

**The Parish Church of St Mary Magdalen, Ripley
Annual Report
and
Statement of Accounts
of the
Parochial Church Council
for the year ended 31st December 2015**

Incumbent

The Rev'd Christopher Elson BD AKC
The Vicarage
8 Grove Heath North
Ripley
WOKING
Surrey
GU23 6EN

Bank

Lloyds Bank plc
147 High Street
GUILDFORD
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Independent examiner

Mr Steven Cliff
Avon House
The Green
High Street
Ripley
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GU23 6AR

Called by God's grace into membership of the Church,
We thank God for his blessings to us and to all mankind.
We acknowledge our sinful nature and accept God's
forgiveness through Jesus our Saviour
We commit ourselves to the work and ministry of the Church.
We will acknowledge our faith publicly by word and deed

Information about the Parish & Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.)

The Parish Church of St. Mary Magdalen is in the High Street, Ripley and is in the Diocese of Guildford.

There were 58 people on the **Electoral Roll** in 2015.

The **Parochial Church Council** aims to co-operate with the Vicar in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Membership of the PCC for 2015

Incumbent & Chairman: Rev'd Christopher Elson BD AKC. (ex officio)

Churchwardens: Monica Pashley & Phil Paul (Vice Chair)

The Churchwardens are elected at the Annual "Vestry" Meeting which immediately precedes the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) under the terms of the Churchwardens Measure 2001. They are ex-officio members of the Parochial Church Council (P.C.C.).

(The year in which the representative's term of office expires is in brackets below)

Our Deanery Synod Representatives (elected for a 3 year term):

Roger Cox	(2017)	Also Chair of the Buildings Committee from 15th September 2015
Mary Trevill	(2017)	Also Chair of Church Life Committee

Our 'Ordinary' Elected P.C.C. Members:

Jo Moxon	(to August 2015)	Hon Treasurer
Claire Carlton	(2016)	
Juliet Baker	(2016)	Hon Secretary
Dreda Todd	(2016)	
Diana Cox	(2017)	
Terence Ratcliffe	(2017)	
Alastair Heslop	(2017)	Chair of Buildings Committee to September 2015 Hon Treasurer from 15th September onwards
Valerie Clothier	(2017)	
Frances Hodgson	(2018)	
Rosemarie Orchard	(2018)	
Jamie Hogg	(co-opted in May 2010)	Child Protection Officer
4 Vacancies		

"Ordinary" members of the P.C.C. must stand down every three years but can be re-elected. By resolution at the APCM in 2015 the total number of ordinary members is to be 9 from now on.

Meetings of the P.C.C. in 2015

Between January and December 2015 the PCC met just 3 times. With the 14 members on the P.C.C and a co-opted Child Protection Officer the average attendance was 11 people per meeting a slight increase on the previous year's attendance.

During this year two subcommittees of the P.C.C. ran: the Church Life Committee and Building Committee.

The Church Life Committee was chaired by Mary Trevill who was joined by Claire Carlton, Valerie Clothier, Frances Hodgson, Rosemarie Orchard, Monica Pashley, Terry Ratcliffe and Dreda Todd.

The Buildings Committee was chaired by Roger Cox who was joined by Phil Paul, Diana Cox, Alastair Heslop & Juliet Baker.

The Standing Committee consists of the chairman (vicar), vice chair, honorary secretary, honorary treasurer, both churchwardens & the sub committee chairpeople. The Standing Committee deals with urgent P.C.C. business between the arranged meetings of the P.C.C.

Church Life Committee Report:

The members of the Church Life committee met regularly throughout 2015.

Two new members were welcomed to join the group: Frances Hodgson and Rosemarie Orchard. Rosemary Wallis resigned ,she was thanked for all that she had contributed through many years as chair. Mary Trevill became chair.

The main highlights during the year have been :

Open Church - to raise awareness of the church being open a large rigid notice has been placed beneath the notice board which says: "CHURCH OPEN DAILY".

Two resuscitation courses were held in February and March for both members of the congregation and others in the village which were very popular.

A fish and chip lunch was held after Mothers and Toddlers group in March. Also in March we continued our custom of holding a simple lunch after the midday service in Holy week.

