



Church Secretaries' report for 2013/14

This report covers the events in the life of Broadstone URC from March 2013 to March 2014. During this time we have seen the usual mix of events and happenings in the church's calendar, and shared with members times of sadness and times of celebration. We have worshipped regularly together, supported each other with prayer and practical action, encouraged each other in our daily witness in the community, and worked with other churches sharing the good news of God's word.

The beginning of the year saw Pat Johnson retire from her position as secretary and we thanked her for all she had done for us. The two new secretaries have appreciated her support and advice throughout the year and for passing on such detailed information to us. Pat has continued caring for our church members in her role as Pastoral Secretary but she will be relinquishing this post this year. We also need to record our appreciation and thanks to David Sidey who is retiring as senior sidesperson.

Other changes this year have included children's and youth work coming under the leadership of Gill McDonald assisted by Sandra Taylor. The maintenance of the church has been taken over by a group of willing hands who are organising and maintaining the church buildings and grounds.

We also need to thank all those whose names appear on lists and rotas, and those who work quietly behind the scenes helping us maintain and continue the work of Broadstone URC.

Our regular morning services have continued to follow a similar pattern with Holy Communion being celebrated on the first Sunday of the month. The Revd Tim Meachin now often leads our worship on the second Sunday while Caroline continues to lead worship at Lytchett Minster URC.

On the fourth Sunday in the month when LMURC and the Beavers regularly join us we continue to enjoy the contributions of the orchestra as we move to try to encourage families to worship with us.

As part of our outreach we are continually exploring different patterns of worship and in June we welcomed the Wessex Synod Youth Executive who introduced us to 'Mosaic Church'.

In February Revd Clare Downing, the Moderator of the Wessex Synod led our worship after planning the service with a group of members.

Evening Services have continued to be held on two evenings in the month. On the second Sunday there is a service of Holy Communion and on the fourth Sundays different styles of worship have been introduced. For 2014 we have introduced 'Worship and the Word' which includes praise, prayer and study starting with refreshments at 6.30pm. We thank

the worship group for planning these services with Caroline.

We have continued to join LMURC for special services including their Carol Service and Maundy Thursday communion. Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services are shared with Broadstone Methodist Church.

As part of Churches Together in Broadstone we share worship celebrating such events as Bible Sunday, the Women's World Day of Prayer, the week of prayer for Christian Unity and the Walk for Witness on Good Friday. As part of CTiB we are also involved with the Bible Society, Christian Aid, Lent study groups, Lent lunches, the Broadstone Age Concern Day Centre and the Broadstone Summer JAM. CTiB also ensures spiritual support for some of the residential homes in our area. We take responsibility for monthly services at Delph House.

Our members have continued to support the work of the church with their regular giving, by supporting fund raising events and generously donating a gift to the church for Christmas. In addition we have been able to make further improvements to the sanctuary through generous gifts from members. As usual we have also made substantial charitable gifts throughout the year.

The opportunities for outreach and mission in the community have centred on children and young families. The church and hall have been filled with young families from the Toddler group, local schools, Beavers and Brownie groups as we continue to hold Pop-Ins on six Saturdays in the year and monthly Pop-In Express meetings for the older children. We are encouraged that our families are attending regularly. Some have ventured into church on a Sunday morning and are starting to feel that BURC is 'their church.' Our minister visits Springdale First School and Broadstone Middle School to take assembly.

Friendships were renewed and new friendships made when we welcomed friends from our twinning church in Frankenthal to celebrate 25 years of twinning and the publication of a joint hymnbook. Jim and Margaret Tudor were thanked for all their hard work in encouraging and organising the partnership as they hand over to Martin Casey and Janet Shortland.

