

The Parochial Church Council of Shenstone Trustees' Annual Report for the Year ended 31st December 2018

Aim and Purposes

St John the Baptist Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Elizabeth Chamberlain in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church - pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also responsible for the maintenance of the Church and Church Hall.

Objectives and Activities

The trustees of the PCC are aware of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit in The Advancement of Religion for the Public Benefit, and have had regard to it in their administration of the Charity. The trustees believe that, by promoting the work of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Parish of Stonnall we help to promote the whole mission of the Church more effectively within the Ecclesiastical Parish, and that in doing so we try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Providing facilities for public worship, pastoral and spiritual care
- Learning about the gospel and developing knowledge and trust in Jesus for our members, and for anyone who wishes to benefit from what the Church offers
- Promoting Christian values and service by members of the Church in and to their communities
- Maintaining the fabric of the Church of St John the Baptist to the benefit of individuals and society as a whole.

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 finds both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. We hold Morning Prayer every Tuesday morning, and we gather together monthly to pray for our Church and its work.

Our service pattern is as follows.

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|------------------------|---|
| 1 st Sunday | BCP Communion Early Birds All Age Communion Morning Worship – with baptisms |
| 2 nd Sunday | Early Birds Morning Worship |
| 3 rd Sunday | Early Birds Common Worship Communion |
| 4 th Sunday | Early Birds Common Worship Communion |
| 5 th Sunday | Early Birds Joint Service with St Peter's Church Stonnall |

This year saw a change in our service pattern with the BCP Communion Service moving to an 8.00 am start. This move then enabled the Early Birds worshippers to meet every Sunday at 9.30 am. Our Early Bird worshippers have also started to celebrate Communion together on the first Sunday of each month. Our House Groups have continued to meet during 2018, and remain a source of fellowship and support to many.

During 2018 a number of special services were held - the Celtic Evening during Lent, and two Praise Evenings of contemporary worship during the year.

At the 2018 APCM there are 80 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance counted during 2018 was 57 adults and 16 children.

Our Easter attendances were 105 with 78 communicants.

During Advent we welcomed 560 to our church, through school services, Christingle and other events.

On Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 244 people attended, with 28 taking Communion on Christmas Day.

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 commended into God's keeping. We have celebrated:

9 baptisms
14 wedding
30 funerals

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 structure of the church.

The Use of the Church and its Fabric

We would like our church to be open to our community for private prayer, and this year we have experimented with leaving the church open during daylight hours on Saturday and after the services on Sunday. We have seen a small but significant number of people visiting our church, and will continue this practice in 2019.

We work hard at maintaining the fabric of St John the Baptist. During 2018 we focused on repairs to the bell frame - a project totalling around £73,000 - repairing the porch roof and replacing the carpet in the Church Hall. The churchyard is maintained on a regular basis by the Parish Council, and this year saw Community action with churchyard clean-up days being arranged by the Parish Council.

English Heritage Buildings at Risk have expressed interest in restoring the Old Tower and it is highly likely that a project to restore the Tower will commence over the next few years.

Pastoral Care

We have started to build on the excellent pastoral care already in place by the forming of a pastoral care team. This is a newly created team which hopes to consolidate pastoral care across our United Benefice

Mission and Evangelism

- a. We have adopted a Baptism policy this year to encourage the family to attend church prior to the Baptism. We try to make the baptism a positive and helpful experience of church, and an opportunity to engage with the message and meaning of Jesus.
- b. We support Lichfield Foodbank with collections from both the parishioners and Greysbrooke school.
- c. We continue to tithe 10% of our income to our Mission Partners

Youth Work

A monthly Messy Church being held in the church encourages our local children to experience aspects of holy-inspired, fun-based teaching sessions. On average, 24 children attend as well as their parent(s). An hour or so of age-specific teaching and crafts take place followed by a shared meal.

This year saw the start of a Movie Night for school years 4, 5, 6 and 7. Attending numbers are small, but we are committed to trialling until the Summer of 2019.

Ecumenical Relationships

Our church joined with our sister church St Peter's Church, Stonnall for several joint services of worship during the year, a Lent course, and also joined the local Methodist church for an open-air service of praise. We have joined Trinity Methodist Church on the village 'Walk of Witness' on Good Friday, and celebrated Easter Day together. Our active partnership with our local school Greysbrooke school sees a regular 'Open the Book' session led by Reverend Elizabeth Chamberlain & team.