The Veteran Cyclists came in May for coffee after our 10.00am service; they went on a ride, then returned for a service with lunch available at the Anchor afterwards. Hopefully this will become an annual event as a similar event is planned for 2016.

We had a presence at The Ripley Event. The Jolly Jars proving popular with young and old and making approximately £100 for church funds.

In September there was a social event courtesy of the Paulson family in their garden. The sun shone and all had good time.

Harvest Festival was celebrated in September starting with a very appetising breakfast cooked by the Carlton Family. Harvest Gifts were distributed throughout the village and also to the Womens Refuge in Woking, via the Mothers Union ,which were very gratefully received.

One of the Poppies from the Tower of London was purchased by the Vicar and this has been put up on the large wooden cross. Also a donation box has been attached to the cross.

Our "In Loving Memory" service was held on October 18th at 4.00pm with tea served afterwards.

A new Welcome Leaflet has been produced to give to any new people who have moved into the village. This advertises our church services, our regular groups and activities and also includes vouchers for some of participating local shops and cafes. Several leaflets have been delivered. The congregation are asked to deliver to anyone they notice newly moved here.

The Christingle service was held after the Christmas Fayre on the first Sunday in December. Leaflets advertising this were given out during the fayre and the service proved very popular.

Presents placed under the Christmas tree in church were taken via the Mothers Union to the Woking women's refuge and were greatly appreciated.

NB: there are several members of the Mothers Union in this parish who belong to the Woking deanery branch.

Building Committee Report:

There has been little activity this year apart from routine general maintenance. A number of issues remain outstanding including:

Stonework: our architect approved stonemason is putting together a quote for the more urgent masonry work on the church and separately a quote for the front wall repair so that we can perhaps speed along the job with Guildford Borough Council.

Lighting: total replacement still the end goal, but in the meantime we are investigating alternative bulbs for the existing fittings.

Boiler room windows: the architect has mentioned in the last two quinquennial reports that they should be sorted out. We have a quote for their repair but at the moment the cost is considered unaffordable

The church room link needs serious remedial work which will be expensive

A churchyard working party was carried out in September with good support and the churchyard remains in good order

Vicar's Report

My wife and I have been sorting through our many boxes of photographs. They are, of course, mainly of family, but there are also a number of pictures of Church Events; special ones like Flower Festivals or Vicar's Birthday and recurring ones like our Mary Magdalen's Day Barbecue. The Barbecue photos in particular provide a record and reminder of many former "pillars of the Church" who were once happily eating sausages in the Old Vicarage garden and are now taken from us, at peace - we pray - with God. Those photos are a reminder of what has been predictable for many years; the congregations of our churches around the land are almost all predominantly older. The statisticians were reminding us 20 years ago that by now we would have lost half our then existing congregation and in the next 10 half the remaining community of faith will pass away.

This is reflected in the continuing decline in normal Sunday attendance which took a sudden step down in 2014 and again in 2015. The statistics reflecting this are attached to this report in the usual format.

But this community of faith has not been in denial about this. We have, it is true, struggled to find ways of teaching and inspiring faith in this generation but we have recognised the

need and we have resisted the temptation to retrench and just look after each other till we turn out the lights. In various ways we have sought over the last year to extend invitations to the people of this parish and especially to children and their families. The evolving and improving style of our Family Services and a number of the special services over Christmas indicate to me that we are finding ways forward. There is much to be done but I get a sense that we are identifying new "pillars" for our Church and building who will become part of a refreshed and younger community of faith. I pray that we may be blessed in this work of God's grace.

One important area of improvement is our relationship with the village Primary School. Children and their parents supported our Carol Service this year and the annual Family Service in the School (90 adults and children) was the best attended for a good few years.

I would like to thank Alastair Heslop who has taken over as Treasurer and Mike Hughes who has agreed to manage our accounts day to day. The practicalities of changing signatories etc have taken some time but the new names are now in place and working well. We thank Jo Moxon for her years of service as our Treasurer and for setting up the computer accounts system.

The Review of Statistics (by the Vicar)

(The statistics themselves and the graphs based upon them can be found at the end of this report)

The graphs confirm the general decline we have been experiencing but they do not reflect the special services we organise some of which are holding up much better. For example:

- Remembrance Sunday attendance was less than 100 in my first years in Ripley but has now settled at 160 or more. Attendance in 2015 was 170 - the best for three years.
- Harvest Festival - 59 in 2015 - is declining unevenly . This was the lowest ever apart from 2011.
- Our Christingle Service was held, for the first time, at the end of the Village Fair. It was attended by 60 people which is more than in many recent years and particularly good because it was not a 10am Service as it always has been in the past so there was a higher proportion of visitors rather than regulars.

