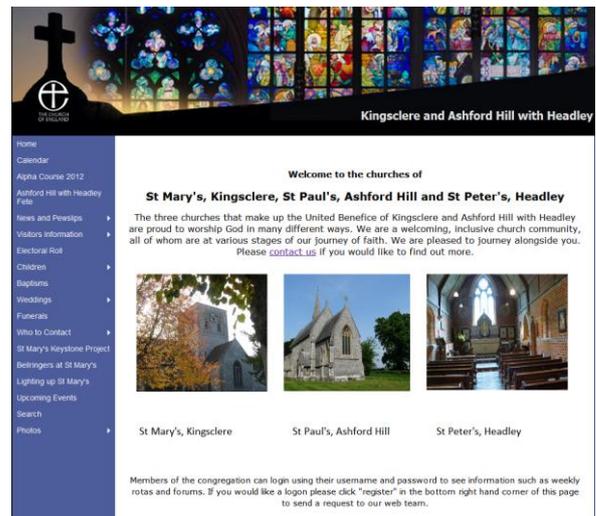


Annual Report and Financial Statements for the parish of St Mary, Kingsclere

For the year ended 31st December 2011



Jeremy & Kirsten's Wedding



Our new Benefice Website



"That's Entertainment"



Rev Trish's First Communion Service



Tom & Octavia's Wedding



Burns' Night Supper

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Highlights of 2011

We have much to celebrate as we look back on 2011. Here's a quick summary:

- ❖ King James 400th anniversary
- ❖ Rev Trish's ordination as priest in Winchester Cathedral on 2nd July and her presiding for the first time at a Parish Communion service on Sunday 3rd.
- ❖ Authorisation of nine pastoral visitors
- ❖ Record breaking August Bank Holiday Fete
- ❖ That's Entertainment festival of music and arts
- ❖ New and improved benefice website
- ❖ Establishment of Benefice Outreach Group making plans for an Alpha Course
- ❖ Well-attended series of Big Questions evenings.
- ❖ We celebrated 5 years of the United Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley

Introduction and statutory information

The parish of Kingsclere is one of two parishes which together make up the United Benefice of Kingsclere and Ashford Hill with Headley, within the Diocese of Winchester, within the Church of England. The Incumbent is the Rev Lucy Thirtle. There is an Assistant Curate, Rev Trish Bancroft, licensed to the benefice for 3-4 years as part of her training.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. It has the responsibility of working with the incumbent in promoting the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical – together with care of the church buildings and churchyard.

Kingsclere PCC has defined its mission as **“to live and share the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in and around Kingsclere, in partnership with other Christian churches in the village.”**

The parish church is St Mary's which is situated on Newbury Road, Kingsclere. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Fox's Lane, Kingsclere, Newbury, RG20 5SL.

The membership of the PCC during 2011 was follows:

Vicar (Chair)	Rev Lucy Thirtle
Curate	Rev Trish Bancroft
Churchwardens	Les Wallace Janet Stugess
Deanery Synod Members	Chryssie Green Nicholas Selsey 1 vacancy

PCC Members	Diana Hughes	(re-elected APCM 2011*)
	Neville Hughes (Vice-chair)	(elected APCM 2011)
	Mary Sneyd	(elected by PCC during 2011)
	Anthony Savin (Treasurer)	(Coopted by PCC April 2011)*
	* third year of office	

PCC members were elected for a 1 year term according to the Church Representation Rules. At the Annual Parochial Meeting of 2011, it was agreed that with effect from 2012, members would be elected for a 3 year term.

At its APCM in 2005, Kingsclere passed a resolution to set a limit of 3 years for continuous service (unless elected in another capacity) after which an individual would be required to step down for a minimum of 1 year. This took effect from the APCM in 2006. Those serving for their third year of office are noted above.

Officers:

- No-one came forward to take on the role of Secretary.
- Diana Hughes acted as minute secretary at most meetings.
- Tony Savin continued in the role of Treasurer.
- Chrissy Green was re-elected as Electoral Roll Officer.

