

Trustees' Annual Report (TAR)

2016 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary's Church, Shortlands

Aim and purposes

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Morag Finch, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the church building and halls of St Mary's, Shortlands.

Objectives and activities

The PCC endeavours to bring the love of God into the everyday lives of the people of Shortlands. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

The PCC has met regularly during the year to consider the running of St Mary's church. We have looked at the way we work as a PCC, mission and the diocesan strategy. Committees which report regularly to the PCC are Children and Youth (CANDY), Pre-School, Mission Beyond the Parish, Stewardship and Twinning. The PCC also receives reports from Deanery Synod, Welcare in Bromley and Churches Together in Beckenham (CTiB).

When planning our activities for the year, consideration has been given to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish and members of the congregation.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mary and the Church Halls. To further this we are looking at the redevelopment of the halls and have appointed a steering group with several sub groups.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, 8.00 Communion alternates between Common Worship & BCP. In addition to our 10.30 Sunday and 10.00 Wednesday services, services take place on major feast days eg: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Ascension Day. Whilst most evening services are led by the choir we also have some contemporary evening worship led by the music group. Weekly services take place at Durham House.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At the last APCM there were 239 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 115 of whom were not resident within the parish. During the remainder of the year

one name was added and no names were removed from the roll. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 124 adults and 27 children, but this number increased at festivals. The crib service once again proved popular. We tried a different format for Remembrance Sunday and many appreciative comments were received.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated 14 baptisms and 2 weddings and St Mary's clergy officiated at 17 funerals, 6 interment of cremated remains and 3 memorial services in church and at the various crematoria. Six of the younger members of our congregation were admitted to Communion in May and two candidates were confirmed in November.

St Mary's choir had a very successful year including a residency at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church. The PCC has looked at the questions posed to parishes in the deanery about mission.

The Church and halls

Our church is open to our community for private prayer until 1pm during the week and at other times by arrangement.

The church and halls have undergone regular maintenance. The main work to be done in 2016 / 2017 was roof repairs to the church building. A planned schedule of works following the Quinquennial Report has been drawn up.

A full report is attached as an appendix

The hall, choir vestry and Friends room are well used, both by church groups and the wider community. Regular church groups using the rooms downstairs include the mobility group, craft and chatter and the toddlers' groups. Pre-school meets in the hall on weekday mornings during term time.

Pastoral care

Some members of our congregation are unable to attend church due to illness or infirmity. The pastoral team have visited all church members who have requested it, and taken Communion where appropriate either at their homes or in hospital.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The Mission Beyond the Parish has highlighted some interesting charities locally, nationally and internationally. We had speakers from some at our 10.30 services. Money donated at coffee is distributed to our 12 chosen charities along with £275 from our giving. Nominations are asked for annually.

We continue to support Welcare in Bromley, both with a regular financial contribution and with gifts from our toy service. Our harvest gifts this year were donated to Bromley and Croydon Women's Aid (BCWA).

SPAN is distributed 11 times a year to all homes in the parish and copies for non-residents are available at the church and halls. This keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our church and community as well as articles about our faith.

Ecumenical relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Beckenham. Reverend Morag attends the monthly clergy meeting and we have two parish representatives who attend the meetings. We have supported a number of events - Christian Aid Week / Pentecost service, carol singing at Waitrose and our music group assisted with the worship at the annual picnic on the green.

Financial review

Unrestricted income for the year was £191,702 (2015 £193,190). Income was relatively flat over all categories. Total unrestricted costs were £184,826 (2015 £184,827). While costs were flat overall there were some individual variances. During the year, at the request of the Diocese, we agreed to make an addition to our Parish Share of £2,500 as a one off payment. We have also provided an additional £11,000 to complete the treatment of the Church roof beams for rusting. While the Church has ample reserves at present it is disappointing that pledge income has not increased since 2008.

Reserves policy

Our reserves policy is to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to six months normal expenditure, £90,000 and compares with the actual reserves held of £95,000. This reserve is invested in a CCLA fund and shown as investments on the balance sheet. It is also our policy that restricted liabilities are matched with deposits held at the Diocese or as bank deposits.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. The time and effort put in by so many is greatly appreciated. In particular we want to mention our churchwardens, Mr Williams and Mrs Corbin, who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf and Mr Dawson and Mr Hogg who have helped us all to understand the church's accounts and its finances.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), associate vicars (2), churchwardens (2), Deanery Synod reps (3) and members elected (14) by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC met six times during the year for regular meetings and had an extra meeting in December. The Standing and Finance Committee has power to transact the business of the PCC between the meetings

subject to any directions given by the PCC. Other committees (Children and Youth - CANDY, Pre-School, Mission Beyond the Parish, Stewardship and Twinning) report back to the PCC regularly.

The Friends of St Mary's are a separate charity which supports the church in practical ways, raising funds through subscriptions from members and fund-raising social events.

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated in Shortlands. It is part of the Diocese of Rochester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Parish Office, Church House, 39 Kingswood Road, Bromley, BR2 0HG. Registered charity number 1130802.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2016 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Morag Finch (Chair)
Associate Vicars: The Reverend Richard Finch
The Reverend Jane Peters
Wardens: Mr David Jefferys (Vice-Chair until May 2016)
Mr Adolph Williams (Vice Chair from May 2016)
Mrs Coreen Corbin (from May 2016)

Elected members:

Mrs Annette German, representative on Deanery Synod
Mrs A-M Jefferys, representative on Deanery Synod
Mr Nick Stoffel, representative on Deanery Synod
Mrs Sally Aldred
Mr Adrian Bingham (until 24 April 2016)
Mrs Jan Boam
Mrs Pat Chase
Mrs Kay Coleman (from 24 April 2016)
Mr Derek Cooper (until 24 April 2016)
Mr Tim Dawson (Treasurer)
Mrs Julie Fox
Professor Mark Fox
Mr Robin Hogg (Assistant Treasurer)
Dr David Jefferys (from 24 April 2016)
Mr Keith Mills
Mrs Marian Parr
Miss Judy Rambridge (Secretary)
Mrs Susie Shelton (until 24 April 2016)
Miss Heather Wills
Mr Tony Wright-Jones (from 24 April 2016)

Approved by the PCC on 8 March 2017 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Morag Finch (PCC Chairman)

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