

The Church of St Mary the Virgin Kingswood

Annual Report And Financial Summary of the Parochial Church Council 2017

Incumbent	The Reverend Canon David Russell The Rectory, 75 High Street, Wickwar
Bank	Lloyds Bank, Wotton-under-Edge
Independent Examiner	Miss Rhiannon Davies Rock Top, Inchington Road, Tytherington, GL12 8QE

St Mary's Church is situated in High Street, Kingswood, GL12 8RS. The church is part of the United Benefice of Charfield with Kingswood and Wickwar with Rangeworthy and Hillesley.

Reverend Canon David Russell is the Rector

Reverend Rick Williams is the Associate Priest

Professor Patricia Broadfoot is the Licensed Reader

Members of the PCC for the reported year are:

Rector	Reverend Canon David Russell - (ex-officio & Chair)
Churchwardens	Mrs Val Abbott, Dr David Hatton - (ex-officio)
Elected Members	Mr Rod Alexander, Mrs Rosemary Casken, Mr Bob Copeland Mr John Jennings-Chick, Mrs Carolyn Purdy, Mr David Roe Mr Henry Smith, Mrs Stella Green (Co-opted)
Deanery Synod Rep	Professor Patricia Broadfoot - (ex-officio & Lay Chair)
Treasurer	Mr David Roe
Minutes Secretary	Mrs Jean Dove (co-opted)

Other posts for the reported year are:

Verger	Mr Henry Smith (retired during the year)
Organist and Choir Leader	Mrs Gill Hatton
Sidesmen	Mr Rod Alexander, Mr Adrian Dann, Mr Chris Dunn, Mrs Rosemary Casken, Mrs Carolyn Purdy, Mr Rob Rayfield
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Bob Copeland
Safeguarding Officer	Mrs Rosemary Casken

The PCC is a charity exempt from registration with the charity commission.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Council (Powers) Measure 1956 as: "to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, evangelistic, social and ecumenical".

The PCC has met five times since the 2017 APCM: 13th February, 10th April, 3rd July, 18th September and 6th November.

There was a full review of the Electoral Roll during 2014. The roll currently shows a total of 47, 7 of whom live outside the parish. The average Sunday attendance, as ascertained by the usual method of counting over the four Sundays in October was 26 adults and 5 children. However, this figure includes the Harvest Festival. A more typical Sunday attendance might be around 22 adults and 2 children.

Worship

The usual monthly pattern of services has been as follows:

1st Sunday - Parish Eucharist at 11.15am

2nd Sunday - Sung Matins at 11.15am

3rd Sunday - Parish Eucharist at 11.15am

4th Sunday - Family Service at 11.15am and Evensong at 6pm

5th Sunday- when there is a 5th Sunday in the month, a benefice service is held in one of the five churches in the benefice.

Morning Prayer The mid-week service of has continued throughout the year and is being supported by a small but committed group.

Pennwood Praise – Short services supported by St Mary's and the Congregational Church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas in our local Care Home

Choir St Mary's is fortunate in having a dedicated choir that supports worship throughout the year. It is the existence of the choir which allows us to have the variety of services shown in the pattern above. The musical achievements of our choir won particular praise in the well-attended Carol Service.

Special Occasions - Baptisms (4), Weddings (1), Funerals (4)

Children

Mini Praise. During the 2016/17 school year, the start time of the monthly, mid-week 'Mini-praise' was altered to begin after the end of school to allow attendance of both pre-school and reception class children. At the end of the summer term a discussion with parents and carers revealed that for the 2017/18 school year there would be little or no requirement for Mini-praise. There was however a strong request for the return to a monthly Sunday School and Eucharist, with the parents agreeing to form a team to run the Sunday School. A firm commitment was made to launch this at the earliest opportunity in 2018.

Open the Book. Together with members of the Congregational Church dramatised presentations of Bible stories are given in Kingswood Primary School each week in term time.

Messy Church - Together with members of the Congregational Church met 5 times during the year and has attracted a regular following of families from both the village churches with typically 40-50 people taking part in the celebration and meal.

Holiday Club Together with members of the Congregational Church this was led by Joy Howell and ran over a 4 mornings. It was supported by 10-12 children, much lower than previously. Recognising that with the constraints of parents working and child care we are planning to change the format to 2 full days in 2018

Teaching

School Services – St Mary's hosted Epiphany, Harvest and Carol Services for the Primary School

Holocaust Memorial Day - John Dobie from the Holocaust Educational Trust spoke of his experience of the fate of Hungarian Jews, including members of his own family, during World War II. The talk was well supported by 6th form students and staff from KLB, many of whom subsequently visited the Nazi death camps in Poland

Lent Together with the Congregational Church course we followed - "Light Bulb Moments"

Reformation – Together with the Congregational Church the 500th Anniversary of Luther's pinning his 95 Theses to the door of Wittenburg Cathedral was marked by a programme of activities including Prayer, Exhibition, Supper Talks and Messy Church.