Sub-Committees:

The PCC fulfils its responsibilities by working through various Sub-Committees.

The Standing Committee is a statutory sub-Committee and made up of the Vicar and Churchwardens (ex-officio) and at least two PCC reps. Vice Chair (Neville Hughes) and Treasurer were elected to the Committee at the post-APCM PCC meeting on 5 April. However, owing to the small size of the PCC the Standing Committee did not meet during the year.

The remaining Sub-committees were:

- **Keystone Project Sub-committee**
- **Fete Sub-committee**
- **Fabric Sub-committee**
- **Benefice Outreach Group**

Reports from these and other groups appear later on in the report.

What has the PCC done during the year?

The PCC met 6 times during the year in addition to a brief meeting following the Annual Meeting to elect officers. The level of attendance was over 80%.

The following matters were handled by the PCC during the year:

- Approval of plans for celebrating 400th anniversary of King James Bible in April
- Authorisation of a team of 9 Pastoral Visitors after completion of a series of training sessions
- Approval to subscribe to church website provider, Church Edit
- Continuing discussion of proposals for phase two of the Keystone Project (refurbishment of Kingsmill Room)
- establishment of a Benefice Outreach Group with membership from both parishes

- Purchase of set of accompaniment CDs for Kingsclere Primary School to enable wider range of hymns and worship songs to be learnt
- Agreement to trialling a different method for the main Sunday morning service collection
- Expenditure on extension of hearing loop in the Crossing of St Mary's
- Roger Best confirmed as Health & Safety Officer
- Approval of plans for celebrating the 5th anniversary of the United Benefice
- Approval given to an initiative to raise funds for the International Red Cross famine appeal
- Maggy Wallace approved as a Lay Worship Leader

In addition regular reports were received from all the committees and the Deanery representatives to ensure that the PCC were monitoring and supporting all the activities being undertaken in its name and were aware of issues and developments in the wider church.

Rev. Lucy Thirtle, Chair

The above report was adopted by PCC at its meeting on 26 March 2012

Signed:

Lucy Thirtle

Churchwardens' Report

Your churchwardens meet roughly once a month with Lucy and the church wardens from Ashford Hill and Headley David Fowler and David Chamings. The vast majority of the agenda items are day to day issues to do with fabric, worship, future dates, events and tasks that need to be carried out.

This year the break in and robbery at St Mary's was a shock to the system and at the end of 2011 the stolen communion vessels had not been found by the police and the safe still had not been replaced. In the short term there was a considerable amount of clearing up necessary, for with locks, doors and the safe being smashed and vandalized there was a need for immediate repair work to return the church to normal. The west door is now locked and barred in a more secure manner and the west door sensor light is now locked in the 'on' position.

Les Wallace and Janet Sturgess, Churchwardens

Spiritual life – Worship, nurture and prayer (Living the gospel)

Regular Worship and Pastoral Offices

A regular pattern with a wide variety of styles of worship continued throughout the year. The lay-led service on the 2nd Sunday of the month was renamed as the Second Sunday Service (!) as a way of indicating that it was something different without being specific! Services were led by Hazel O’Leary and Maggy Wallace. Maggy was authorised by the PCC as a lay worship leader towards the end of the year. Grateful thanks is owed to both of these for providing a varied menu of imaginative and thought-provoking worship to suit a range of tastes.

Occasional evening services also continued to be held. These were also mostly lay led either solely by Bryony White or working in collaboration with Lucy or Trish. These services, mostly reflective and contemplative using Taize music offer yet another style of worship which seems to be welcomed.

On three occasions, we joined with our Roman Catholic and Methodist brothers and sisters for worship – see Ecumenical Links section further on.

16 baptisms; 8 weddings and 19 funerals were conducted for the parish by the clergy during the year (not including those in Ashford Hill with Headley).