These special services are our opportunity to reach out to particular groups of people and give ourselves a chance to share the gospel with them. As many other Churches are also finding this can be an important means of evangelism and growth. We are open to new ideas of ways to organise such events and share our faith through them

Pastoral Assistants:

We now have two P.A.s.

Diana Cox runs the thriving "Mothers and Toddlers" group and is on the Messy Church organising committee.

Dreda Todd visits the sick and housebound and is licensed to administer Home Communion. She also leads one of the Ripples Bible Study groups.

Rosemary Wallis has given many years of service to this Church in many different ways. Her recent health problems mean that she has had to stand down from many of her roles and she is no longer formally a Pastoral Assistant.

Sacristan:

Suzie and Alastair Heslop continue in their shared role as Sacristan and do an excellent job of keeping the Vicar and the Vicar's vestry organised.

Verger:

Rosemary Wallis was our verger for many years.

The various "verger jobs" are now carried out by many different people. We are especially thankful for the dedication of Mary Trevill (with canine assistance) in opening and closing the Church morning and night.

As well as those fulfilling these traditional roles many members of our Church look after specific aspect of Church life or respond to particular need; we are very grateful to them all whose contribution is vital if sometimes unnoticed.

Churchwarden's Report

Phil and Monica continued as churchwardens.

The terrier and log book were kept up to date.

The Archdeacon and the Rural Dean paid their three-yearly inspection and gave advice on many aspects of the church including administration, lighting and exterior stonework.

There is a dedicated team of sidespersons but owing to people moving away, holidays and illness, cover is sometimes difficult so new volunteers would be greatly welcome.

Deanery Synod

Deanery synod meets three times a year and our lay representatives attended the meetings in May and October. The deanery has now been divided into three clusters. Ripley is in the Central Cluster along with Horsell, Christ Church, St Mary of Bethany, St Paul's, South Woking and Send. A first cluster meeting was attended in September which proved a useful forum for comparing notes with other churches

Safeguarding:

We continue to comply with the Diocesan and National policy on Safeguarding. Routine DBS checks have been completed as needed and several people have advised of their attendance on training courses.

Looking ahead there are some changes coming and a more focused and structured approach with both training and defining responsibilities. The PCC will carry out its annual review and renewal of the policy after the APCM and will act on revisions of policy or practice as they are notified to us.

Other Organisations in the Church

Mothers and Toddlers

We have had a most enjoyable year with upwards of 14 Mothers with their offspring (and now a few bumps) regularly attending. They were also noticeably attending some of the Family services , Messy Church and especially the Crib service .The Mothers are very supportive of each other and hold some social activities of their own .I like to think that the communication skills demonstrated by Emma (the little girl featured in the news who was awarded for phoning 999 when her Mother fell down stairs and was unconscious) were honed in our Church Room running around with her brother before they moved to the

West Country .Her parents were even married in our Church ! Another spin-off was one of our Mothers , Charlene ran free resuscitation courses in the Church Room which led to one attendee (associated with the Farmer's Market) arranging funds for a defibrillator to be located in the village!

Many thanks to Barbara, Mary, Jackie and Dreda who covered when Diana was away.

Messy Church

We have had 3 sessions during the year exploring the themes of the story of the Good Samaritan , the 10 Commandments and the real message of Christmas and although the numbers have not been overwhelming , the crafts have been much enjoyed and the fruits of their labours have appeared in the Church afterwards. We hope that the underlying message is absorbed by the children and their accompanying adults .Some of the children have originated from Mothers and Toddlers with their siblings and some have appeared at Family services too .

Many thanks to a committed band of helpers on the craft tables but always discussing the message, and Margaret spreading goodwill from the kitchen!

Sunday School

Barbara, Karine and Diana have provided Sunday School classes on a very ad hoc basis through much of 2015. At times it was not possible to guarantee that a prepared teacher would be present on a day when children were brought to Church. The presence of a few more families more regularly towards the end of 2015 and in to 2016 have caused us to seek to organise Sunday School on a less ad hoc basis.

