

# MULBARTON CHURCH



## ANNUAL REPORT 2013 – 2014



# ANNUAL REPORT OF MULBARTON CHURCH 2013-14

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

## **NEW ELECTORAL ROLL for 2014-5 – John Blakey**

A year ago we started a completely new Electoral Roll which had 77 members. During the past year we have lost 3 members – sadly, one died, and two others moved to Cromer. But 2 people have asked to be added to the 2014-5 roll, so we now have 76 members. Of these, 53 are resident in Mulbarton and 23 live outside the parish but worship with us regularly.

## **ADMINISTRATION**

### **CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT – Becky Taylor & Tim Davidson**

Due to the privilege of having Dawn here as Associate Minister during the vacancy there has been very little required of our churchwardens with regard to the day-to-day and week-to-week running of the church. Again, a huge vote of thanks to Dawn. The appointment process was shared with the churchwardens and PCCs from the other three churches. This involved preparing a Benefice Profile, local and national advertising, and finally the interviews and subsequent appointment and induction of our new Rector, Rev. Adrian Miller. The Archdeacon's Visitation took place in January 2014 and all was in order.

### **ELDERS – Dawn Davidson**

The remit of the elders is to 'assist (the incumbent) with the spiritual guidance and direction of the church' – Tom and Patrick met with me to pray, to reflect and to plan while I 'stood in the gap' during the vacancy. Among other things, the Easter procession, Letton Hall away weekend and the village Christmas Fayre were particular matters for attention as the year unfurled. Selected pastoral issues and related visiting were also the focus of our prayers.

Although we didn't always meet on a weekly basis we did manage a useful continuity and valued the support that we were able to give one another. We have recently been joined by Adrian and look forward to working with him and to all that God will do at Mulbarton in the future.

### **LAY CHAIR'S REPORT – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson**

Clearly the main part of 2013 was dominated by the preparation of the benefice profile, job description and benefice meetings to ensure the correct procedure was followed both practically & spiritually to find an incumbent once Jess and Anne Mary had resigned. Corporate prayer was very positive in 2013 and we were blessed by having a high quality field of applicants and a successful appointment who could be inducted less than a year after Jess left. As Lay Chair until November 2013 I had little to do with the process as the elected benefice team did a brilliant job in leading and securing a successful process. But – my special thanks go to Dawn & Tim Davidson, Becky Taylor and Jill Wright who did a sterling job. Also my appreciation to the PCC and everyone who continued the day to day work during the interregnum. I am especially grateful to Jill for taking over as Lay Chair when I had to resign due to work pressures. It has always been a privilege to serve the church family in Mulbarton, never more so than in 2013.

### **PCC REPORT - Jill Wright (PCC Secretary)**

The PCC consists of 12 church members + the Rector and Dawn – so for most of 2013-4 we were 13 members. From April 2013 to March 2014 we have met 9 times as a PCC, including 2 'extraordinary' meetings. There had to be additional meetings with the Archdeacon and/or Asst. Rural Dean to discuss the vacancy: in May we elected Tim Davidson and Becky Taylor to represent our parish on the Appointment Committee. Attendance at all these meetings was excellent.

We have tried to support Dawn with planning special services and Danny with Youth work. We tidied up

our Child and Vulnerable Adults Protection policies. But much of our discussion was dominated by finance and buildings, including Harvest House development plans. We are so grateful to Tony Lovick (Treasurer); Chris Carter (Fabric Officer until the end of 2013); and Tim Jackson (Harvest House development) for master-minding these, and for Tom Taylor liaising with the PCC to bring just the key issues for discussion. The new Parish Share system was the major topic in July, when Tony guided us through the various options and we agreed that we can no longer pay in full, as we have done in the past, because of the huge increase. But we did agree to set aside money towards Church building repairs and possible Harvest House extension.

We have received and discussed reports from the Elders, but few of the sub-committees have met which meant extra PCC time had to be spent on some topics where recommendations could have come from those directly involved.

We were sorry that Vivienne had to stand down as Lay Chair – she has led our discussions with wisdom as well as with a fierce eye on the time! We were delighted when Rosemary Swords agreed to take on the job of Minutes Secretary. Although Jill Wright remained as PCC Secretary it freed her to also be Lay Chair after Vivienne could no longer fill that role.

### **HUMBLEYARD DEANERY SYNOD – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson**

Our 3 elected representatives during 2013-4 were Maureen Blakey, Vivienne Clifford-Jackson (Vice-Chair of Synod, also an elected member of Diocesan Synod and of Bishops' Council) and Jill Wright (Synod Secretary). In addition Rupert Wilkins is *ex officio* as Treasurer and Deanery Assessor, though he resigned the last-mentioned post in protest in Autumn 2013. Dawn is clergy member. So Mulbarton is quite influential in the Deanery!

Synod meets three times per year and is roughly equivalent to district council level and consists of the members of local parishes and benefices. It covers a population of 34,791; has 465 on the Electoral Roll; its meetings have 36 Lay Representatives from 7 Benefices which have 36 Churches in 23 Parishes. It has 7 Church of England Schools. **During the last year we have discussed**; caring for the environment, children youth & family work & the role of credit unions. We hope to repeat the very successful conference of March 2012 to support our parishioners in mission and outreach in 2015.

### **NORWICH DIOCESAN SYNOD – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson**

Diocesan Synod meets three times per year for four hours and is roughly equivalent to the county council for the C of E.; The Diocese of Norwich covers 1,800 sq miles, a population of around 879,000. It is organised into 21 smaller areas called 'deaneries'. The Diocese of Norwich maintains an average of just over 180 stipendiary clergy and a number of non-stipendiary clergy and about 65 chaplains, reaching into every part of the community. The Diocese oversees around 650 church buildings. It provides training and support for those who serve in our churches, from vicars to volunteers. The Diocese maintains over a hundred Church Schools and Academies – almost a quarter of the primary schools in Norfolk and Waveney – with over 13,500 pupils. It supports and empowers children, young people and families via mobile playgroups to youth work cafés; provides training and support for youth and family workers, and 1,800 volunteers who work alongside them. The **subjects discussed this year** included; Authorised Worship Assistants, Women in the Episcopate, young people in our diocese and parish share.

**Bishop's Council:** plans the business of Diocesan Synod and advises it and the Bishop of Norwich on matters of policy. I was elected to this in 2012 and have attended the residential with the bishops, archdeacons and other reps in November. It was a thoughtful and spirit filled event which considered youth, children and church schools issues; credit unions, the church urban fund, poverty in Norfolk and church buildings.