Rev Lucy

Children at St Mary’s

Junior church usually meets on the first Sunday each month, and numbers have grown steadily, although sometimes erratic. There are 5 children who attend regularly, but we have had as many as 15 on a single Sunday! The sessions follow either the readings for the day and follow a pattern of a story, activity, song and prayer – usually making something that can be shown to the adults in church and then taken home. However during 2011 we decided that it might be useful for the children to learn a bit more about the communion service with a view to eventually allowing the children to take communion. This was very well received by the children. For 2012 we are planning to run a trial session of “Godly Play” sessions – an interesting idea which encourages children’s spirituality by allowing them to ask questions and discover things for themselves rather than being given a prescriptive story or task.

Sarah Mussett & Emma Rivers, Junior Church Leaders

Quiet Prayer

The Wednesday afternoon time of **Quiet Prayer**, has now stopped - instead, there is a co-ordinated **Prayer Circle**, of currently nine. We don't meet up, but include in our prayers at home, all those in the Benefice who have asked for prayer. Mostly these requests come through Lucy or Trish. Also included, for quite a long time, are all those mentioned in the Pewslip. Anyone else who would like to join us would be really welcome,

Bryony White, Quiet Prayer Leader

Worship at Rose Hodson Court

Monthly Songs of Praise services have continued through the year, led variously by Rev Lucy, Rev Trish, Fr Patrick (RC) and various Methodist ministers. This ensures a good variety of style for the regular attenders. The Court acquired a new keyboard during the year and Diana Hughes became a regular accompanist for this service. Regrettably the numbers attending this service declined somewhat with a number of long standing attenders moving out of the Court.

Holy Communion is also held for those that wish on a monthly basis. Sometimes a full service is held, sometimes the sacrament has been consecrated at an earlier service. Anglicans and Methodist ministers share this responsibility.

Rev Lucy

Music

Choir numbers have remained stable with the juniors continuing to progress in skills and understanding. Although everyone's attendance at services has not always been as regular as I would like they remain very enthusiastic in choir practices! It was good that Jane at last had her operation [or two!] but we are now missing Don whilst he is on his travels 'down under'.

We did not take part in the RSCM Festival this year but Margaret and I had a most enjoyable [but very cold!] day singing at St Mary's, Twyford, under the direction of Bob Chilcott.

At Christmas we sang in both St Mary's and at Ashford Hill, [augmented by Kingsclere Singers] where the junior choir members excelled themselves with 'Once in Royal'. 'Keystone Carols' was well attended by the community and again added funds to the Keystone project. Sadly it seems that Brian Elvin will no longer be playing the organ for us, but we have been pleased to welcome Fanny Paget on board this year.

We look forward to welcoming more new [and old] friends to our 'Sausage & a Song' morning in February 2012.

St Mary's remains musically alive!!

Hazel O'Leary, Organist & Choir Leader

Flower Arranging Team

Early in 2011 we held our annual 'Get together', giving arrangers a chance to meet and chat over tea and homemade cakes, and sign up for the new rota. This year we enjoyed an excellent demonstration of a pedestal arrangement thanks to Sue Brentnall.

We have had another very successful year with fresh flowers in Church throughout the year. A great debt of gratitude is owed to all the flower arranging ladies for their continued generosity in providing and arranging flowers. Thank you also to members of St Mary's who contributed towards the cost of flowers at Easter and Christmas, enabling us to decorate the Church as we did.

With the escalating cost of flowers we have had to reduce the number of arrangements at festival times, and your on going support will be vital if we are to continue to decorate the Church on these occasions.

Linda Elvin, Suzy Stokoe and Eileen Selsey

Tuesday Study Group

A small group of members meet each Tuesday usually in Jill's home. The group read sections of the Bible and then take time to discuss it, giving their reactions and feelings towards the passage. This year a lot of time has been spent studying the story of David which has provided a good foundation for discussion.