Ripples of Faith

We have two study groups meeting regularly.

The Tuesday Ripple's group meets in the Church Room at 7:30 p.m. - finishing at 9pm. Last year we studied Isaiah and have now begun to read the gospel of Matthew. Although the bible remains the centre core of our study, it is important that we emphasise the relevance of what we read to our daily life. The study time is also an opportunity to share with each other news and events which may concern us. There is no weekly target. It is also important to us that we cover the whole book not leaving any unanswered questions or parts undiscussed. We often find that our studies link in with the Sunday readings and sermons, enriching them and making them more relevant. The study is quite informal and no "religious" knowledge is needed.

Please speak to Gabriel or Barbara if you would like to know more or would like to come along. Our phone number is:- 01483 222 646

The Thursday Group has 7 members, including two from other churches. It meets in a member's home. At present we are studying St. Luke's Gospel. We also pray regularly for the needs of the world, the church, local events, the sick and anyone for whom we have concern.

Traidcraft

A Traidcraft stall is held after church approximately bi-monthly. All profits go to the third world suppliers of the goods, enabling them to receive a fair return for their work and thus to improve their standard of living, send their children to school etc. Traidcraft also trains producers to improve their products and to manage their finances. Usually our sales raise over £100. each time. We also aim , where possible, to use fair traded items for church refreshments.

Wednesday Coffee Mornings

These weekly coffee mornings are very well attended and numbers have increased on last year. Also we are joined about once a month by the former employees of Clifford James. As well as providing a much appreciated social event, this year we have raised nearly £450 for Church Funds.

Scrabble Teas

This was started in response to the suggestion by several of the coffee morning regulars. We played on Wednesday afternoons through most of 2015 but have now moved to Thursday afternoons. We meet in the Church Room and it is enjoyed by the few who come, but we would welcome more participants. It is followed by tea and cakes.

Mens' Breakfast

Every first Saturday of the month a small collection of male members of the congregation get together to share a breakfast in the church room; taking it in turn to do the cooking. Six to eight regularly attend.

Charity/Coffee Shop

Once again the Charity Shop has continued to be successful in raising funds for the two local hospices that we support. This is thanks to people's generosity both by supplying unwanted goods to sell and others coming through the doors to buy them.

This year we have managed to take a total of £997 and after retaining some for expenses we have sent £490 each to the Woking Hospice and the Phyllis Tuckwell Hospice in Farnham.

Church Music

Our church organ is a wonderful example of the work of William Hill, organ builder of renown. Installed in 1904, its tonal qualities go way beyond what is expected in a village church. The organ tuner Robin Rust gave notice in the autumn that he will be retiring just before Easter 2016. Peter Cliff is busy getting quotes from other organ tuners to take on this specialist task.

The Choir continues to enjoy supporting the congregation in the singing of the hymns and the music setting of the Communion Service plus giving a lead in the spoken responses etc. We hold Choir Practice each Wednesday at 7.30pm for about one hour and we enjoy our singing and the friendly atmosphere. Anyone who would like to join us is most welcome. It is not a problem if you don't read music; you will soon be a competent singer. We offer our singing for weddings and always scrub up well for special occasions. It is a sign of Choir members' loyalty and devotion to their calling that our membership has remained steady. We are grateful for the extra help given by Juliet Baker and Jamie Hogg when other duties allow. Thanks also go to those singers who join us for weddings.

Mothers' Union

Gifts under the Christmas tree were distributed to the women's refuge "Your Sanctuary" mainly for the many children there this year via the Mothers Union.

Some members of the congregation belong to the MU and although they do not have a branch they attend Deanery and Diocesan events throughout the year, including preparing and leading a service in the Lady Chapel of the Cathedral, parading our banner at the Lady Day service and attending a Deanery prayer group

FINANCIAL REPORT 2015

Overall Position:

2015 been another difficult year financially, exacerbated by the hiatus around the change of treasurer and booking-keeping responsibilities. The transition is now complete and we hope to avoid some of the problems of the past year.

Cash flow is a constant problem, to make sure that we have enough in the current account to cover the Parish Share payment, and we have had to draw more than £3500 extra from the Income Fund to cover costs – and this in a year which saw a larger than usual income from fees. At this rate, the Fund will be depleted in about 7 years' time.