# FINANCE REPORT for 2013 – Tony Lovick (Treasurer)

**A Year of Change:** 2013 has been a year of great change. We began with much partying to celebrate Jess’s retirement. Many responded with great generosity to special collections for Jess and Dawn. The interregnum also brought exceptional items of revenue and costs which distort these accounts.

However stripping these aside, we see the largest drop in regular giving in living memory. A significant number of families have reacted to a reduction in their income. Some of this is the lagged effect of the financial crisis working its way through the economy and impacting personal incomes.

The rolling on of this across the 12 months of 2014, (other things remaining the same), will cause a further decrease which we need to accommodate.

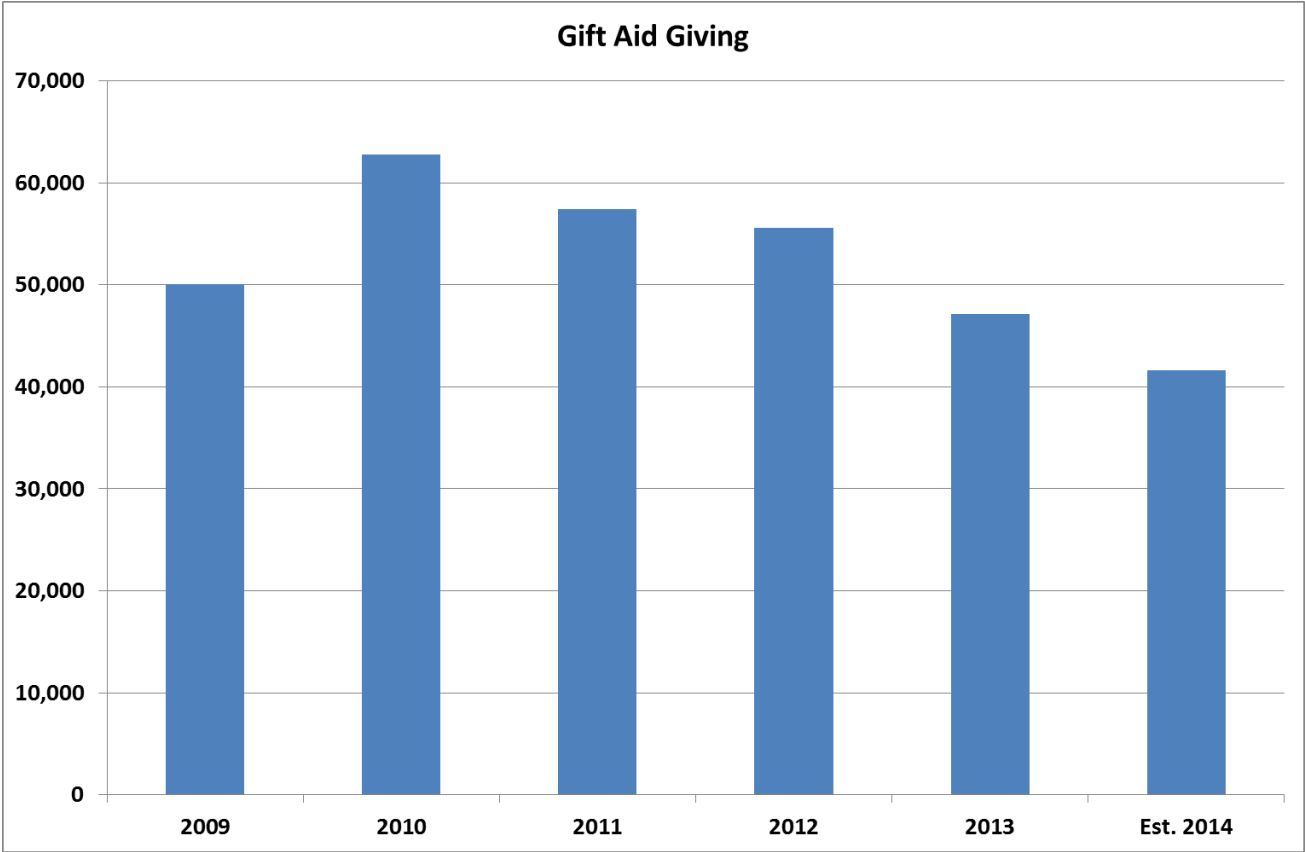
**Strategic Vision:** The rejection of Harvest House Annexe plans and the appointment of Adrian provide us with an opportune time to re-establish our Strategic Vision. Our financial plan will then respond in support of that.

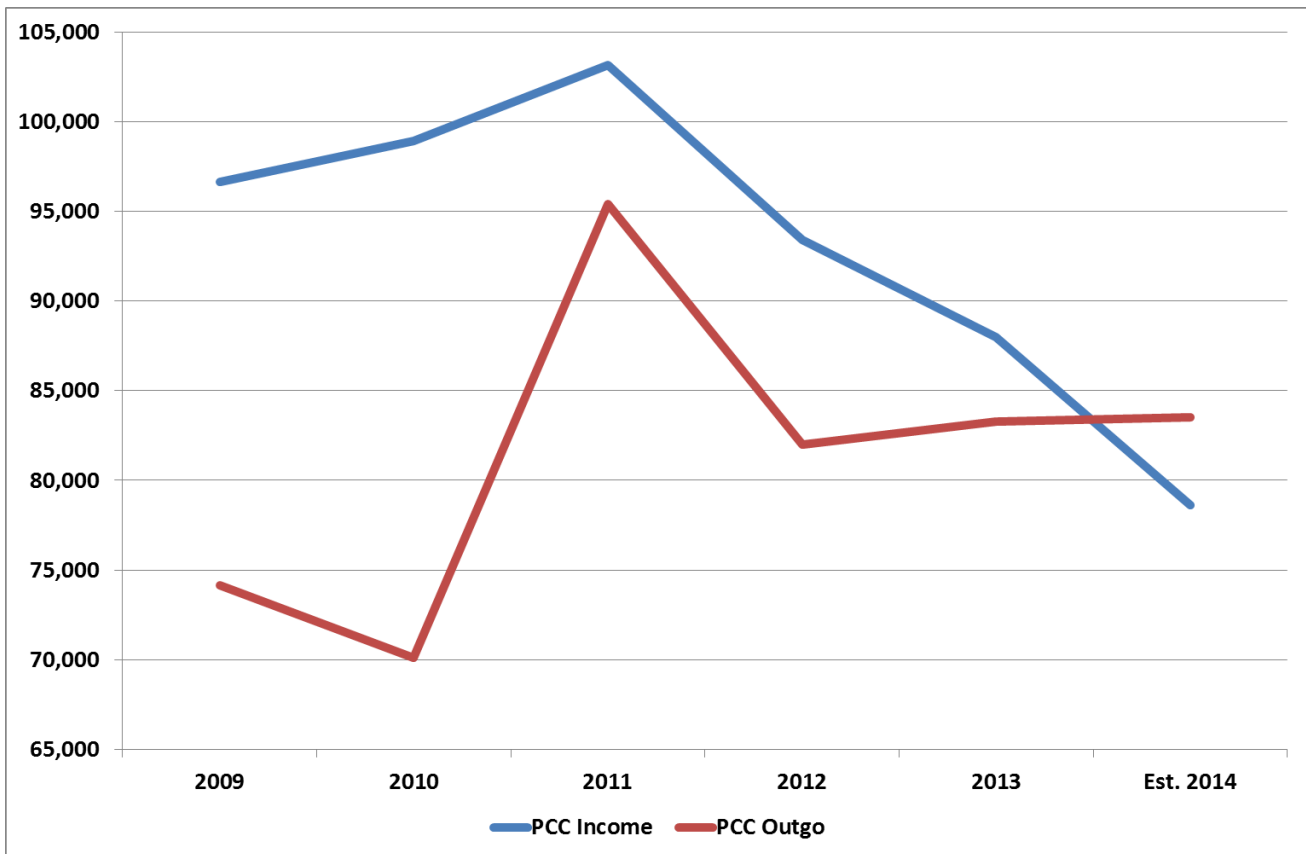
**Registering as a Charity:** In 2012 we exceeded an income of £100k by a large margin, and narrowly missed that in 2013. This requires us to register as a charity, instead of being excepted as a part of the CofE. We see this as a good development, since we will have a charity number quoted on all our documents, dispelling any doubt which those outside may have had.