Jill Donoghue

St Mary's Belltower

The ringing band continues to grow in strength. In addition to our four recently trained ringers a further two recruits have become full members. Both are progressing well. Members from Burghclere Tower continue to support our weekly practices raising the average attendance to around 10 persons. Sunday Service ringing has been maintained all year, generally with enough ringers to ring all eight bells.

The Kingsclere Bell Restoration & Maintenance Fund (KBRMF) AGM was held in January. After 16 years of service Sue Reynolds stepped down as secretary. KBRMF was established in 1995 when the bells were very difficult to ring. The whole Reynolds family were involved along with other tower members and devoted many hours to fundraising for work which was eventually carried out in 1997. All present thanked Sue for all her time and hard work. She was presented with a bowl of polyanthus.

At the meeting, Helen Piper was elected as Chairperson, Maggie Hiller as Secretary and Gill Gardner to continue as treasurer. Martin Newbery agreed to become a Trustee and the third signatory on the CCLA and Barclays accounts.

Lucy thanked the bellringers for ringing and reported that the children at the ABC service really enjoy calling people to service by chiming the bell. It was reported that the stairs from the belfry continue to be affected by water following heavy rainfall.

In April, a ringing walk was organised by Gill Gardner for members of the Andover District of the local Bellringers' Guild. Commencing at Kingsclere the walkers enjoyed a good lunch at Hannington then undertook a final leg to Wolverton with enthusiastic ringing at all three churches. The day was extremely enjoyable and well attended.

During the year local ringers rang to celebrate five weddings and on July 30th ringers visited from Kintbury. The tower was open for 'Tower Tours' during the August Bank Holiday Church Fete. Handbells were rung for the 'That's Entertainment' extravaganza in June and at Christmas to entertain residents of Rose Hodson Court.

Quarter Peals Kingsclere 2011

11th March Rung half-muffled on the evening of the funeral of Dick Piper father of the Tower Captain at St. Mary's, Kingsclere. (1260 'Plain Bob Minor')

3rd July Rung for the ordination of Revd Trish Bancroft on Saturday 2nd July at Winchester Cathedral and to celebrate her presiding for the first time at the Parish Communion service on Sunday 3rd July at Kingsclere. (1260 'Single Oxford Bob Doubles')

23rd October Rung to welcome Henry Joseph Downing born on 5th October, first child for Ian and Nicola; also grandchild of Geoff Downing ringer at this tower. First quarter peal for Ian Downing. (1260 'Grandshire Doubles')

Maggie Hiller, Tower Secretary

Our Common Life (living the gospel)

Pastoral Care

Several members of the congregation met during the summer/autumn to undertake a guided 'course' in pastoral care. Organised by Rev Trish and led by an experienced pastoral care leader from Alresford, we explored a range of issues which may arise whilst offering pastoral support within the parish. Consideration of the effects of many significant issues, such as loss, illness and life-style changes were discussed. Those who completed the course* have been authorised as pastoral carers and are now available to work with Lucy and Trish in helping those who may need short or longer term support in some way.

**Rod Eldred, Steve Green, Sarah Musset, Mary Smith, Janet Sturgess, Mary Sneyd, Diana Tait, Maggy Wallace & Bryony White*

Maggy Wallace

St Mary's Guild

There has been loyal support from members during 2011 and a varied programme of speakers and activities. The committee work particularly hard when it comes to fundraising. We were able to pay our way and to make donations totalling £606 to outside charities during 2011, leaving a balance of £1751.32.

The programme for 2012 is a mix of outside speakers, plus contributions from Lucy and Trish and church members, also social activities and fund raising. Copies are available, at the back of the church.

Guild members help at the St.Mary's August Bank Holiday Fete and several (with other church members) serve at the Cathedral Refectory twice a year.

Sylvia Brooker, Secretary

Sunday Coffee

Donations for refreshments after the service on a Sunday during 2010 were £175.19. Expenses were £96.17, therefore £79.02 was paid to the PCC.