The PCC has, as always, kept a tight control on spending during the year. The accounts show that the level of planned giving has continued to fall - we keep losing more members than we gain.

Bank interest is still low and remains much the same as in previous years. Prospects for a return to historical levels of interest rates continue to recede.

We incurred no major expense this year, but are expecting larger bills in the next year or two for essential maintenance.

General Fund:

The funds held both at the Central Board of Finance (CBF2) and our current accounts at Lloyds stood at £674 at the end of 2015. It earned £78 in interest.

Planned Giving was down in 2015 at £1457 from £16505 in 2014. Donations for use of the Church Room were £564, up £200 on last year.

Fund raising for general church funds was £965, a decrease of £400 on 2014. The November and May Fayres are sadly missed!

Special collections were taken in Church and split between a designated charity and general funds. Regular events contributing to this were the Ripley Court Carol service, Christmas special collections and the Remembrance service. Total donations to the charities from these collections were £1314, up from £963 in 2014.

During 2015 we again held regular Wednesday morning coffee mornings. The organisers decided that funds raised should now be used for church purposes. £250 was contributed to general funds this year. Going forward, we will use the money raised to maintain a petty cash float to pay for flowers and flower arranging supplies, with any significant surplus moved to the General Fund at year end.

The Charity Shop, run by members of the parish and held in the Church Room raised money for the Phyllis Tuckwell and Sam Beare Hospices. This money does not form part of the church accounts.

Payments were, as always, dominated by Parish Share. We contributed our full commitment of £30027 under the new scheme. Due to an oversight during the transition of the Treasurer role, we were late in submitting our financial summary to the national collating organisation. Although we have confirmation that the figures were received, the diocese has not noted them and consequently assessed our Parish share for 2016 at £31228. We believe that we should be paying about the same as last year and have contacted the diocese to this effect. In the meantime, we are paying at the old monthly rate.

Church running expenses at £10225 are down on last year, mainly due to spending less on routine maintenance. Utilities and insurance continue to be areas of high cost.

Fabric & Fittings Fund:

The account at the Central Board of Finance (CBF1) earned £64 in interest and ends 2015 at £25982. £20000 of this is designated for lighting replacement.

Organ Fund:

The balance in the organ fund (CBF3) rose by £393 to £7225. Interest earned on the account was £33 and donations totalled £500 (including Gift Aid where applicable). We paid £140 for one tuning of the organ.

Income Fund:

The Income Fund started 2015 with a balance of £83461. The fund generated interest of £440. Transfers out totally £8355, leaving a year end balance of £75546.

Investments:

The War Stock bonds were redeemed by the Government, with the proceeds going into general funds.

Investment & Accounting Policies and Control:

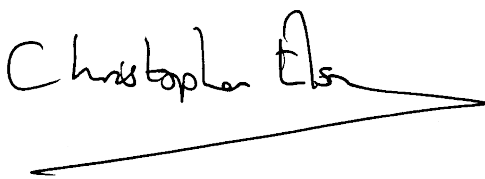
We continue with our policy to invest our funds in the CBF Church of England Investment Funds managed by CCLA Investment Management Ltd and in Lloyds TSB Fixed Rate Bonds.

Our external examiner is Steven Cliff.

(Please note that the Inspected Accounts are part of this Annual Report but are available electronically in a separate computer file)

In Conclusion:

