

Parish Magazine & Website Report for Annual General Meeting 2018



The magazine continues to give a balanced coverage between Parish news and events whilst having the necessary theological input. We continue to have 'Parish Pump' (a website providing support to church magazine editors) at our disposal which allows us access to a whole spectrum of articles ranging from news, theological views from a variety of clergy, world events that impact on Christians, to crosswords and jokes.

The number of articles from people within the parish is still very low. We of necessity need to work at least a month in front of the rest of the known cosmos and it is very difficult to get information on events or people in time for inclusion. No matter how hard we try we cannot be in the know of all that is happening in the Parish. We do thank our contributors, and please, if you have something you feel is suitable for inclusion, let us know, as many times as you like! We'd rather hear from a dozen people, than not hear at all!! Of course, we as editors have to check articles to ensure they fit the ethos of St Mary's.

The number of magazines sold is continuing to reduce as people have either moved from the area, gone into care homes, or died. There have been a couple of new people wanting to take the magazine on a regular basis but we would ask that if you don't as yet buy the magazine, or you know of someone who you think would like to, please do let us know.

Over the last few years advertisers have been continually changing and we cannot emphasise enough that without advertisers the magazine would not financially be feasible (unless the production cost was topped up from PCC funds) as they provide a good third of the necessary money to produce the magazine. We would ask if you use an advertiser please let them know that you saw the advert in the 'Parish News' so they can see a result for their money!! Also if you know of any small firms or businesses that would benefit from advertising in the Parish magazine then please tell them of us.

Costs amazingly haven't risen in 2017, and we have now kept the same price for the magazine for eight years. But we have to anticipate a rise in costs within any year so an increase may happen next year.

We are still able to provide a coloured cover for Easter and Christmas thanks to the continuing generous support from several sponsors. As long as we get this support we will continue to do the same in the future.

A big thank you to all the distributors, who every month, come rain hail or shine, deliver their quota of magazines. Without the distributors it would be impossible to deliver the numbers we sell at present and we do need more to volunteer for this vital task as we are reaching a stage where too few are delivering too many..

We also look after two websites for St Mary's. The websites enable us to reach out to those who may not live in the area but want to know about us. Whilst in most cases the websites use the same information as the magazine there are extra things we put in that is up to date and current i.e. services, which are updated every week. We try to give a "pen portrait" of any events which take place, with photographs, usually accompanied with a few explanatory words, which we do try to make humorous if we can. *Apologies to those of you who have ever been "collared".*

An up to date diary is available on the 'A Church Near You' website and this needs dates checking and updating or amending as required on a weekly basis.

Your editors wish you all a good read in the coming months..

Pauline Simpson – Bob Willis Co-editors