Sylvia Evans

Social and Fundraising Report

What a year – a wide variety of events covering Pastoral, Church Fundraising and Keystone, and so many new and different people being involved in the organisation and running of them. Those involved are too numerous to mention, but an enormous 'Thank you' to them all. We have had lots of fun and raised much needed funds for both Church and Keystone.

In January we began the year with two very different events, a lunch and talk by Shafik Nassar on being a Christian in Palestine, and later in the month a successful Burns' Night Supper for Keystone organized by Mairead Archard.

In March, in conjunction with FKS, Keystone held an Auction of Promises, raising approximately £2500. Our focus in April was the celebration of the 400th anniversary of the publishing of the King James Bible. A week of readings (with refreshments always to hand) culminating in a monastic supper attended by Bishop Peter.

Basingstoke Male Voice Choir entertained us one evening in May, and the month ended with a Benefice walk after morning service, from Kingsclere to Ashford Hill - a picnic lunch enroute and tea and a service at St Paul's.

June brought 'That's Entertainment' masterminded by Vanessa Martin. A fabulous day which resulted in Keystone, Sail4Cancer and Living Paintings each receiving approximately £1200. The following day brought scorching sun and twelve people opened their gardens for our Garden Safari.

In July we had one of the highlights of the year – Trish's Ordination, and we celebrated this with a Bring & Share lunch.

St Mary's churchyard was home to a Teddy Bears' Picnic in August, with lots of Teddy Bears bringing their owners – many of them regulars from the monthly ABC service.

The popular Keystone Quiz and hot supper made a welcome return in September, with about 100 people tackling David Goodfellow's tricky questions. This month we also celebrated Harvest with an evening service and Bring & Share supper in the Church.

Another new venture was tried in October – Puddings and Games. This was a really fun evening, enjoyed by members of all generations, young and old – and what a selection of pud!

The popular Keystone Carols, thanks to Hazel O'Leary, brought the year to an end.

Further events are planned during 2012 including another Burns' Night supper, Quiz and the already announced 'Come Dine with Kingsclere'

Eileen Selsey

Outreach (sharing the gospel)

During 2011 a Benefice Outreach Group was set up. Members of the group are David Goodfellow, Susie Sainsbury, Georgie Selby, Alison Goodyer, Andrea Fearon, Maggy Wallace, Hilary Best, Rev Trish.

The aim of the group is to build on relationships that already exist between both parishes and the wider community. We are conscious of the many different skills that we as a benefice possess and we felt our parish outreach initiatives would benefit greatly by becoming joint initiatives.

After the success of the Big Question evenings, we asked for feedback from those who attended, this was primarily to find out what they would like to see running in the benefice and what would be most helpful to them and to others. The feedback showed that more Big Questions and an Alpha course would be beneficial. Off the back of this we ran two more big questions evenings entitled "Big Questions that Children Ask" which, in turn, has led us to plan an Alpha course which will run in the New Year.

Rev Trish

ABC

ABC continues to be a growing part of our Outreach mission at St Mary's. Throughout 2011 we welcomed more children and their carers – with the average attendance being around 15/20 children. The themes have mainly been based on the old testament stories such as "A colourful coat", "Baby Moses" and "Joshua at Jericho", along with the seasonal Easter, Harvest and Christmas services. The feeling among those who attend is that it would be great to have an ABC service more often. Unfortunately the team of people who lead the sessions are unable to commit to a weekly service, but during 2012 we are looking to add in a few more sessions, where there is a fifth Monday in the Month.

Jane, Hazel, Lucy, & Emma (the ABC Team)

Kingsclere Church of England Primary School

As a Voluntary Controlled Primary School, KPS has three governors nominated by St. Marys – Rev. Lucy Thirtle, John Liddeatt and Nick Selsey. Our role, as well as overseeing the development and safe environment of KPS with the other school governors, is to see that the school maintains its particular Anglican ethos. In this we are assisted by the Diocesan Education Office.