**Funding North Aisle Roof:** Following the depletion of the Church Maintenance Trust in 2012, there was a need to rebuild towards an expected requirement to replace the North Aisle roof sometime after the next quinquennial report. The PCC have allocated £550 per month to this from Jan 2012 and are on target to meet the need.

**Funding Harvest House Annexe:** Recognising the Annexe vision the PCC placed a stake in the ground at Jan 2012 to begin a plan to raise £250k by 2022. In support of this they have transferred £1000 per month for that purpose. A new vision will show the way forwards.

**Thanks:** Thanks to Symon Mellows for his diligent efforts as our independent examiner. Special thanks to all the faithful and generous members who have continued to support us this year.





**FABRIC REPORT for 2013 – Chris Carter** (Fabric Officer to end of 2013)

**CHURCH – Chris Carter**

The year started with the retirement of George Moore who had been the Fabric Officer for many years and this was marked with a presentation at the Rectory.

It was decided a Fabric Team of four people would be the best way forward. This consisted of Chris Carter, Tom Taylor, Derek Jesse and Steve Kittle. Unfortunately Steve Kittle had to step down due to illness and later in the year Rosemary Swords volunteered to take his place. Derek Jesse also had to resign as he is now working away from home.

A two weekly visual internal and external inspection of the Church was instigated to enable any defects to be seen at an early stage.

The organ and Church clock were serviced during the year as usual.

There was an ingress of water from the North Aisle roof again in the summer and Dennis Tuttle (our architect) visited and inspected. It was determined that some cracked tiles and a broken gutter were the problem this time. Quotes were hard to get from builders but eventually the roof was fixed in early October.

The fire extinguishers in the Church and Harvest House were serviced in October. Also the electrical portable appliance testing for The Church and Harvest House was carried out in November. This took hours due in part to the large number of items in Harvest House. Some of which seemed not to be used or had been stored there for no reason. A review of portable electrical items/extension leads etc., etc. within The Church and Harvest House should therefore be undertaken, and those which are not needed should be permanently removed from both premises to avoid future unnecessary expense and time.

Finally as you know I stepped down from the fabric team at the end of November and I would like to thank all those who have helped me in any way this past year.

Chris Carter after some deliberation decided to step down from being co-ordinator and has passed the baton on to Tom Taylor. Many thanks Chris for all you have done over the last couple of years. The major areas for concern within the church building are the need to save up for the improvement of the north aisle roof and the painting of the bell fame.

We were not successful in gaining permission from the relevant Diocesan committee to add a new glass door to the outside of the porch so that the heat can be better preserved, but we will continue to try.

### **CHURCHYARD – Chris Carter & Tom Taylor**

The Churchyard was maintained again to a good standard by Paul Riches who should be thanked by the PCC for his hard work and willingness to undertake other jobs at short notice. Tom Taylor has been liaising with George Moore about various matters (plan etc) concerning the churchyard.

There was one broken head stone in the Churchyard which was temporarily made safe until the family (Robert Preston) could decide if they wished to repair the headstone or lay it down on the ground. They have decided to lay the head stone down.

Tom has now taken over from George Moore and Chris Carter to oversee the churchyard and liaise with Paul Riches our very proficient and dedicated groundsman.

There are still a few concerns regarding the use of stone chippings on graves but the matter is now in the hands of the diocese and we are awaiting a ruling from them, although the rules are fairly clearly laid out already regarding this.

### **HARVEST HOUSE: On-going Maintenance & Use – Ian Dunlop & Tom Taylor**

For 2013/14 the main focus has been to maintain HH, principally with minor maintenance items, rather than any major works. For 2014, we will be investigating several areas for improvement: repairing the hedge/fence around the property, including the gates; improved lighting for the main room; different heating arrangements for the building overall – which may include roof repairs and additional insulation. We may also look to clear and improve the car park, so that there is more usable space available, and not so many potholes! So please look out for any announcements for help during the year – all willing volunteers welcome!

We have a dedicated and able team to oversee the work in the form of Rosemary Swords, Tom Taylor 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.

### **HARVEST HOUSE DEVELOPMENT PLANS – Tom Taylor**

It was with some disappointment that we had our first planning application for the annex refused, however Tim Jackson and his brother Nick (the architect) have been persistent in their efforts to lodge an appeal. This was done, a site meeting took place with the Planning Inspector but unfortunately the plans were refused. However, the refusal document was not totally negative, so a lot more discussion is needed on how we can extend Harvest House in a way that is sympathetic with its surroundings and can be agreed by the planners.

## **THE MINISTRY & OUTREACH OF MULBARTON CHURCH**

### **STAFF**

**Our Rector:** Jess Stubenbord left us at the end of Feb 2013 and we gave him and Anne-Mary a great send-off. Rev Adrian Miller was appointed at the end of October and moved here from the Tas Valley in January.

