).

Harvest House booking secretary - Alison Cockrell. An uncomplaining worker of miracles trying to keep all users of HH happy.

Church and Harvest House cleaner – Jeanette Eagling. A cleaner extraordinaire (4 hours per week).

[N.B. We are very grateful to Sue Mellows who works out their National Insurance, etc.]

Our heart-felt thanks go to each of you church folk, paid or unpaid, for your labour for us and the Lord.

SERVICES OF WORSHIP

Preaching plan for main 10am services – Jess Stubenbord

This year the bulk of the preaching responsibility has fallen on Dawn, Bev, Jan and Jess. Simon Davies is on sabbatical whilst studying for his PGCE and now a Newly Qualified Teacher. We have also invited occasional outside speakers, especially to special services such as Carol Services, Healing and Wholeness and when we have had a mission speaker.

We often follow themes and sometimes go through a Bible book as well as preaching on main church events, like Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, Harvest. Preaching topics for 2012 were:

Jan – March	The Minor Prophets
April – May	Bible verse for Year Hebrews 10 v. 25
June	Jesus on money
July	“Going for Gold” with the Olympics in mind
Sept – Nov	1 Corinthians chaps 11 – 16
December	Advent and Christmas themes

All Age services often fitted in with the above themes, but since Café Church started in September, this team is choosing more seeker-friendly themes such as friendship, money.

Worship team – Fiona Loughborough (Co-ordinator)

As a church I feel that we have a good heart for worship. We are blessed with a fantastic group who lead us each week. We continue to strive to worship God in spirit and in truth. Thank you to all who are part of the worship group: for your talents, your willingness to come early on Sunday mornings and your servant hearts.

Evening Services: In 2012 we continued to have only one monthly evening service, with Healing and Wholeness services and Encounter God times alternating each month.

Encounter God

These Encounter God evenings in Harvest House are opportunities to come before God in wonder, love and praise. We want to encourage folk to go deeper in their relationship with God and set aside a time to come and encounter Him.

Healing & Wholeness Services

We have held bi-monthly services in church where we encourage all with illness and anxieties to come because we believe we have a God who heals and cares still today. On average we have 30+ folk come from far and wide. Very sadly only a few come from our church and the village. It would be helpful to know what would encourage our church folk to bring folk to the healing and wholeness service!

As yet only a few testimonies of healing. However we press on believing that prophetic words Grantley Watkins spoke at a Letton Hall weekend some 7 years ago and one by Melissa in the autumn will come to pass that God will use us more and more to bring healing and wholeness to many.

[NB. People are looking for healing] and so going in good numbers to the clairvoyancy and psychic meetings now happening in our own and in nearby villages. Our situation resembles that of Elijah and Elisha who needed to counter much false spirituality (1 Kings chapter 18). We want all people to know that Almighty God is alive and will meet us in all our needs, just as He promised.

All Age Services

Held on the 1st Sunday of the month until August 2012 and organised by a team led by Bev Theobald. Although attendance was good and this service catered for the 'fringe', few non-church people were brought along, so it was decided to move to something new and Café Church was born....

'FRESH EXPRESSIONS' for Outreach

Café Church – Bev Theobald

This new monthly venture on the 2nd Sunday has been positively supported by the majority of the church either by attendance or prayer. It has been a steep learning curve for the team (Sue Mellows, Lynne Lambert, Fiona Loughborough, Anne Mary Stubenbord, Fiona Munn and myself) but we have worked hard to provide an alternative venue aimed at those who don't come regularly to church as well as church members. We started in September 2012 in the Infant School Hall, but soon outgrew that and moved to the much larger Village Hall. A number of other key people have joined us to help with setup and providing



refreshments and we are very grateful for this. On March 16th the National Cafe Church team will be coming along to Mulbarton to hold a training session. As the hosts we have 15 places allocated to us and we are hoping this will provide us with further resources and direction. We are excited by this new outreach and encouraged by those who are coming along. Our aim is to introduce others to Jesus in a way that is non-threatening and accessible. Thank you to all of you who are supporting us.