KPS has been developing steadily over the past year, giving its pupils a curriculum beyond the formal confines of what central government lays down. Examples of this are the growing links with a school in Mityana, in Uganda, where our Deanery also has close contacts, and music-based associations with Cheam School.

School inspectors rightly place an increasing emphasis both on how the local parish church – St. Marys – supports the school through prayer and through active involvement in its activities, and on how the school reflects its Anglican ethos. KPS continues to use St. Marys for services every term, and Rev. Lucy and Rev. Trish lead whole school acts of collective worship there on a regular basis. A new exhibit in the school's reception area is a copy of the original Trust Deed, dated 13th April 1860, setting up the original church school.

It is also worth remembering that our involvement in KPS plays a very important part in the Church of England's mission to children, in parallel to our in-church activities for children.

Demand for places remains encouraging, and indications are that it might increase. However, given the country's general economic situation, government spending may be tight over the next few years.

Nick Selsey, Foundation Governor

Saturday Coffee at St Mary's

Saturday coffee continues to be popular with a regular clientele. We are most fortunate to have a willing band of volunteers to serve the coffee and provide delicious cakes. Thanks to Eileen & Nick, Mary & Tom, Barbara, Maggy, Mary Smith, Monica, Rosemary and Sylvia B for their support. I would like to give a special mention to Jill Donoghue who without fail, cheerfully gives her services whenever she is asked to help. During the year coffee St Mary's Guild, the Brownies and Keystone used the coffee mornings to raise funds to support their causes.

Janet Sturgess, Organiser

Children's Society

2011 began with the box opening and the result was a pleasing £596.36, slightly down on 2010 due to a generous donor having moved away. In December Sue Grove-White kindly organised the Christingle service and £134.00 was raised. Sadly the sale of Christmas cards was a disaster because although I had excellent orders from church members most of the cards were out of stock before Christmas but were delivered to me on 28th December! Sales amounted to £76.45, almost one hundred pounds down on the previous year.

Having been St Mary's Children's Society representative for the past ten years I have decided to relinquish the post and hope someone will come forward to take over.

Janet Sturgess, Organiser

King James Bible Celebrations

2011 saw the 400th Anniversary of the publication of the King James' Bible. Kingsclere joined in the countrywide celebrations of this amazing event. Our intention was to read from as many books of the bible as possible during one week. So we did!

Over 60 readers from church, village and from further afield, read from:

Genesis to Deuteronomy; Joshua to Esther; the Wisdom books; the major prophets, the minor prophets, the Gospels, Acts. We also celebrated with a monastic style supper with Bishop Peter, whilst listening to excerpts including the Song of Solomon and the Sermon on the Mount.

It was a wonderful week, both reading and hearing the familiar and the not so familiar words of the bible that has meant so much to many over 400 years.

Maggy Wallace

Partnerships

Ashford Hill with Headley

2011 saw the 5th anniversary of the legal formation of the United Benefice and this was celebrated on 30 October with a service of Morning Prayer at St Peter's, Headley, shared breakfast in parishioners' homes, a Benefice Communion at St Mary's Kingsclere and then lunch at St Paul's Ashford Hill. The four churchwardens have continued to meet together on several occasions. Otherwise, individual worshippers continue to travel between parishes on Sundays and for other events. The Benefice Outreach Group is, as the name suggests, a joint initiative between the two parishes, formed as a result of a series of evenings held to discuss some Big Questions during Lent 2011 with the purpose of developing initiatives to enable people from the churches and beyond to engage with the church community and the claims of the Christian faith.

Rev Lucy

Whitchurch Deanery Synod

(Synod members: Lucy Thirtle, Trish Bancroft, Nick Selsey & Chryssie Green.)

Although sometimes dry and a bit formulaic, the Deanery Synod remains our first link to the formal governance of the Diocese, and it should be supported.

Under the chairmanship of the Rural Dean (the Revd Christine Dale) and the Lay Chairman (Jonathan Taylor), the Deanery Synod met three times during the year, average of 27 members being present.