We gave him and Sarah a warm welcome before and during the Induction service in February 2014 and we are as excited as they are that they are with us to lead us forward in ministry and mission.

**Our Associate Minister:** Dawn Davidson has taken the responsibility for the Benefice on her shoulders for almost a year. This Report gives a bit of an indication of how much she has been doing. We are so grateful for her leading – assisted at times by Rev Cathy Nichols – and tried to show our love and appreciation in a tangible way.

During the past year Jan Hunt has had to stand down from training as a Reader due to a bout of ill-health. We are sure God will use her gifts as a speaker and leader in other ways.

**Those we employ:** We have a great small team of part-time paid workers (not to mention the 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. At the close of the year we had the opportunity to offer Danny extra hours with us, so from March 2014 he will be working 25 hours per week. We wish him and Lauren every blessing as they prepare for their wedding in July.

**Administrative Assistant** – Caroline Dunlop shouldered extra responsibilities after Jess left and we thank her for keeping the church admin running so smoothly (8 hours per week).

**Harvest House booking secretary** - Alison Cockrell quietly and efficiently keeps 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 to each and every member, paid or unpaid, for your service for the Lord in this church.

## SERVICES OF WORSHIP

### **The main 10am services – Dawn Davidson**

The normal pattern of services was continued through the vacancy. Dawn led and preached at the majority of services but we also had a number of visiting preachers.

The Elders decided on two specific preaching series – ‘On the Frontline’ (drawing on material produced by the London Institute for Contemporary Christianity) to take us through the summer holidays and this was followed by a series on Ephesians, leading up to Advent.

### **Worship team – Becky Taylor**

During 2013 Fiona has stepped down as Worship Coordinator and Becky Taylor has taken on the role again. Rachel Burchell, John Moore and Becky Taylor lead worship in a variety of styles and Bev Theobald has offered to be ‘reserve’ but at the moment is not on the monthly rota. Our aim is to provide relevant worship for all ages whilst being sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and give space for personal and corporate encounters with God. This is your worship time so if you discover a song that you feel we might be able to use, please pass it on to us. The worship team is growing and we always welcome those who have a heart for worship and can offer their musical gifting to serve God and His church in this way. A vote of thanks for the commitment of all those involved.



**Evening Services:** In 2013-4 we continued to have only one monthly evening service, with Healing and Wholeness services and Encounter God times alternating each month.

## **'FRESH EXPRESSIONS' for Outreach**

### **Café Church – Bev Theobald**

Café church continues to meet on the second Sunday of the month in the Village Hall. For some it is their expression of church. We try to ensure the topics covered are relevant and applicable to everyday life. If you would like the team to consider any topic, then please do speak to one of us. Some church members faithfully turn up each month to help with set up, serve coffee, and pack away. A big thank you to them from us all, and to everyone for their enthusiastic support. For the future we would love to see more people being invited along by the church family. We are also considering how to reach out to the many football spectators standing outside. Watch this space. Our vision is to see God's kingdom established in the village and for Café Church to be part of that mission.

### **Church at Hanover – Nina Davey**

It doesn't seem possible that Church at Hanover has now begun its 3<sup>rd</sup> year as a church family meeting together on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday at 10.30am each month. Our congregation has grown, not only with more Hanover residents but also with friends (some of whom do not otherwise go to a church) joining us who live close by. We fill the communal room here and really enjoy worshipping God together. God's word is read and preached faithfully and our hymn singing almost raises the roof!

We now have a large-print hymn-book with over 250 hymns and songs to choose from. We purchased 50 copies and are now wondering if we need more.... Our Carol Service saw almost every chair filled and we had to supplement the hymn-books with carol sheets!

As we look forward to the future, wondering what God has in store for us, we are thankful for those who pray regularly for us, and also for those who prayed years ago that there would be a church here at our end of the village one day.

May Church at Hanover always bring Glory to God, for His love *is* eternal (Psalm 136)

## **OTHER MINISTRIES**

### **Prayer Ministry & Healing**

Prayer ministry continues to be after each main service, and Caroline has maintained a rota using people experienced in this area.

### **Prayer Chain – Dawn Davidson**

A long overdue (my apologies!) revision has now been printed although I am aware that there is potential to expand the prayer chain to include other Christians living in Mulbarton and our other parishes. For those who have access to a PC, there are plans to include the prayer chain in a password protected area on the church website – this will make revisions and distribution easier. Hard copies will of course be provided for those without a computer.

There has been very little activity on the prayer chain so far in 2014. It is important to have paper and pencil near to the phone ready to take down details for prayer and give priority to passing the message on and then praying! Keeping a separate notebook to refer to ensures you can keep these matters in prayer on a regular basis.

### **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 six thirty and praying for an hour.

Come on give it a try!!

### **Thursday Afternoon Hanover Service – Jill Wright**

This is held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month. This short, informal service is designed to be an encouragement for older Christians who may not otherwise get to a church service or home-group. It continues to be supported by about 20 people (half from Hanover and half from outside) and these people are also the core of Church at Hanover Sunday services. Jill Wheeler had to stand down from playing the keyboard for several months, and we are grateful to Alice Lince for coming to play during that time. The leading and speaking has been shared by Dawn and Jill.

### **MOMS IN PRAYER BREAKFASTS – Helen Pennington**

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

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

*Aim:* To introduce mum's, grandma's, 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 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 it has been flowers; playdough with Isaiah 64:8 and chocolate from Switzerland with Isaiah 43:2-3

*Attendance:* Between 10-16 mothers attended from Mulbarton and parishes beyond, with a list of 19 regulars.

*Growth:* There is now another MIPI group in Mulbarton that is meeting weekly and others praying about stepping up with MIPI to form a group. Mothers also say how this has equipped them in personal pray life and they have grown in confidence to pray out loud, knowing that God sees the sincerity of their heart rather than the eloquence of words

*Me:* I am a Contact Person for *Mums in Prayer UK* in this region and was privileged to attend the *Moms in Prayer in Europe* key leaders gathering "Journey of Faith", with 68 women from 18 countries, which provided training, equipping and fellowship for their ministry. We were then guests at the celebration of 20 years of Moms in Prayer Switzerland. I have brought back a few MIP prayer booklets, available to purchase, and free flyers on request More details about MIPI can be found on their websites [www.momsinprayer.eu](http://www.momsinprayer.eu) and [www.momsinprayer.org](http://www.momsinprayer.org).