Church at Hanover – Nina Davey

On 27th January this year we at the Church at Hanover celebrated our 1st Birthday. God has been very good to us. We meet on the 4th Sunday of the month in the warm and comfortable Lounge, which the Hanover Housing Association allows us to use free of charge, so all our offerings can go to charity. We have excellent teaching from Jess and Dawn, and Alice plays our organ to lead us in familiar hymns. After the 45-minute service, Theresa and her team of helpers serve tea, coffee and biscuits and most people stay for a 'cuppa' and chat.

Over the year we have grown into a lovely church family with an average attendance now some 35 – 40 people. Around half are residents; the others are friends from the near-by area. Many of these are people who have not been to church for many years, but find a monthly commitment to a short service in a warm and welcoming place (with nearby loo!) something they can cope with. Even more came to our December carol service.

Thank you to everyone who prays for us. We ask you to continue with your prayers so that we can carry on sharing God's love at this end of our village.

Thursday Afternoon Hanover Service moved from the 1st Thursday to the 2nd Thursday of each month so it did not come immediately after the new 4th Sunday service. This service continues to be supported by about 20 people (half from Hanover and half from outside) and it was these people who became the core of the Sunday services (see Church at Hanover, above), encouraging others to come and organising refreshments, room layout, etc. Our thanks to Jil Wheeler who brings her keyboard to play each month, Jess who has given most of the talks, and all others who help.

OTHER MINISTRIES

Prayer Ministry & Healing – Anne Mary Stubenbord

Prayer ministry is always offered after each main service and it is generally known that folk are always available to pray if asked. We all need to know and be aware of safe ways to pray for each other. I would like to see some teaching on this in the future.

Sadly we have not done any major training this year but those who come to Healing and Wholeness services to pray with people do get some practice and are always learning. Folk coming from outside have commented again how they have appreciated the gentle and loving ministry given at these times.

Prayer Chain – Dawn Davidson

The prayer chain has managed to function reasonably well, despite the list of members being long overdue for re-issue (apologies from Dawn). Once again we have been privileged to pray for others who are facing challenges of many kinds. The prayer chain is intended for use in cases of urgent or particularly serious issues and this can mean praying long-term for certain people. It has been encouraging to receive feedback regarding the outcome of some of these situations as testimony to the grace of God - and to keep us on our knees!

Thank you to each one who shares in this vital ministry.

Mentoring

The PCC approved Mentoring Guidelines drawn up by the Elders. A small group went through the training course and are considering how this might be adapted.

Baptism preparation – Jess Stubenbord

There have again been some 8 or so enquiries for baptism and 5 have taken place this year, which includes 2 adults. Dawn and I have encouraged the non-church families to be involved and attend regularly and understand the commitment of baptism. Some families find such a change of pattern to their Sunday life difficult and so often their expectation of what they want and what we so desire for them is different. Sadly we see very little, if ever, of those who have had their child baptised after the event, even though Jess has regularly dropped off invitations to the All Age service, Café Church, etc. Please pray that all these families would meet with Jesus.

Wedding & Marriage Preparation – Jess & Anne Mary Stubenbord

In 2012 we had about 11 weddings, which was more than for a while. Numbers for 2013 look low: I am told it's because there is a "13" in this year! The numbers of church weddings has generally dropped off as society becomes more and more secularised. Dawn, our Associate Minister, conducted 4 of the 2012 weddings.

We encourage folk very strongly to undertake a 5 evening Marriage Preparation Course, produced by HTB church in London. Normally they come expecting to learn very little, but in fact they find they learn a great deal that is valuable. So most couples who have come these evenings feel the course is so worthwhile. They hear lots of excellent teaching from Nick and Sila Lee about communication, love languages, dealing with problems, etc. . These evenings have been led by Dawn and Tim, Anne Mary and Jess. The statistics are so sad when you consider 40% of first marriages end in divorce, whilst 50% of second do too. So we need to pray for all those getting married

The Marriage Course

This for those already married. We would love a couple to take this on and run with it as it offers such practical guidance and encouragement to make a good marriage even better! As there is so much to undermine marriage, we need to give couples in church and the community all the encouragement we can.

CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY – Sue Mellows

Once again the church family stayed at Letton Hall near Dereham in October 2012, with some joining us as day visitors. In 2011 we were absolutely full, so we took a step of faith this year and booked both the Main Hall and Dolphin Court. The youth activities took place in Dolphin Court and the adults and children's work were in the Main Hall. There were one or two teething troubles but it worked out very well. We had plenty of space for everyone and still met up at mealtimes which were taken in the Main Hall together.

Once again there were 4 teaching sessions spread out over the whole weekend. The

theme for the weekend was *'Birds of a Feather'*. The speaker for the adults was Stephen Mawditt from Fountain of Life Church, Ashill. Our youthworker, Danny Ellero, led the youth programme and the children's work was led by a team of 2 students from UEA Christian Union plus 2 interns from Ashill.

Once again we structured the programme to give free time on Saturday afternoon and we had a choice of activities including crafts, a walk (weather permitting), some pampering and a chance to relax and chat or





and would welcome new members and new ideas. Please speak with any of the team if you are interested.

catch up with the newspapers. On Saturday night we joined together in the Main Hall and had great fun with a 'Letton's Got Talent' evening with some surprises! We were very grateful to Tom who once again master-minded our Saturday night supper, and our Sunday lunch superbly.

The committee for the planning of the 2012 weekend consisted of Liz Jesse, Jim Harrald, Adrian Munn, Anne Mary Stubenbord, Danny Ellero and myself. I would like to express my thanks to the members of the team for their support and hard work. We have lost Anne Mary

OUTREACH

(see also earlier reports on 'Fresh Expressions' of church for outreach: **Café Church, p.12, and Church at Hanover, p.13**)

Evangelism – Jess Stubenbord

Dawn has been doing a series of outreach Bible studies at Hanover Gardens using Christianity Explored and Alpha, etc. Also baptism preparation has proven fruitful this past year.

Again we went carol singing around various places, especially The World's End pub and Hanover Gardens, when we offer the Good News rather than sing for money. We do also have the two successful after school clubs in our two village schools (see page 19).

Please pray that we will have God's heart not only to *serve* our local communities but also to *speak* the Gospel, Good News, to them. We are all called to be fishers of people, to go and share the Good News, otherwise we risk becoming a club. We have many opportunities given to us on a plate such as FGBMFI dinners with good speakers in a relaxed atmosphere, also Men's Breakfasts and Café Church. So please pray that there will be a greater compassion amongst us for those without the hope of Christ, and for God to raise up a Co-ordinator for Evangelism.

Alpha – Dawn Davidson

The current Alpha course was started to provide further discipling for two adults following baptism. We have since been joined by a third person (who managed to catch up with missed sessions). This small group provides a forum for questions, discussion and further exploration of the Christian faith. It is a huge privilege to be alongside these people in the foundational stages of their faith and to see Jesus at work in their lives.

Men's & Kids' Mornings – Bev Theobald

This Saturday morning venture at the school, which we are supporting, has continued to be much appreciated by local Dads and Grandads. It is really super to watch as Dads and children enjoy time together. We provide a variety of activities and the sausage sandwiches are very popular. The idea is for this to be a half termly event. If any men feel they would like to get involved then please do speak to me.



Men's Breakfast – Ian Dunlop

Although the original thoughts and plans were to have breakfasts every two months, for various reasons, these events turned out to be every quarter! On average about 12 men (and teenagers!) attended, and a cooked breakfast (courtesy of Tom normally - thanks!!) and discussion and talk were enjoyed by all! For 2013, we have already had a farewell breakfast where Jess shared his thoughts for men's work in our area. We are planning a main open breakfast once per quarter initially using Harvest House as a base, with smaller monthly meetings at various homes around the parishes. Listen out for the dates and venues! Please pray for God's wisdom and guidance as we seek to reach out to men of all ages in our villages - we want His will and work to be done!

TIFFINS – John & Maureen Blakey

A new venture started in 2012 to open Harvest House for coffee on a Wednesday morning, especially for Mums and children. Tiffins is moving along slowly but surely. We are getting a happy bunch together (especially the toddlers): what a joy it is to see them.