Throughout the year we have joined in celebrations for birthdays and anniversaries including the 70th wedding anniversary of Dennis and Joan Banfield. We were especially pleased to celebrate with the Casey family the marriage of Kathryn and David. Katie Lousteau and Isla Grace Eaton were brought by their parents for baptism and we received into membership Pauline Luck, John and Liz Evans and Saz Holland. During the year we mourned the deaths of members Peggy Roberts and Denis Gladwin

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together with other friends of our congregation. Whether in sadness or joy we continue to reach out to those who need our support through our flower ministry and prayer.

Marion Pauley is just completing her latest term as a serving Elder and has decided not to seek re-election. We thank her for the many years of service she has given to the church. We will miss her experience and guidance in Elder's meetings.

Caroline has led the Elders in two enjoyable training sessions during the year. The Elders have spent much time working on the Local Ministry and Mission Review, ably co-ordinated by Martin Casey and facilitated by Revd Mark Meatcher. The output of this work will be shared with members shortly and should form the basis on which we take the church forward. We pray that the Lord will bless Caroline and the church as we work together to worship and serve the Lord in the coming year.

Isobel Evans & Janet Meachin

Communications Report 2013/14

This report focuses once again on how the church communicates with the wider world, eg regular press releases go to local news sources (eg Stour & Avon Magazine) publicising forthcoming events, eg Pop-Ins, and recent achievements, eg Frankenthal Anniversary, Operation Christmas Child collections. Hopefully, you all know that Pathway, together with other BURC news and information, can be found on the church website. Access to the website continues to grow: we get some 500+ visits per month. Links to the website are not just through services such as Google. A link to the church website on our Toddler Group entry on Mumsnet also generates quite a lot of interest.

The website has undergone a bit of a revamp during the year: pages about this month's services and an A-Z of Church Groups are now directly viewable. Also, a rolling slideshow of photos, all showing different aspects of church life and groups, now appears at the top of each page.

Jim Tudor

Property Oversight Group Report – 2013/14

For much of last year we had no individual responsible for property maintenance in the church. In the autumn a Property Oversight Group was formed to investigate how church maintenance could be managed. The members of the group are George Goodbody, Mick and Val Rowberry, John Evans, Martin Casey, Saz Holland and David Holland. In addition Chris and Isobel Evans have been looking after the church grounds.

The problem of property maintenance broadly fall into 3 areas:

- Routine tasks which could be completed by church members and friends
- Tasks which require specialist tradespersons such as electrical and plumbing work
- Emergencies, which may need specialist work but which need a quick response.

The POG looked at the different options for managing these categories of work. The routine tasks we think should be completed by church members and it is proposed that working parties are organised to address these where possible.

Outside of the routine maintenance we explored whether, as a church, we could employ someone to be responsible for such work however this raises lots of problems associated with employer's responsibilities. A second option would be to make use of someone who was self employed however this has not been pursued. Instead we opted for a third option, a property maintenance company and we chose CS Services as they already do work for the synod.

Since making this decision we have made use of CS Services twice: first - to change the tap in the

disabled toilet; and second - to deal with the failure of the hall boiler. In the light of difficulties and service levels experienced on these occasions, we need to re-visit this decision.

Both of these emergencies also highlighted the need to have a single point of contact for church maintenance activities. Calls are going to members of the POG and they have done an excellent job responding to them. However, it is difficult to coordinate the work and to guarantee that someone is available.

So going forward, we firstly need to organise some working parties as we have a bit of a backlog of the more routine work. Secondly we need to re-visit the approach for dealing with emergencies. Thirdly we could really do with someone with time to look after the overall church maintenance.

This might sound as if nothing has been done over the year. This has been far from the case with members of the POG and others in the church completing many of the routine activities and more complex ambitious work such as: the new church corner, repair of the gate onto the field, fixing the hall boiler and lots more things. Also on the manse side Martin has completed a survey of work which is needed so that a programme can be agreed. Top of the list was the need for a new front door which has now been replaced.

So finally can I thank everyone who has helped with the church maintenance during the year and ask for your patience while we work out how we get a bit more organised.

David Holland