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

### **Baptism preparation – Dawn Davidson**

We had a variety of enquiries over the year but a significant number seem to be put off when they discover that we encourage some level of church attendance (even when that is the occasional Cafe Church or the

Thursday morning group) and include a couple of sessions of preparation.

We do seek to offer a warm welcome to those requesting 'christening' and to explain what it means to live life as a response to God's love.

However, there is a marked disconnect between what most people think baptism is and what the church understands of it. Baptism remains both one of our greatest opportunities and one of our greatest challenges.

### **Weddings & Marriage Preparation – Dawn & Tim Davidson**

We have a total of seven weddings booked in at Mulbarton this year (plus four in our other churches) – this made for a good attendance at the Marriage Preparation course which ran in Harvest House for the five Friday evenings in January. Tim and Dawn hosted the course using the HTB material (DVD) presented by Nicky and Sila Lee. Coffee and dessert were served as couples discussed questions designed to get them thinking about key areas in marriage and relationships.

One particular couple had been reluctant to attend but after just one session were full of enthusiasm and eager for more.

Marriage preparation offers valuable pastoral contact and opportunity to build a real rapport with couples before their wedding – couples also value this time to get to know the minister who will be officiating at their ceremony and ask a myriad of questions along the way! Beyond this, each couple will meet with the minister to agree an appropriate Order of Service. A separate rehearsal is held in church for each couple, usually during the week before their wedding.

### **CHURCH WEEKEND AWAY – Sue Mellows**

As usual our church weekend away in October 2013 was at Letton Hall near Dereham. 70 of us including all the children and babies were resident for the weekend plus day visitors, (22 on the Saturday!)

We had booked both the Main Hall and Dolphin Court for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, however numbers were down on 2012 and the church had to step in to meet the minimum charge. We are in a transition period; we are too large to fit into just the Main Hall with our current pattern of room usage but below the numbers needed for both venues. At present the PCC has agreed to back us for another year with the full site, this enables us to have the youth in dormitories in Dolphin Court, with their activities in the meeting room there, while the adults and children stay in the Main Hall. Everyone meets up at mealtimes taken in the Main Hall together and for the Saturday night's entertainment.

The committee comprising Liz Jesse, Jim Harrald, Adrian Munn, Danny Ellero, Angie Fenn and myself would welcome ideas to encourage more church family to come and join in the whole weekend which will enable us to continue in both venues. If numbers stay low we may have to return to booking just the Main Hall, which could lead to considerable sacrifices in room usage to fit in the venue, such as the loss of youth dormitories and returning to family groups sharing rooms.

Anyone who is interested in joining the committee please speak to one of us.

The theme for the 2013 weekend was 'Lettons'- (with activities based on a traditional holiday camp). The speaker for the adults was Freddie Hedley based at Fountain of Life Church, Ashill. Danny Ellero, aided by Lauren and Libby Hayward, led the youth programme. Alice and Kevin Lynch and George Newbery from Hope Church led the children's work. The teaching for the weekend was based on our verse for 2013:

'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace' (Eph 4:3)

We were very grateful to Tom who once again masterminded our Saturday night supper and our Sunday lunch superbly.

## **OUTREACH**

(see also earlier reports on 'Fresh Expressions' of church for outreach: Café Church and Church at Hanover, p.9)

### **Men's & Kids' Mornings – Bev Theobald**

SODA is a joint venture between the school and the church to provide a half termly venue for dads and children to meet and play together. It is very well attended. We were recently featured in a national magazine called *Life and Faith in Rural Britain ... Country Way*. You can read the article on line too at [www.countryway.org.uk](http://www.countryway.org.uk) (issue 65). Please pray for good relationships and helpful conversations. Tom, Katrina, Becky and Lynne regularly help. A number of church dads and their children also attend and support this exciting new venture.

### **Men's Breakfast – Ian Dunlop**

None held this year, but another is planned for soon!

### **TIFFINS – John & Maureen Blakey**

Still a very happy group. We have our 'regulars' and our 'not so regulars'. Watching the children growing and playing so happily is a joy to behold. We do have room for a few more, so spread the word about our Wednesday morning coffee stop! We love it!!

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

No course has been held since February 2013.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT IN 2013**

### **Mulbarton Christmas Family Fayre – Tom Taylor**

This was an event staged and managed by the Parish Council. Village groups were well represented on the day/evening by something like twenty village based groups. There was range of stalls offering activities, freebies, quizzes, food and drink, and a vast range of interesting things to sell as Christmas gifts as well as free roast chestnuts, and bouncy castles. The church organised a stall and 2 sessions of community carol singing, with brief comments on each carol to point people to 'the reason for the season'. A good number of people attended and the weather was perfect.

It is hoped to run the event again in 2014 – currently scheduled for **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December**.

## **WORK WITH CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE – teaching & outreach**

### **BOUNCERS – Tania Davies**

We have a small group of up to 6 children who can join us when they start walking until year 1. We are going through a series of Scripture Union books called Tiddlywinks. The children are learning all about who God is and what he has done and continues to do through stories, crafts, games and songs.

### **CCC (Children's Christian Club) & Revelation - Liz Jessé**

This last year has seen lots of changes in the children's groups. Until the summer holidays CCC was run by a small team and met in the main hall of Harvest House, and Revelation was headed up by Julie and Rupert Wilkins and had moved from the Rectory to the prayer room in Harvest House once the Rectory became vacant.

After many years of hard work and dedication to CCC, David retired as a leader at the beginning of the summer holidays. We are all very grateful David's service and would like to thank him for all he did. Thank you David.

As numbers of children and leaders were dwindling, the autumn term saw the two groups merge, being led by Julie, Rupert and Liz. We meet in the main hall of Harvest House, doing activities together then splitting into age relevant groups for the teaching time. This is working well and the number of children is picking up again. So we could really do with another leader or two.

This year we have studied topics such as the "I ams" of Jesus, Christian Commitment, and Encounters with Jesus in the Bible.

### **XTREME – Danny Ellero**

Xtreme has continued in a similar fashion and now we are re visiting some of the bible characters that were missed the last time the topic was covered.

### **SWITCH – Danny Ellero**

Switch has continued to develop, with this next stage that of the young people taking an active part in their own learning and delivering. We are currently in the middle of an FAQ session topic where the youth have chosen questions that they have and questions they've been asked and then in turns helping in the delivering of the sessions, another great sight of young people developing their skills.

### **IGNITE – Danny Ellero**

IGNight sadly is on a break with it being unlikely to return. IGNight was created as an opportunity to connect young people in rural villages once a month to study and worship God. It was based in Poringland and led by Peter Tyson from NYFC. The problem came when Norwich YFC launched Encounter which is a termly event covering a similar subject. We made the decision to give IGNight a break and focus on Encounter for a time. This appears to be successful but is still undergoing a testing phase.