Mission Action Plan

Following a PCC away-day retreat, a mission plan was formulated, and a plan put together. An updated copy of the Mission Action Plan is available in church.

Financial Review

The PCC has been regularly updated with financial reports about the ongoing financial resources. Receipts from Stewardship giving have remained steady, with almost the same amount received in 2018 as for 2017. We saw an increase in other income, specifically from Fees regarding Weddings and Funerals and Donations and Gifts made for the Bell Frame Repair Fund. Our parish share has been paid in full, and the Bell Frame Repair completed. The full financial statement is available as a separate report.

Following the 2016 quinquennial review, the PCC allocated £5000 per year to be transferred from general funds to the Fabric fund to enable the noted repairs to be started. During 2018 repairs were made to the porch roof, and drain clearance undertaken.

To comply with Diocesan guidelines our Financial Statement has been prepared using Cash Accounting rather Prepayments and Accruals.

Reserves Policy

We have a financial reserves policy in places of three months' running costs. This currently equates to £18000. Our surplus general reserves as at the end of year 2018 are £22482

Safeguarding

The PCC believe it has fulfilled its 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). We are aware of Mandatory Safeguarding training for all PCC members, for which we are in the process of organising a training day in conjunction with the PCC members of St Peter's Church, Stonnall.

Spiritual Leadership

Our incumbent is the Reverend Elizabeth Chamberlain. We have also been supported during the year by Reverend John Aston our associate minister. We have three Lay Readers licensed to the United Benefice parish - Sheila Simpkins, Ray Chamberlain and Alan Bateman, a Reader Emeritus David Roper, and we are supported by an excellent team of Approved Lay Ministers. We are very grateful for all that they do.

Volunteers & Paid Staff

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. Our especial thanks go to our church wardens, Bill Whitney and Marianda Bonilauri, who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf, Paul Harris our Treasurer, and members of the Building Committee.

During 2018 our administrator Mary Wilson left and we wish her well for the future. We will re-appoint as soon as possible.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), our churchwardens, the Reader and members elected 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 on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met six times in 2018.

Administrative Information

St John the Baptist is situated on St John's Hill in the centre of the village; it is part of the Lichfield Deanery in the Diocese of Lichfield within the Church of England. Our Archdeacon is the Venerable Simon Baker of Lichfield. The PCC is a body corporate under the provisions of The Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956, Section 3.

Ex Officio members of the PCC:

- Incumbent: the Reverend Elizabeth Chamberlain
- Associate Minister: the Reverend John Aston
- Reader: Alan Bateman
- Reader: Ray Chamberlain (Deanery Synod Representative)
- Warden: Bill Whitney, Marianda Bonilauri
- Deanery Synod Representative: Pauline Sampson
- Reader Emeritus: David Roper

Elected members of the PCC

- Veronica Raybould
- Michael Raybould
- Jill Harris
- Paul Harris (Treasurer)
- Keith Sydenham
- John Beattie
- Tricia Glover
- Graham Birt
- Jamie Beddard (Deanery Synod Representative)

Review of the Year

Elizabeth Chamberlain, the Incumbent writes:

We thank the Lord for our all worshippers, young, old and those in between. Our worshipping adult numbers on Sunday have reduced slightly during 2018, however our under 16 numbers have remained the same at 18 on average each Sunday. Our worshipping community (those we have contact with) has increased. We continue to enjoy a close relationship with Greysbrooke School. This year saw the whole school join us for a Christmas service. Rainbows nursery also held their Nativity Service in church. St John the Baptist Church played a significant part in the Remembrance Day celebrations which took part in the community.

We thank the Lord for all our worshippers, and we have been blessed with growth in our Early Birds worshippers - growth both in numbers and in discipleship - and pray that this will continue to bear fruit.

As a church we have continued to walk beside many during significant Life Events, with 2018 seeing an increase in Funeral Services taken, both in church and directly to the Crematorium.

We look forward to 2019 to see where the Lord will lead us. We would like to build on our Messy Church successes and attract more young people to attend, with a focus on Key Stage 2 children. We would like our relationship with Greysbrooke School to continue to flourish and grow, and in time bring families to faith.

Names and addresses of advisers

Bank HSBC, Sutton Coldfield

Independent Examiner Pauline Hegarty
Shenstone

Approved by the Standing Committee on 29th March 2019 and signed on its behalf by:



Reverend Elizabeth Chamberlain (Chair)

Approved Via Email

Mr Alan Bateman (Lay Chair)