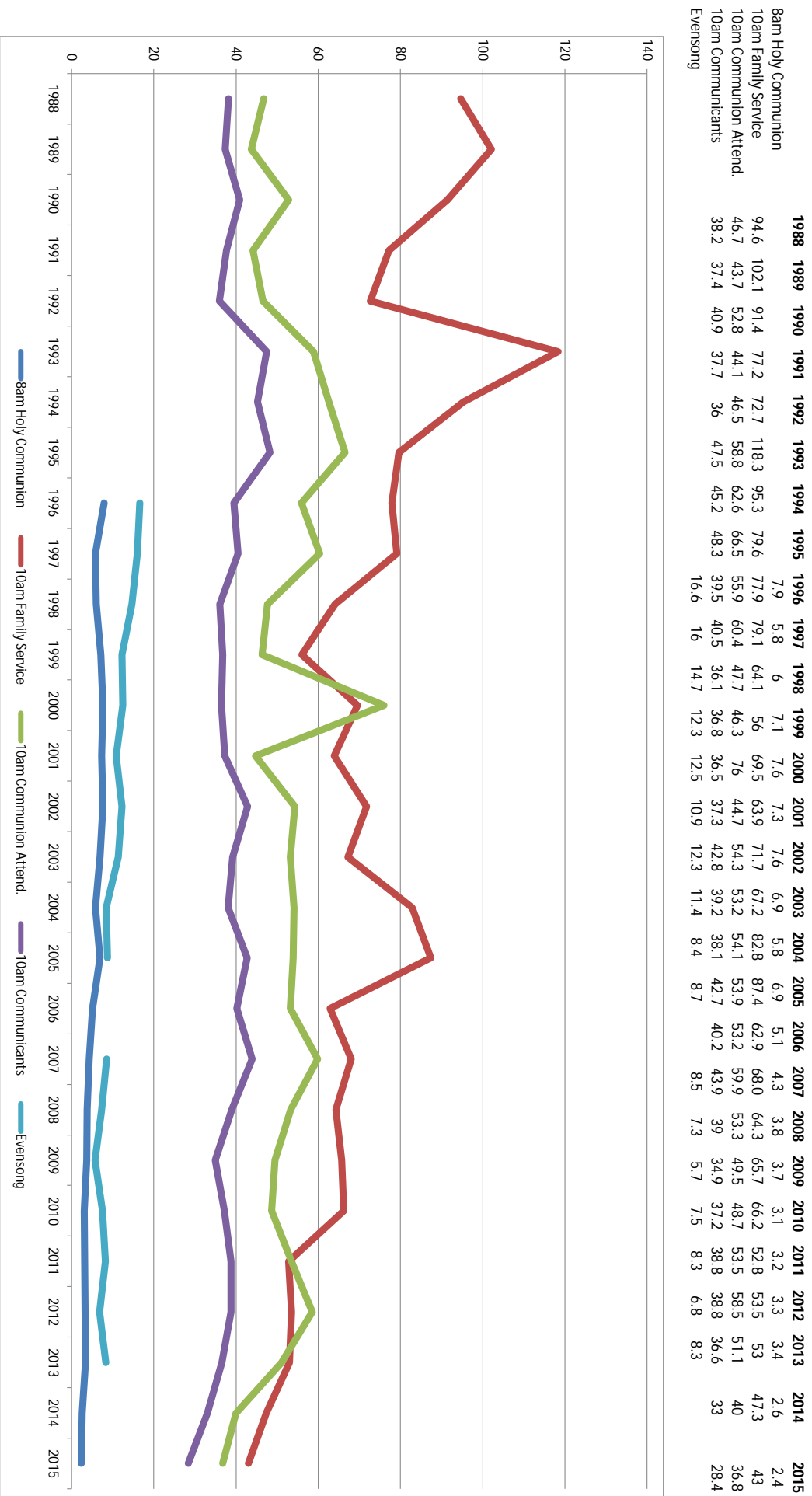
The Parochial Church Council commends this report to the people of this parish trusting that God will bless us as we plan for the future and build the community of faith in this parish.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher Elson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, thin horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right side.