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

Storykeepers continues to meet for 6 Wednesdays in each term. We have around 30 children attending. These are all from non-church families so the ministry is vital. I am very grateful to the team who continue to support and, more often than not, lead each week. We focus mostly on bible stories and events. Please pray that the leaders will have opportunities to share with both children and families the love of God as well as the joy of a relationship with Him.

### **ENERGY (after-school group in the Junior School) - Danny Ellero**

Energy has continued going strong through the winter term, With a great team to help plan and deliver the sessions it has grown in its diverse approach. Energy has seen a number of the church young people step up and lead sessions and games. It's so good to see the next generation learning and growing.

### **MISSION ACADEMIES – Danny Ellero**

The Norfolk Mission Academy has finished its first intake of young people and is now undergoing a process of refinement before a re-release in September 2014. Young people from all over the county met 4 times over the last 2 years to learn more about being a missional generation, in thought, word and deed.

### **YOUTH WEEKEND AWAY – Danny Ellero**

The youth weekend away has hit a small snag, the result being that we have cut down to only one weekend. Plans are still going strong but a lack of interest from our Mulbarton youth could mean that we pull out from the YWA this year.

### **NEWDAY 2013 – Danny Ellero**

Newday 2014 booking has opened!! Book now at [www.newdaygeneration.org](http://www.newdaygeneration.org) for 2014. Newday 2015 is still not confirmed, but hopefully we will have news soon.

### **Youth Management Team (YMT) – Vivienne Clifford-Jackson**

During the interregnum we have not been able to meet either with Hope church or our reps. But Danny and I met nearly every month during the year and Danny also met with Tom Taylor as his spiritual mentor. Our usual agenda items include Danny's admin, equipment and expenses needs, any meetings, his workload, annual leave, days off, course, PDP/ appraisal. Also any services the young people are involved in, his achievements and future plans. I have kept him updated on church developments. Danny's detailed reports are above.

### **Child & Vulnerable Adult Protection – David Pollard**

Dr Fiona Munn was invited by the PCC to be in charge of Vulnerable Adults Protection; she was checked by Due Diligence Checking Ltd and is now serving as the church's 'Named Person for Vulnerable Adults'. The P.C.C. policy statements on Child Protection and Protecting Vulnerable Adults are now displayed in church and Harvest House.

Two young volunteers are currently in the process of being checked.

Will group co-ordinators please keep David Pollard informed of all their personnel, especially when changes occur. Personnel, who have not received any Child Protection training should contact David regarding attending a diocesan course.

The latest version of the Child Protection section of The Safe Haven document from the Diocese can be found at <http://www.norwich.anglican.org/children/safeguarding>

## **MINISTRY / DISCIPLESHIP / FELLOWSHIP GROUPS FOR ADULTS**

### **BARNABAS GROUP (alternate Monday evenings) – Jill Wright**

I took over the group from Vivienne Clifford-Jackson early in 2013. We continue to meet approximately fortnightly and have made good use of the 'Mapping.....' series produced by the Diocese, which are a very visual means of tackling events in each of the Gospels and seasonal topics such as Advent and Lent. There are now 9 of us when all can attend, including a member from Flordon and others who mainly attend services at Bracon Ash or Hethel. We finish by 9pm and there's room for more!

### **CAMEO (alternate Tuesday mornings) – run by Felicity McIlwrath**

CAMEO meetings continue on alternate Tuesday mornings during term-time. As reflected in our name: **Come And Meet Each Other**, our aim is to provide friendship and encouragement, especially for ladies who are lonely or bereaved, and above all, that we may 'meet Jesus'. The many speakers who have kindly visited us and told us of their work have certainly encouraged us to know Him better.

During the past year several of our church members have come to talk to us. We enjoyed Dawn telling us how she became a Christian. Vivienne Clifford-Jackson informed us about community outreach in Wymondham and the work of the Methodists there. Tom Taylor's impressions of his recent trip to Jordan, and Becky Taylor's Ugandan experience proved interesting and very moving.

Other speakers have enlightened us regarding the work of various Christian charities in their bid to alleviate poverty and sickness and to provide education. We heard about Feed the Minds; Coppers for Kids; of Operation Orphan in Uganda and similar initiatives in Ghana, and about the work of the Grassroots Trust in Tanzania, Kenya, India and Romania. Through Grassroots Tanzania, CAMEO continues to sponsor the education of Elizabeth, now 15 years old, doing well at school and hoping to become a doctor.

Continuing our support for Link to Hope (formerly Link Romania) for Christmas 2013, CAMEO was able to send 22 shoeboxes to be distributed to some of the most poverty-stricken homes in Eastern Europe, thanks to members and their friends. In addition, several members worked hard in their own time knitting dozens of woollen squares which were then sewn together, making 6 attractive, warm blankets for Link to Hope to

distribute.

We have had fun in craft session, being taught how to construct small boxes using coloured card, and making small paper flowers to decorate them. At Easter we made nodding 'pecking' chickens to go with mini-choc eggs, and for Christmas used evergreens, ribbon and candles to make simple yet effective table decorations. We have also enjoyed listening to music and joining in with the Bell Plates – a musical group using mellow-sounding hand-held instruments that are modern alternatives to traditional handbells. We have watched inspirational Christina Mission DVDs and an interesting J John interview. We have listened to Bible stories and to meaningful prose, poetry and prayers. We have recalled our childhood memories and pondered the nature of Angels.

9 – 12 members regularly attend CAMEO's fortnightly meetings over coffee and cake, and annually we celebrate God's love and our friendship with a special meal together.

### **TUESDAY EVENING MINISTRY GROUP – Patrick & Bev Theobald**

Ministry group continues to provide a place for support, fellowship, bible study and prayer. We meet in the Theobald's and Davies' homes and take turns in leading. We support the Infant School and have enjoyed some social occasions such as the recent Chinese fundraising evening. Patrick and myself feel very blessed to be part of such a caring group.

### **WEDNESDAY MORNING MINISTRY GROUP – Pauline Jones**

This group was started and led by Anne-Mary until she and Jess retired. It was decided to keep the group together, which meant a time of adjusting for us all. At first Sue Mellows led, until that was no longer possible; then Helen, Sylvia and I shared leadership until I had to take time out because of Dave's failing health.