Dawn pops in when she can which is good for the ones we haven't seen before. We plod on.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money Management Course – Adrian Munn

In June 2012 we ran the CAP Money Management Course, using the Infant School as a venue. This was very successful, with 6 clients, including 3 people who came from Norwich having seen it advertised on the CAP Website. There was very positive feedback from all those who attended.

During 2012 CAP opened a CAP Centre in Norwich, hosted by Surrey Chapel. This is very exciting, as CAP now has over 200 centres in the UK.

I gave a small talk about the Money Management Course at the January Café Church service. As a result of the interest generated a new course started within 10 days with 6 clients, including 4 people from outside the church. This is very encouraging and plans are underway for another course later in the year, and possibly a course for forthcoming students. Also Danny may be using CAP material for a session for the youth about how to manage their money.

If anyone would like more information about the course or CAP in general please contact me.

[There was no HOLIDAY CLUB in 2012 as we were so involved in the following Special Events:]

SPECIAL EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN 2012



Much was done in building up good relationships with the local community through our joint planning and running of the two big village events and a couple smaller ones.

Diamond Jubilee Event on Monday 4th June included a Service on the Common followed by lighting of the beacon – we were one of the few churches in the Diocese to get the necessary permissions, insurance clearance, etc to have the Jubilee Beacon on our church tower. It was lit at the time allocated to us by Buckingham Palace and followed by a firework display launched from the unused part of the churchyard extension. Thanks to the Parish Council for funding the beacon; Tom for lighting it; the Scouts for organising the fireworks.



The Mulbarton 'Olympiad' on the Common, Saturday, July 21st included lighting an Olympic flame from a genuine Olympic torch (*left, being lit by Brenda Yallop, wife of the late Charlie Yallop, Parish Councillor*).

We had some 300 plus attend the fun activities including races and circus skills (*right, enjoyed by the Munn family*) and our own outreach tent.



On Halloween night, in conjunction with South Norfolk Council, we organised a drop-in at Harvest House to which a number of young people came for drinks, games and to chat.

The Matthew Project Outreach Voicebox Bus has been in Mulbarton on a Tuesday evening and we have supported this in prayer and by supplying cakes. Both vital to the work!

WORK WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE – teaching & outreach

BOUNCERS – Tania Davies

The Bouncer group caters for pre-school children who are over the age of one and who are able to stand /walk unaided. Younger children are welcome to attend for some of the session so that they can get used to the group but parents need to accompany them.

We continue to be based in the 'Bouncers Room' upstairs in Harvest House, although we do sometimes make use of the garden. We would like to thank Ian Dunlop for the recent addition to the Bouncers room of a lovely set of drawers where we can store the craft materials and toys: it has made such a difference.

Our numbers fluctuate and our current maximum is 6 children. We usually operate with a leader and helper but sometimes need an extra helper when we have more children. Currently our leaders are Tania Davies, Zoe Kelly and Alison Pond. We have a regular band of helpers who have agreed to be on the rota for Bouncers. All this help is much appreciated and allows us to provide a safe and happy environment.

We are still using Scripture Union *Tiddlywinks* material but we are flexible and tailor this to the needs and abilities of the children that we have each week. The session often includes songs, games, craft, play, rhymes and prayer, all linked to that week's Bible story. We have a variety of toys, preschool books and musical instruments in the Bouncers Room for the children to use.

CCC (Children's Christian Club) - Liz Jessé

We meet in Harvest House during the service on a Sunday morning. This year CCC has been headed up by Anne-Mary, David, Liz and Ruth. We have a fantastic group of helpers, without whom the whole thing would not be possible to run. The leaders would like to take this opportunity to thank all our helpers for all

they have done this year.

CCC has had a fun year: We have learnt about people who encountered Jesus and how it changed their lives, the nature of God, and we have studied the Lord's Prayer. We have done all of this through games, craft activities, cooking, singing and dancing, as well as Bible studies and discussions. Overall, CCC has been a fun place to be with a delightful set of children.