The meeting in January started with an excellent presentation led by the Revd Dodie Marsden. An updated Finance report was given.

The Synod next met in June when the election of officers and members of the Standing Committee took place. Legislation relating to Women and the Episcopate was reported on and comments taken.

The November meeting contained updates on Finance, Mityana, and the Diocesan Synod held in October. There was a debate on the Anglican Covenant (reported on separately to the PCC by Nick Selsey) and the Deanery Synod voted as follows:

Laity, 22 members present – 5 for, 4 against with 10 abstentions- **Carried**

Clergy, 8 present – 0 for, 3 against and 5 abstentions – **Not Carried**

Nick Selsey, Deanery Synod representative

Ecumenical links

Four acts of worship during the year saw members of our three denominations in the village coming together. These were for the Women's World Day of Prayer, the Good Friday United Act of Worship and Witness; an evening service on Trinity Sunday in place of a service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and Advent Sunday. The memorable moment of the Trinity

Sunday evening service was when the symbolic congregational action saw the Methodist Church rapidly fill with the smoke from the incense burner such that doors on every side had to be thrown open so that the congregation could continue to both see and breathe clearly! Many people seemed to appreciate the Advent Sunday evening service held in St Mary's including a rolling projection of images on a screen on the altar platform. All were followed by warm fellowship over tasty refreshments.

Revs Lucy, Trish, Patrick and Peter have had enormous enjoyment and encouraging meeting of minds in planning some of these acts of worship. We will be sad to bid farewell to Peter Catford as he moves on in 2012 but look forward to welcoming his successor to our happy fellowship.

Rev Lucy

Resources (supporting and enabling the mission of the church)

Fabric Sub Committee

The two key words in this fabric report are 'thank you'. At St Mary's we are blessed with a large number of volunteers who are constantly working both inside and outside the church to maintain the church and church yard in their best possible condition.

Weeds growing round the church are sprayed twice a year; the memorial garden is carefully tended; the stakes and chains round the wild flower areas are put up and taken down in due season; the wild flower area is closely observed and tended; bucket loads of moss are removed from the path on the north side of the church; the stone trough is always mysteriously tidy and low hanging, dangerous branches are removed from within and around the church yard.

Inside the church and Kingsmill room there is a constant carrying of chairs and tables to cope with different events and settings – from school services to quizzes and from Burns' Night to a King James Bible evening; ladders are climbed to change light bulbs in the crossing; heaps of scaffolding appear on top of a Volvo estate to carry out some high level work in the Kingsmill room and the church is quietly and efficiently cleaned with barely a soul noticing

Les Wallace, Chair FSC

Celebrations in Light

It has been a steady year for bookings for floodlighting St Mary's with many bookings for Weddings, Birthdays and all kinds of anniversaries - especially the anniversaries of the loss of a loved one. The lights are booked by visitors who love the idea of being able to light up the village themselves – people are surprised that this is available, and think it's a lovely idea. Plans to enhance the booking system during 2012 are in the pipeline – where hopefully bookings will be able to be taken through our website, as well as the current methods.

Maisie Lawrence, Organiser

Keystone Project

The Keystone Project Team (Diana Hughes, Neville Hughes, Debra Power, Rev Lucy, Tony Savin, Eileen Selsey, Nick Selsey, Les Wallace, Maggy Wallace) continued to work on the upgrading of the Kingsmill room during 2011, including the installation of new lighting and heating. A range of fund-raising events during the year hopefully offered something for everyone. A variety of participants enjoyed one or more of the following: a Burn's Night (January); Auction of Promises (with KPS) (March); Quiz Nights (April and September); Plant Sale (April); Garden Safari (August); Keystone Carols (December). A range of new initiatives were also identified for 2012.

St Mary's 200 Club

As part of the Keystone activity, 100 members joined the 200 Club for the year at £12 per head. Each month a lucky number was drawn out of the bag, the winner receiving £50.