We are a small group: 6 or 7 of us meet on a Wednesday morning at 9.30, usually at Margaret Fenn's home, unless needing to meet somewhere else (in which case Margaret or myself are the ones to contact). We start with refreshments and a time of sharing, then Bible Study, followed by a time of prayer for the needs in the group and the wider church family.

If you feel like joining us sometimes you will be made very welcome.

### **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 focused time of prayer.

This year we have been studying Jill Wright's excellent study book based 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**

We continue to meet on Thursday mornings, and the group continues to grow in numbers as well as together, as we endeavour to support each other in our roles as mothers. On alternate weeks we try to have a short Bible study, although we are still finding it a challenge to find material that is simple and easy to do with distractions and that has practical applications in our lives as mothers. Many thanks to Helen Pennington who helps lead studies and to all those who open up their homes as venues to our group. Alison Cockrell, one of our regular venue providers, has had to stop coming to the group, she leaves a big hole ... thanks for everything, Alison! The virtual version of our group on Facebook continues to be a great

way for us to support each other day by day with encouragement and prayer even if we can't physically meet up.

### **TREE CLIMBERS (Thursday evenings) – Stewart & Rachel Burchell**

Meets at 19, Rectory Lane on Thursdays at 8pm.

No need to climb trees - our name comes more from the idea of Zaccheus up a tree - wanting to see Jesus, and also needing to come down to meet Jesus. We are a small group that wants to see Jesus within the complexity of life, and seeks to support each other in our own struggles and explore issues of faith and doubt. We have looked at Philip Yancey's *The Jesus I Never Knew*; some NOOMA videos presented by Rob Bell and more recently are working through the series by John Ortberg - *the Life You've Always Wanted*. Lots of discussion is had and different viewpoints always welcomed.

### **FRIDAY AFTERNOON MINISTRY GROUP – Lynne Lambert**

This group is made up of nine ladies who attend the group regularly. Over the year we have studied "A Journey of Love" by Kate Hayes for Lent; a Christmas study – "Little Town, Big Story" by John Birch and we are now half way through a series by Joyce Meyer entitled "Developing Power Thoughts" – a 12 part teaching series. Our meetings start with coffee and then a praise song and prayer time followed by the study. We finish with a prayer usually by 3.30. In the summer we enjoyed afternoon tea on a very hot day at Wortham Stores and Tea Shop. Christmas saw us enjoying a suitably festive lunch at one of our members' homes with a "Secret Santa" at the end. I would like to thank Marina Carter for all her work with the administration side of things and all the ladies for offering their homes for the meetings.

## **CHURCH SUPPORT FOR HOME & OVERSEAS MISSION**

**The GIVING TEAM** consists of the Rector, Treasurer and reps from each organisation we currently support. It has not met in the past year.

Mulbarton Church pledges to give 10% of its normal income to support chosen Mission Partners. Members are invited to pray for and give to all or some of these, and our personal giving is made up to a guaranteed amount from our general fund. Please contact any of the co-ordinators below if you want to know more.

### **SUPPORT FOR D.R.CONGO – Jill Wright**

We have forged close links with **Kindu and Bukavu** diocese in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

#### **Diocese of Kindu**

This diocese is well run by Bishop Masimango, although unfortunately we do not often receive news of what is going on. Our contribution to their general funds is much valued.

#### **Diocese of Bukavu**

Bishop Bahati manages this huge diocese very efficiently. Mulbarton church pays the monthly wages of the diocesan secretary, Rev. Jules (\$40), and of Rev. Bernard, the diocesan education director, who receives a few dollars less

It was a delight to welcome Bishop Bahati and Rev Desiré when they visited us briefly whilst in the UK for the enthronement of Archbishop Justin Welby. Rev Desiré is the Development Officer for the Diocese, and Archdeacon of Goma, where there has been much insecurity and sporadic fighting, and the church's school was largely destroyed (accidentally, it seems) by a bomb. Special gifts were invited when we heard the news and some people responded.

We frequently hear from Rev. Desiré about work in Goma. We have made a substantial contribution to the



'Gutters Project' he organised, whereby water from church and school roofs are channelled to large water-storage tanks to conserve water and save local women walking many miles to find water.

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

### **Awake Mother Project (Bukavu) – Rachel Burchell**

This is a small-scale project by women for women in Bukavu, DR Congo, which helps and supports widows and offers grants and loans for projects for women to start small businesses to get some income. We send money raised at events shared with the Cheshire Home and Fairtrade sales. At the moment it is supporting 8 people in starting up small businesses, as well as running a workshop for training women in skills. It is a tough time in the Congo, at present, due to the economic crisis, so they are even more grateful for our support, as Ntakwinja cites in her last report (her words): "*Women and girls are trying their best to improve their day to day living through the help you are sending regularly. They all say thank you very much. I my self and family including. My God bless you so much for your love and concern to our vulnerability.*"

### **Church Mission Society - Ram Prasad Shrestha in Nepal – Rupert Wilkins**

Ram is an executive officer of the National Mission Commission of Nepal.

This year we have supported Ram and his team, towards being able to buy a new facility in Kathmandu, Nepal. This is now being extended by adding another floor, which should be open for mission training this month. In September he was able to go to Malaysia for an Asia CMS meeting. He was involved in a youth camp in October, attended by 90 young people.

In November, in spite of recently going to hospital with high blood pressure, Ram was at the Mission Conference in Chitwan (lowlands Nepal) with around 250 pastors, leaders and lay leaders. They have also visited Christians in prison in Nepal, and baptised a number of converts.

It's great that we can continue to support this work!

### **SUPPORT FOR TEARFUND – Simon Davies**

This year, our harvest service was held during "Café Church" in the village hall, using resources provided by Tearfund. 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 was in Rwanda, supporting rural development from January to March 2013.

### **SUPPORT FOR NYCS (Norwich Youth For Christ) – Tim Hayward**

It's been a year of change for the NYFC Gospel choir. Heather Land left as musical Director to move away with her husband, as he starts his training as a vicar. Heather has been replaced by Libby Redman (no relation to Matt Redman).

NYFC are busy preparing for the Who Cares mission, which will be starting in June. This is a joint initiative with HOPE and Newday across the Norfolk Diocese. We as a church have signed up to this and you can find more information at [www.who-cares.org.uk](http://www.who-cares.org.uk). At the launch evening in Norwich cathedral, I talked to Nick Blanch (NYFC Director) and he asked me to pass along his thanks for our support over the past year.