In September we lost 2 children when they moved up to the next age-group, "Revelation", and we didn't gain any from "Bouncers". Although we currently have 10 children on our books, numbers are low each week (generally only 2 or 3 a week) and attendance is inconsistent, so each week the programme has to be a 'one-off'. As we never know who is going to be there from week to week, we cannot look at one topic over several weeks. This also makes planning difficult as we have no idea of numbers etc, but despite these difficulties we think we have been able to provide a fun and varied programme for the children who are there.

We are also in great need of new leaders..... Anne-Mary who has done a sterling job for a long time is leaving us when she and Jess retire at the end of February. Our thanks go to Anne-Mary for all she has done for the children of the parish, not only in CCC, but also Storykeepers, holiday clubs, and the many parish events which the church has been involved in. Thank you Anne-Mary, we will miss you.

I am sad to say that David would also like to retire by the end of this academic year. David has worked so faithfully with our children for many years, and he too will be greatly missed.

Ideally we would like to recruit 3 new leaders, but we definitely need 2 new leaders as soon as possible. It is a wonderful group to work with and the rewards are too many to mention. If you are interested then please speak to Liz Jessé or Ruth Jackson.

REVELATION – Julie Wilkins

This is the Sunday morning group that runs from approx. 10:20 until 11:45 for those in school years 4 to 6 (roughly 8 to 11 years old). We have had the pleasure of enjoying the comfort and space of the Rectory - thank you Jess and Anne Mary for sharing your home. From March 2013 we are in the cosy space of the prayer room in Harvest House. Our numbers vary from 2 to 6 in any one session. We have been using the *Energise* material, recently exploring what it means to live as a Christian, the children being of an age when they often explore what they really think and begin to "own" their faith. Our leaders are Julie and Rupert Wilkins and Rachel Burchell; our helpers are John Blakey, Dennis Wells, Katrina Taylor and Holly Newbery. Their help and support is very much appreciated. Thanks also to Vivienne Clifford-Jackson who has recently stepped down as a helper. Contact Julie Wilkins for more information (01508 571128, julie.wilkins@virgin.net).

XTREME – Danny Ellero

Xtreme has been such a blessing to lead, the team is amazing and the young people are such a joy to teach! We've been looking at different encounters with Jesus and what effect that it has had on people.

SWITCH – Danny Ellero

Well hasn't time flown, Switch is now 2 years old! We've continued in similar numbers of around 15-20 young people over the two groups. We've been looking at many varying topics, most recently we've been looking at Christian commitment and how this should look in our lives.

IGNITE – Danny Ellero

IGNight is a joint effort by a few smaller churches in South Norfolk and NYFC. Pete Tyson is heading up the project with a strong team which includes some older youth too. IGNight is an event designed for young Christians, wanting to go deeper into God. It provides a time of worship, teaching and reflection to encourage the young people to do something with what they have heard.

This year it has given us the challenge of keeping the evening fresh and relevant, we've been running strong and we just need to continue that.

STORYKEEPERS (after school group in the Infant School) – Bev Theobald

This year we have used Max Lucado's excellent DVDs to introduce the concepts to the children of them being unique and loved by God. In this Spring Term we are continuing to work through the Bible with a look at the life of Jesus. We have had lots of fun, made some interesting crafts and enjoyed learning new songs. It is exciting to see so many children (35+) come along and learn about God's amazing story. The vast majority of them never regularly attend a church but they are learning what it is to be part of God's kingdom. Please continue to pray for us that we will "Shine" for Jesus and reflect His love. Those who regularly help at Storykeepers are Becky Taylor, Alison Cockrell, Fran Kittle, Sally Hayward, David Pollard, Charlotte Bond and myself, plus refreshments served and washed up by Jill Wright and Teresa Burrell. Thank you to all who regularly pray for us and offer words of encouragement.

ENERGY - Danny Ellero

Energy has continued again this year and we have once again been blessed with high numbers and, more importantly, a solid team. This past year has seen Energy tackle topics of world issues and God's nature. Also during the past year we had our first Energy socials, the first took us to Great Yarmouth where we had an energetic game of quasar and bowling. The second Social saw us visit the Norfolk Snowsports Club at Trowse where we had a lot of fun sliding down the slope on tubes.