Maggy Wallace - Keystone Project

Kingsclere Tower Magazine

Our recent appeal for more volunteers was a success and we now have a standby list of people willing to help. We have also welcomed back a 'fit' Jenny Juniper to the printing team.

The Tower will now be sent to Cormicy as part of the Twinning and we are working on having it available 'on-line' as part of the village website.

The Tower is in good health and will continue to be produced as usual.

Laurie Harris, Chairman, Tower Management Committee

Kingsclere Tower Current Account January to December 2011

Income	
£3,082.25	Opening Balance on Current Account
£6,434.50	Advertising Revenue
Expenditure	
£473.40	Typesetter
£725.00	Kingsmill Room Rent
£288.00	Printer Maintenance
£3,677.65	Stationery
£5,164.05	Closing Balance on Current Account

Kingsclere Tower Community Reserve January to December 2011

Income	
£7,296.57	Opening Balance on Savings Account
£4.11	Interest
Expenditure	
£5,000.00	Donation for Kingsmill Room heating and lighting
£2,300.68	Closing Balance in Savings Account

Les Wallace, Treasurer, Tower Management Committee

Fete Sub-Committee

(Rev Lucy, Sarah Mussett, Sarah & Graham Hewitt, Steve Ferris, Jim Newitt; Anthony Greayer)

With just one change in the membership of the committee, an experienced team managed to stage yet another successful fete – in fact record-breaking in terms of proceeds. This was a very rewarding result particularly in the light of the country's economic woes.

As ever, the success of the event is down to the efforts of too many individuals to thank personally though we should this year pay tribute to Migi Marsh who for the last few years has set the bar very high with the amounts raised by her and her team on the Accessories stall and who will be now be handing over the baton of leadership on that stall for the coming year. An enticing first prize in the Raffle also helps a great deal and we are indebted to the donor of this last year.

We should not underestimate the blessing of having had another fine day which helps to make for a truly enjoyable community event - as much the purpose of the fete as fundraising.

Rev Lucy, Chair of Fete Sub-Committee

The Kingsmill Room

The new lights and heaters were installed during 2011. The only outside organisations to use the Kingsmill Room were the Cubs and Brownies who each held a fund raising event in the Saturday coffee slot. The main users, apart from church activities, were the Care Group, The Tower and St Mary's Guild.

There is an on-going need to find a caretaker/cleaner. If and when the refurbishment is complete this will become an issue. In the meantime it must be the responsibility of the users to leave the kitchen especially as they would wish to find it.

Janet Sturgess

Churchyard Wild Flower Area

This has been the Year of the Wild Flower for us. An increase in flowers has come as our two wild flower areas continue to mature, each developing its own character. On the original area the thirty six species recorded in 2006 have now increased to over fifty species. Exciting additions include White Helleborine, Butterfly Orchid, Common Spotted Orchid, Common Broomrape, Fox and Cubs, Meadow Cranesbill and Goatsbeard, but we have lost the red berries of Lords and Ladies. Other welcome changes have been fewer taller grasses and an increase in the number of primrose, Violet, Daisy, Red Clover, Ox-eye Daisy, Yellow Rattle, Catsear and Hawksbit, giving us that splendid continuous colourful display from February to September. The second area, with its abundance of tall grasses has added Spear Thistle, Ground Elder, Stinging Nettle, Nipplewort and Lesser Willowherb as dominant species but also has given us snowdrop, Creeping Cinquefoil and Field Bindweed. In addition to all these wild flowers, our churchyard has attracted a Wren's nest, the call of a cuckoo, the corpse of a Collared Dove (victim of a sparrow-hawk!) and colourful red Admiral, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Ringlet and Green-Veined White butterflies as well as red-rumped Bumble-Bee, Bee Fly, a spiders nursery tent and a grasshopper.

Ralph Cook, Plantsman

***St Mary's Church
Kingsclere***

Financial Report
*Year ending
31st December 2011*