First World War – Our continuing commemoration of WW1 marked the centenary of the Battle of Passchendaele and the loss there of Captain Seymour Tubbs whose memorial is in St Mary's, with a Taize service and candle lit procession to the War Memorial

Katharine Lady Berkeley School - St Mary's hosted eight separate visits for the whole of Year 7 forming a part of the Year 7 RE programme and is intended to introduce them to a place of worship and the activities therein and has become a regular part of the school's

Clergy

Peter Fewings, who had been with us during the final period of his curacy training, left the benefice and to take up the post of Associate Priest in the Sodbury Benefice. In May we were delighted to welcome the Reverend Rick Williams as the new House-for-Duty Priest in the benefice. With the decision that Rick would spend the greater part of his work in ministering to the Kingswood and Charfield parishes, he has been an energetic and enthusiastic presence in our midst

Outreach

In addition to its role a fundraiser for restoration and repair of the church building, Friends of St Mary's (FoSM) is a provider of outreach to the wider Kingswood community through the variety and quality of its events.

After a sabbatical year in 2016, due partly to delay and uncertainty about when pews would be removed for the Children's Area, *Music at St Mary's* staged four highly successful concerts in what was its 20th season. Perhaps most notable of these was the second concert given by the Gildas Quartet in return for being allowed to use the church for two days to make recordings.

The annual Church Garden Fete, held in the garden of Amercombe was, once again, one of the highlights of the village calendar and raised around £3500 for church general funds.

Cyclists riding on behalf of St Mary's raised £1950 including Gift Aid, shared with the Gloucestershire Historic Churches Trust, in the annual *Ride and Stride* event. We understand that this sum was the second highest in the whole of Gloucestershire.

Other activities included

- Established a LIFE group to help plan and deliver new outreach opportunities
- Created a new Website: www.stmaryskingswood.org.uk
- With the Congregational church we publish four, high-quality, seasonal leaflets which are distributed to every house in the village.

Witness

Our Christian witness in the community was mainly done together with the Congregational Church and included the following events:

- Palm Sunday Procession and Service
- Stations of the Cross on Good Friday
- Open Air Service for Christian Aid
- Open Air Service for Water Aid
- Reformation Exhibition
- Remembrance Sunday
- Carols on the Chipping

Mission

Reverse Advent Calendar, Launched jointly with the Congregational Church at the Christingle Service by the end of this year's Christmas services nearly 400 Kg of food and other necessities were sent to the local Foodbank.

Lent Lunches, held on Thursdays throughout Lent, raising £628 which was shared between *The Nelson Trust*, helping vulnerable women in Gloucester, and the *Save the Children - Yemen Crisis Appeal*. As well as the money sent to these good causes, the fellowship and the outreach to the wider community generated by these lunches is an important outcome.

Other activities together with the Congregational Church included

- Foodbank - Ongoing
- Children's Society
- Christian Aid Collection
- Water Aid

The Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church

Early in the year a dedicated Children's Area was created at the back of the church, following a faculty process that had lasted 500 days. It has worked well.

As necessary work identified in the Quinquennial report, the path to the church door was re-laid. The opportunity was taken to slope the path up to the church door to provide disabled access.

Other important, safety related work, was less visible. Extensive repairs were made to the lightning conductor system and a full five-yearly test of the church's electricity system was carried out, with upgrading as necessary.

A new quinquennial inspection was carried out during the summer. As usual, this contains a lengthy list of recommendations for maintenance and repair work that needs to be undertaken during the next five-year period. However, the opening sentence of the condition section, "The church is generally well cared for and in good condition" is very comforting. A significant finding in the report is the need to engage with the civil Parish Council over its responsibilities for maintenance of the churchyard and its boundary walls.

At the end of 2017 the Faculty to develop the proposed Memorial Garden was still awaited. Fundraising was continuing against a projected cost estimated to be in excess of £10,000.

Planned Giving

Three options are available for regular planned giving:

- The Parish Giving Scheme, administered on our behalf by the diocese and allowing regular payment by direct debit which, if desired, can be adjusted for inflation
- Regular payment by standing order, directly into St Mary's general account
- The use of weekly envelopes

All three of these allow Gift Aid to be reclaimed, although this is far more speedily and efficiently achieved by the Parish giving Scheme. This is now, by far, the major vehicle for planned giving at St Mary's. During the year, there were twelve separate donors and it is hoped that more members of the church family will begin to use this method of planned giving in the future.

Financial Summary

The audited accounts for the year ending 31 December 2017 were approved and adopted by the PCC at its meeting on 19th March 2018. They are an agenda item at this meeting.

The PCC has a general account at Lloyds Bank for the day to day running of the church. In addition there are accounts (both current and deposit) for Friends of St Mary's and the Restoration Appeal, all of which hold money for the restoration and repair of the fabric of the church. There is an account for money for maintenance of the organ. A little used account, currently titled Choir Fund, is now being used to hold money for the Memorial Garden project and, at the year end, was in the laborious process of being renamed. The church also has investment assets, currently valued at approximately £65,000, which have accrued from historical legacies.

The general account show a healthy net closing balance of £4,827 despite expenditure exceeding income by just over two thousand pounds. This was due to over six thousand pounds of important repairs and renewals being met from the general account.

As always, the single largest expenditure was our "Parish Share" contribution of £15,117 (which contributes to the stipends, housing, training and pensions for the clergy). This amounted to 54% of all expenditure, slightly less than the previous year. However, the Parish Share is projected to rise significantly in future years, so there is little cause for complacency over our financial position. It is important to acknowledge the strong support that has been given to the excellent Parish Giving Scheme by many of our church members. In 2017 it contributed to half of all our income. This means of giving, which is regular, realistic and tax efficient is strongly to be commended to everyone.

The other funds (FoSM and Restoration) continue to build up slowly but steadily after being almost completely depleted in meeting the costs of redecoration and re-lighting the church four years ago.