MISSION ACADEMIES – Danny Ellero

Most of you will know a little about this new project but for those that don't.... You may remember HOPE '08 the year of mission in 2008; well, Phil Timson with the rest of the team at HOPE Revolution are planning a HOPE '14. Whilst planning this year of mission in 2014 they were challenged about how to create sustainable mission rather than just a 'one hit wonder' like HOPE '08 was. This is where Mission Academy comes in. It is a training ground for young people to learn about mission and to hopefully get fired up about it. It works by getting about 10 churches together and each church dedicating one youth worker to the project and then each youth worker bringing about 4 young people. These 50 people make up the academy.



We've just had our first Mission Academy weekend and it was a great success. The next weekend is in June and we're very excited by it all!!

NEWDAY 2012 – Danny Ellero

We went to Newday in 2012 and what a fantastic week it was! All the youth left feeling fired up and equipped to face the year! And we've just started planning Newday 2013!! Exciting times!

[NOTE: work at Hethersett High School has been put on hold for the time being as there is a good CU operating within the school run by one of the teachers.]

Child Protection – David Pollard

A Child Protection training evening led by the Diocesan team was held in Mulbarton Infant School on 17th July 2012. Twenty-nine people attended, mainly from Mulbarton parish church. Persons working with children should attend a Child Protection/Safeguarding training at least every three years, either with the Diocesan team or from their employer. Will anyone working with our children, who has not been on such a training event recently, please contact David Pollard so that attendance at an event may be arranged.

In December David Pollard took over from Sue Mellows as the church's 'Named Person' (Child Protection Officer). Our thanks are extended to Sue for all her efforts keeping our church up to date in this area.

Will group co-ordinators please keep David informed of all their personnel, especially when changes occur.

All adults who are leaders/helpers within the youth and children's teams (with the possible exception of recent recruits) have the relevant CRB checks.

The Child Protection section of The Safe Haven document from the Diocese can be found at

<http://www.norwich.anglican.org/children/safeguarding>

Youth Management Team (YMT) – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

The Youth Management Team exists to support, enable, and supervise our Youth Worker and encourage youth work. It meets termly and the current members are Vivienne Clifford-Jackson, Stewart Burchell, Jess Stubenbord, Danny Ellero, and Fiona Munn. Previously George Newbery was also a member and we thank him for his input. Tom Taylor has agreed to join when Jess retires. We also meet with Hope Church youth leadership regularly to share information and ensure the Youth Worker's workload is fairly balanced between the two churches. Over the year we have discussed Danny's equipment and funding needs; his roles with local schools and Xtreme; his groups such as Switch and IGnite; facilitating the young people to attend festivals such as Newday and Letton Hall YP weekend and, in the future, the Mission Academy and a training course for his professional development. Danny's help was also invaluable for the Jubilee and Olympic events in Mulbarton. We have completed his appraisal for the 2012/13 year. He has spiritual and managerial support from both churches and will have a mentor to support him through his training programme. We would like to thank Danny and pay tribute to his inspirational hard work for our young people and congratulate him on his engagement to Lauren. But most of all to thanks Jess without whose vision and persistence none of this work would have been possible

MINISTRY / DISCIPLESHIP / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS FOR ADULTS

WEEKLY MINISTRY GROUPS AND OTHER GROUPS – OVERVIEW by Jess

We have several of these groups. Some function during the day time (Mums Together on a Thurs morning, another on a Wednesday morning, one on a Friday afternoon, which is a women's group, and Cameo - again for women - on alternate Tuesday morning), whilst others meet during the evening, one on a Monday, another on Tuesday and one on Wed evenings.

- Sometimes groups undertake their own Bible studies, at other times they have followed up questions based on a preaching scheme.

- Most of the groups meet weekly and are asked, as well as doing Bible study, worship and prayer, to serve the church family and reach out to the community.

We believe these groups to be a vital component of our church family life. We need to learn and support and encourage each other more and more as society becomes ever more challenging.