Christopher Elson

Incumbent and Chair of the PCC

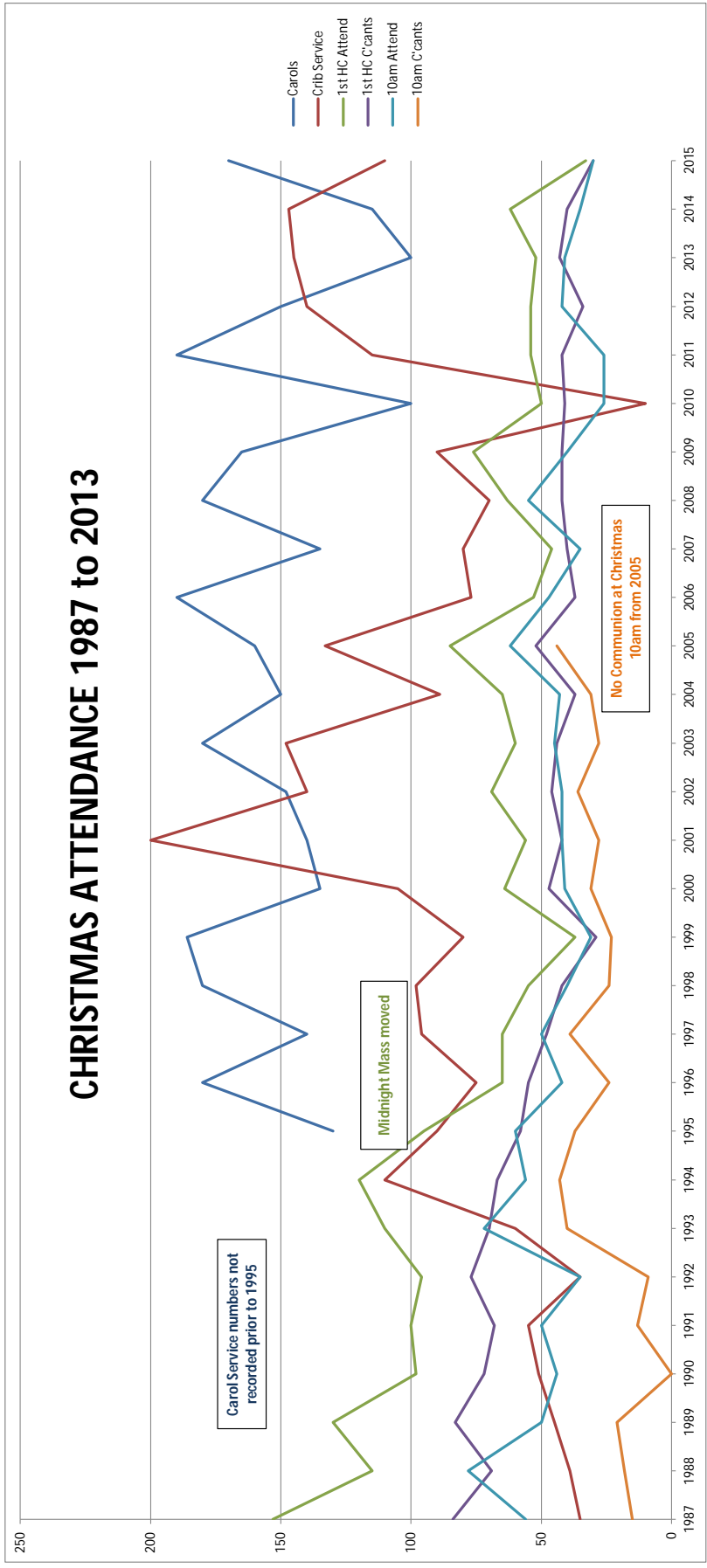
Normal Sundays



Please note: "Family Services" are our normal services so exclude the School, Scout Hut, and Remembrance Services

CHRISTMAS ATTENDANCE 1987 to 2013

	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Carols	35	39	45	51	55	35	60	110	90	75	96	98	80	105	200	140	180	150	160	190	135	180	165	100	190	150	100	115	170
Crib Service	153	115	130	98	100	96	110	120	95	65	65	55	37	64	56	69	60	65	85	53	46	63	76	50	54	54	62	33	
1st HC Attend	84	69	83	72	68	77	70	67	58	55	48	42	29	47	42	46	44	37	52	37	40	42	42	41	42	34	43	40	30
1st HC C'ants	56	78	50	44	50	35	72	56	60	42	50	40	31	41	42	42	45	43	62	47	35	55	40	26	26	42	41	35	30
10am Attend	15	18	21	0	13	9	40	43	37	24	39	24	23	31	28	36	28	31	44										
10am C'ants																													



EASTER ATTENDANCE 1987 to 2013

Year	10am Attend	10am Cants
1988	117	60
1989	95	74
1990	85	60
1991	83	58
1993	90	71
1994	97	72
1995	98	78
1996	70	49
1997	82	58
1998	78	62
1999	85	64
2000	82	52
2001	57	48
2002	73	55
2003	75	59
2004	79	59
2005	82	62
2006	86	63
2007	88	63
2008	89	59
2009	79	50
2010	62	50
2011	83	59
2012	90	44
2013	64	45
2014	96	56
2015	72	45