### **SUPPORT FOR OPERATION ORPHAN – Becky Taylor**

Directors of Operation, Brad and Caryl Moore, and Operations Manager, Jessica Taylor spoke about the work of the charity at the morning service on 5 November last year when they personally thanked us for our prayer and financial support. They also updated us on their work which has captured the imagination and inspired us to do more. The Photographic Competition organised by members of Switch (our youth group) in November was enjoyed by a number of visitors and raised funds for Operation Orphan which was

doubled as promised by the PCC totalling £150. The standard of photography was amazing and a rolling power point raised the profile of the expanding work of the charity. A sponsored cycle swarm event raised more funds and the total giving provided through church accounts to Operation Orphan was £1900 after which an additional £2000 was sent direct through an employer gift doubling scheme. All of Operation Orphan UK administrative costs are underwritten which means that **100%** of all the donations we send are used to fund their projects at ground level.

Tom Taylor spent a week with the Operation Orphan team in Jordan at the beginning of February 2014 during which one Syrian Moslem man was so touched by the team's compassion and desire to help them that he gave his life to Christ! Tom has spoken about Operation Orphan's work and his trip to Jordan at our CAMEO group and at the March Men's breakfast. Strong links with Jessica and the ability to get involved have been a huge boost to our support.

If you want to find out more go to <http://www.operation-orphan.org>

### **FAIRTRADE – Rachel Burchell**

Two main events continued with their Fairtrade flavour and funds raised for Awake Mother: a May Day trail at the Cheshire Home, instead of the annual Easter Trail. This worked out to be a very wise move, with wonderful weather and a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. It was especially lovely to see so many of the residents come and out and enjoy the event too. About £130 was raised for Awake Mother and the same again for the Cheshire Home, and just over £40 worth of Fairtrade goods sold.

The Christmas orders and 'pressies evening' was the other annual event, with over £40 of goods sold from All's Fair, £800 of orders made and £100 raised for Awake Mother.

Fairtrade fortnight will have been and gone before the AGM, but awareness of issues facing the producers of our food across the world will be raised again and simple actions presented to help **'justice roll on like a river!'**

As always, thanks goes to those who champion Fairtrade and have helped out at both these events: cake baking, volunteering, and coming along and using their buying power. **“Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public” – Cornel West** - so let's keep on loving!

### **SUPPORT FOR FOODBANK – Charles Strafford**

Our contributions are much appreciated by the Norwich Foodbank. This one of the top ten foodbanks in the whole country, in terms of food going out to local people in crisis. In 2013 it gave to 932 people (601 adults, 331 children) representing on average 7 tons a month. Between January and December there was a 54% increase in calls for its services. Norwich may seem an affluent city popular with tourists, but in reality the Campaign to End Child Poverty Report names Norwich as the Local Authority with the highest percentage of children in poverty in the East of England. The Money Advice Service Report of November 2013 puts Norwich at 25<sup>th</sup> out of 406 local authorities for over-indebted population.

Please continue to bring groceries – at the moment there is a real need for *small* bags of sugar and long-life fruitjuice.

## **OTHER MINISTRIES**

### **BELL RINGING – George Moore (Ringing Master)**

Our church bells were rung for only one wedding during 2013, by ringers from Mulbarton, Hethersett and Blofield – most local ringers were unavailable due to holidays in August. From January 2014, our Bell Fees will be increased to £150, giving ringers £15 each with the £60 balance for the tower bell fund.

Permission was given for a Peal to be rung on our bells by members of the Norwich Diocesan Association of

Ringers, comprising a version of various methods and lasting 2½ hours on the afternoon of Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013. All residents adjacent to the church were informed of this event. Permission was also given for our bells to be rung for 45 mins on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept by ringing members who had attended UEA to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the University of East Anglia.

We have 7 Ringers who are Full or Associate members of the Norwich Diocesan Association of Ringers. Four new beginners are attending our Wednesday evening practices from 7.30 – 9pm, and they are learning with support from Hethersett, Ketteringham and Norwich ringers. An article in Parish News attracted some response, and we will invite more potential ringers through the church and village websites. We intend to ring once a month on the third Sunday before the 10am service, as we have already done on occasions during 2013.

The outstanding work necessary to de-rust and re-paint the steel Bell Frame and the ladder leading to the roof area is being pursued. One report has been obtained which recommends much additional work, and the need for safety equipment to meet current regulations – at an estimated cost of £4500. But we are making enquiries about other options that might be cheaper and yet give a satisfactory result.

### **FLOWERS, ETC IN CHURCH – Felicity McIlwrath**

Diane Robinson, Sally Hayward and myself have kept the church decorated with flowers since Anne-Mary left – and, incidentally, have discovered just how much extra she did! There is at least one arrangement for each Sunday that the service is in church. It is a big commitment for the three of us, so we would *really* welcome more help: PLEASE contact me if you are interested in finding out more about what is involved.

### **MARDLE & PEWS NEWS – Becky Taylor & Chris Carter**

Our church monthly ‘Mardle’ continues to be edited by Becky Taylor and Chris Carter. There are ten publications a year with double issues for July/August and December/January. Contributions for ‘Mardle’ are made by church members throughout the benefice and form an important communication link between us. The editors would welcome others onto the team so please have a word with either Becky or Chris if you would like to know more about what is involved.

Pews News continues to be produced (almost) weekly by Caroline as part of her Administrator remit.

### **PA – Tim Davidson**

We have had a good year with PA. Steve Kittle has been available with advice regarding possible expansion and improvement of equipment. We have gained another operator in Sam Theobald. We have covered all the usual services as well as coping with Adrian’s induction and the additional sound requirements on that occasion - thanks to Stewart Burchell for providing linkage for extra microphones. We continue to help with provision (courtesy of Steve Kittle) and set up of PA at Cafe Church. The loop system is operating well and has been appreciated by hearing aid users. And thanks to Tom for repainting the speakers!

There does need to be some investment in refurbishment and new equipment – particularly in respect of lapel mics or equivalent – we are down to one at present and that is held together with sticky tape. Many thanks for all the hard work and willing service from the team – David Pollard, Sam Theobald and much appreciated behind-the-scenes help from Steve Kittle. We are currently looking for more PA operators – no experience necessary – full training given!

### **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 the display each Sunday – do tell whoever is on duty - we do value your feedback and ideas.

### **WEBSITE – Dennis Wells**

Check it out at [www.mulbchurch.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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. [Now we have a Rector who numbers IT among his hobbies we await new developments with interest....!]

And now we have a presence on **FACEBOOK**, thanks to **Fiona Munn** who organised this in 2013, and continues to oversee it.

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This Annual Report was edited by Jill Wright, PCC Secretary. My thanks to all who contributed, especially those who made my job much easier by sending reports by the deadline (!) and to Angie Fenn for proof-reading.