BARNABAS GROUP – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson

Barnabas met fortnightly in term-time in 2012 and followed the format of hospitality, sharing, prayers, a psalm and discussion on a theme. This included topics taught about in sermons as well as using the Jubilee and Olympics to inspire links to Bible readings. We usually met at Vivienne's house but Felicity also offered us another venue when needed. Our numbers varied over the weeks from two to ten people. Vivienne had to resign from leading Barnabas in December but Jill Wright has kindly agreed to take over the leadership for 2013 with the agreement of the group and it returns to its spiritual home in Birchfield Gardens. Meetings there commenced in February (after a cancellation due to snow) and we are currently 'Mapping Luke'.

TREE CLIMBERS – Stewart & Rachel Burchell

Tree Climbers (total membership: 7) has been meeting weekly on a Thursday night since September 2012. We take our name from Zacchaeus' attempt to see Jesus as he passed by, and in our desire to follow his example by coming down from the tree afterwards! Like Zacchaeus, we are all short in one way or another (not just in stature, although Dwarves, Elves and even Orcs are, of course, welcome like anyone else!). We have been using Philip Yancey's course "The Jesus I Never Knew" as the basis for our study, which we have been savouring in a sloth-like manner, still being only mid-way through Session 2 out of 6!!! We provide space for people to ask questions, express doubts or wrestle with topics, all in a safe space. You don't have to be out of your tree to come along, but it probably helps!

TUESDAY EVENING MINISTRY GROUP – Patrick & Bev Theobald

Although small in number we are a very supportive group who have been willing to have a go at different formats for the group-Bible studies, dvd based studies, prayer, meditation and outreach. We meet in different homes and each week the sessions are led by different members of the group. We would love to be able to spend some time in worship but a lack of musicians has made this difficult (yes we know we can address this in other ways!) Apart from that the fellowship and cakes are much appreciated!

WEDNESDAY MORNING MINISTRY GROUP – Anne Mary Stubenbord

We have had a happy year, growing together, watching a challenging DVD series on the Cross, doing Bible study, growing and supporting each other in prayer and fellowship over coffee outings! It had been a privilege to lead this group. The group has decided to carry on meeting with a shared leadership and Margaret Fenn as organiser as they will meet at her house. Others are very welcome to join this lively bunch of women on Wednesday mornings.

WEDNESDAY EVENING MINISTRY GROUP – Becky Taylor



The group is held at 95 Cuckoofield Lane on Wednesday evenings from 7.45 pm onwards. This year we have completed the course 'Awakening the Church' which was a very challenging study produced by Pastors John Mulinde and Mark Daniel of World Trumpet Mission. It required a daily discipline of reading the Bible and completing daily studies which has helped us all to understand better how God commissions his people to serve Him both now and throughout the Bible. We are currently using the NOOMA videos and accompanying



discussion notes for our study focus in the group. We have prayer-walked through the new estate asking God for guidance and speaking to those we have met on our way. Our group has about 8 regular members with 6 others attending when they can. Worship and listening to God is an important part of every meeting and we have seen a dramatic answer to prayer following a picture given to one of the group. Our contribution to the Church Away Weekend at Letton Hall was performing three pieces of music 'playing water-filled' bottles! (*above*). At Christmas we entertained the residents from St Andrews with a Christmas Party at Harvest House (*left*). As we move into this new phase of church life we truly believe that God is stirring up His church on earth and, individually and as a group, we want to be ready and equipped to be used by Him for His glory.

MUMS TOGETHER – Julie Wilkins

This is a group to encourage and support Mums and other Carers of children that meets Thursdays from approximately 10:15 to 12:00 noon.

We have been pleased to welcome a number of new mums to our group this year. We now number 17 on the books but on average are about 6-8 when we meet. We might not all make each meeting with children and others making their usual demands but we know we are there to support each other. Our Facebook virtual version of the group allows us to support each other through the week with advice, prayer and humour; it also means that those that can only make occasional meetings stay in touch. We still aim to alternate between coffee mornings in each other's houses and meetings that also include a short Bible study that we have in Harvest House. Thanks go to our many hosts for sharing their homes and hospitality and Helen who helps me lead studies. Contact Julie Wilkins for more information (01508571128, julie.wilkins@virgin.net).

