

ST MARY'S CHURCH HADLOW

Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council

Year ended 31 December 2013

Incumbent: The Reverend Paul White
(from February 19th)

Churchwardens: Martin Massy and Annie Young

Independent Examiner
David Stephens B.A. FCCA

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Mary's Church is situated in Church Street, Hadlow, Kent. It is part of the deanery of Paddock Wood and the diocese of Rochester. The correspondence address is
The Vicarage, Maidstone Road, Hadlow, Kent TN11 0DJ

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

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. PCC members normally serve for three years and this is shown in brackets, together with the year of election.

Incumbent and Chairman The Reverend Paul White (From 19th Feb 2013)

Curate The Reverend Clifford Stocking (2010 to 29 November 2013)

Churchwardens

Martin Massy (2013)

Annie Young (2013)

Deanery Synod Reps

David Gater (2011 – 2014)

Janet Greenwood (2011 – 2014)

Jan Morley (2011 – 2014)

Richard Morley (2012 – 2015)

Elected Members

Cathy Brill (2012 – 2015)

Liz Derrick (2011 – 2014)

Francis Griffiths (2013 – 2016)

Linda Moore (2013 – 2016)

David Nibloe (Co-opted Nov 2013)

Kelly Parsons (2011 – 2014)

Freddie Shaw (Hon Treasurer) (2011 – 2014)

Iris Shaw (2012 – 2015)

Barbara Smith (2013 – 2016)

John Speed (2013 – 2016)

Mark Totty (2012 – Sept 2013)

Minute Secretary

Judy Gater (2012)

STRUCTURE OF PCC; ITS MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE

The PCC operates through committees which meet regularly throughout the year and report to full PCC meetings. Reports by the Convenors of these committees giving fuller details of their activities during the year, can be found elsewhere in this report.

Standing Committee

The only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any directions given by the PCC. The standing committee met in August 2013, in between regular PCC meetings.

Education Committee

Initiates and organises educational activities and experiences aimed at enabling all members of the congregation (a) to live as Christians within a Christian community, and (b) to articulate and defend their faith confidently.

Fabric Committee

Supports the churchwardens in the discharge of their legal responsibilities relating to the maintenance and insurance of church fabric and in respect of any necessary faculty applications. Monitors the condition of the church, churchyard and vicarage and arranges repairs and works as necessary, liaises with the civil parish council on the maintenance of the closed churchyard as required and similarly with the relevant diocesan committees.

Finance Committee

Supports the Treasurer in the preparation of the annual budget, monitors financial progress throughout the year, including gift aided giving and ensures the best use of the parish's financial resources.

Fundraising Committee

This committee oversees all the fund raising events and activities held during the year

Outreach Committee

Initiates and organises outreach activities to foster a close relationship between the church and the parish as a whole, to express the church's sense of social responsibility in the community and to take the lead in promoting the evangelistic mission of the church.

World Mission Committee

Provides a forum for liaison with organisations supported by the parish, for example Delhi Brotherhood and the Kibakwe link, and promotes fund raising for them. Raises awareness in the congregation of issues relating to the Anglican Communion and the worldwide church and makes recommendations to the PCC on charities to be supported through away giving.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

St Mary's PCC shares with the Incumbent the responsibility for

- (a) the promotion of the whole mission of the church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical - within the ecclesiastical parish of Hadlow, and
- (b) the efficient administration of the parish and its funds. The PCC is responsible for funding the maintenance and repair of the parish church.
- (c) The PCC has considered the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit, and believes the guidelines have been met as the activities of the church are open to the public and are for public benefit.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Church Attendance 2013

Under the Church Representation Rules we were required to prepare a new Electoral Roll in 2013, with all church members re-applying to be on the Roll. Notices were put up in St Mary's and at Golden Green and the monthly newsletter and weekly pewsheets also gave this information. There were 183 on the new Roll with 64 living outside the parish. Taking October as a typical month, the average attendance at St Mary's was about 110 for our services on a Sunday. There were also some services at Golden Green Mission Church.

Review of the year

The PCC met eleven times during the year. In between the PCC meetings, the various committees met and reported back to the next full PCC meeting. Reports from the PCC committees form part of the separate APCM booklet.

In addition there are many active groups working within the church, forming a complex web of prayer and practical action. These groups, too, are reported separately.

Our Curate, the Reverend Clifford Stocking, having served three years in Hadlow, was licensed on 29 November as Priest in Charge of St. Wendreda's and St. John's, March, in the Diocese of Ely. He went with the love and good wishes of all of us at St Mary's.

Our organist, Martin Carling, also left us in the course of the year. He is an exceptionally gifted organist and his playing was much appreciated.

We were pleased to appoint Susan Honnor as our new organist. She joined us in October and already plays an important part in our regular worship.

Having begun the year in an interregnum, we were delighted to welcome our new vicar the Reverend Paul White, and his family, in February. The service of collation to the Benefice of Hadlow was conducted by the Bishop of Rochester, Bishop James, on 19 February. We thank Paul for all that he is doing in inspiring and leading us and hope that he, Vivienne, Annabelle and Henry will be very happy in Hadlow.

Changes and developments continue to occur. To take one example, there is now a lay-led Family Service, once a month. This is a completely new approach and the services have a growing congregation and are enjoyed by young and old alike. All the PCC committees are working with vision and commitment and are vital parts of the church's involvement with the wider community. All PCC meetings begin and end in prayer and this underpins all that we do.

Financial Review

Total receipts on ordinary unrestricted funds were £100,844 and are detailed in the financial statements. £101,028 was spent to provide Christian ministry from St Mary's Church. This includes the parish's parish share contribution (in the full amount) to diocesan funds and clergy stipends, national insurance and pension contributions for the incumbent and curate. The net result for the year was an excess of payments over receipts of £184. After transferring £1800 to the Restricted Funds there was a downward movement in funds which amounted to £1984.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has previously established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets ("the free reserves") held by the charity should ideally be between three and six months of the resources expended, equating to £25,000 to £50,000 in general funds. At this level the PCC feels it would be able to continue the current activities of the charity in the event of a significant drop in funding when it would be necessary to consider how funding could be replaced or activities changed. At present, however, the free reserves at the end of the year are £5,781. The budget for 2014 forecasts a deterioration and the free reserves may fall at the end of 2014.

Risk Management

There are a number of risks to which the PCC is exposed at any time in respect of (a) safeguarding (b) health and safety (c) buildings insurance and other issues. The PCC continues to assess risk through regular review and takes appropriate steps to deal with or lessen any risks which come to light.

The PCC adopted this Report and Accounts on

Signed on behalf of the PCC.....

Chairman