OTHER MINISTRIES

BELL RINGING – George Moore (Ringing Master)

Our church bells were rung for 11 weddings during 2012, before and after each service, by our ringing members with assistance from other tower ringers, especially for weekday weddings. The total income towards our Bell Fund from wedding fees and various donations, after paying bell ringers and purchase of 3 second-hand bell ropes, was £536.

In recent years our Church fees for wedding bells has been £90; this will now increase to £130, from which ringers will receive £15 each (which is still less than some local churches).

Permission was given for our bells to be rung for St Nicholas, Ashill Ringers' Outing in April 2012.

Our Wednesday night practices have continued throughout the year with the support of ringers from other parishes. Progress is being made by ringers all learning different methods, which makes ringing more interesting. We now have 7 ringers who are Full or Associate registered members of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers. New members are now attending practices.

We rang our bells for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations on 4th June 2012. We also marked the first day of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic games, times at 8.12 am on Friday 27th July, when all bells throughout the nation were rung for 5 or 10 minutes. All 6 bells were rung for the 2012 Christmas Midnight service, which has not been possible for many years. We intend to ring before the 10am service once a month.

The work necessary to de-rust and paint the steel Bell Frame and ladder leading to the roof area is still outstanding, but after further enquiries about suitable contractors, quotes are being obtained.

Our 19 Handbells were collected from Whitechapel Bell Foundry after repairs, with new parts fitted and a complete refurbishment to bring them to a ringable state. These had been stored at the Foundry since 1998 due to funds not being available. Total cost (including VAT) was £3196.91 paid from the Bell Fund Account. One bell has been inscribed celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. [And George is too modest to add that one bell has been inscribed as a tribute to George for his years of service as fabric Officer, tower Captain and Ringing Master – ed.]

FLOWERS, ETC IN CHURCH – Anne Mary Stubenbord

This has been a busy year for the flower people! Lots of weddings, which Anne Mary and Cyndy enjoyed doing, and although the team was small we have coped well with extra help such as at Easter and Christmas.

There is no one really to oversee decoration at church now, which is a concern. I have asked WI whether someone from there would like to help with flower arranging, and have left a rota for most of the year ahead. I have asked if someone would organize picking of Daffs from Gowthorpe manor and hope this will be in place.

I have left the Christmas decorations and lights in the cupboard at the top of Rectory Stairs. There is a collection of silk flowers that could be used to create an arrangement that would last a long time. These will also be in the cupboard at top of the stairs in Rectory. It is my prayer - and how lovely it would be to see – that more creative gifts released in the church: not just to arrange flowers, but banner-making and other activities to enrich worship.

MARDLE & PEWS NEWS

Thanks to Caroline, our Administrator, who produces Pews News each week. And thanks to Chris Carter and Becky Taylor who take it in turns to produce Mardle each month. However, they would appreciate another person having a go so we can return to 3 people rotating as editor. Don't be put off by their very

professional-looking efforts: you can either use their templates, or produce something very simple in Word (and Microsoft will correct your spellings for you!) Surely there is someone who could give it a go??!!

PA – Tim Davidson

Discussions continue regarding the updating and re-siting of our PA/AV system and this is dependent on progress of the church refurbishment plan.

Many thanks to David Pollard, Steve Kittle and others who have assisted over the year.

PROJECTION, ETC – 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 the Café Church each second Sunday of the month. 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 how we put up song words etc – do tell whoever is on duty - we do value your feedback and ideas.

WEBSITE

Check it out at www.mulbchurch.org.uk for information on all 4 churches, news, to listen to on-line sermons, etc. Our webmaster is Dennis Wells who can be contacted via webmaster@mulbchurch.org.uk and welcomes information, updates, new ideas to keep our website fresh as this is very much the public face of the Mulbarton group of churches.

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This Annual Report was edited by Jill Wright, PCC Secretary. This is our first ever illustrated edition! My thanks to all who contributed and this year made my job much easier by sending reports by the deadline (well almost all....!) and to Sue Mellows for proof-reading whilst she convalesced from her knee op.