

2019 Annual Report for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Sawston, Cambridge

Aims and Purposes

The PCC of St Mary the Virgin has the responsibility of working with the incumbent, the Reverend Alan Partridge, to promote the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical within the parish of Sawston. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the church of St Mary the Virgin, a Grade 1 listed building and of the burial ground. Grass cutting in the churchyard is undertaken by the Parish Council. The Community Hall in Church Lane is maintained by the Community Hall Committee, which is responsible to and reports to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to become part of St Mary's Church Family. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and regularly reviews the arrangements for key periods of the Church's year and looks for new ways to involve more people of the parish in worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning activities for the year the PCC has complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

We try to enable people to live out their faith through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the gospel; developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus
- Provision of pastoral care for those living in Sawston
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Mary's Church.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC tries to offer a variety of opportunities for worship. The daily round of Morning and Evening Prayer is maintained by a devoted few. There have been meditative prayer evenings, much appreciated by those who have taken part. Compline has been said in penitential seasons. The pattern of Holy Communion

at 9.15am and the less formal Open Door service at 10.45am has been maintained, with joint services for Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost, Patronal Festival, Harvest and Christingle. More lay leadership of worship has been encouraged. Sarah Bard is now an ALM as a worship leader and pastoral assistant.

At the close of 2019 there were 88 parishioners on the Electoral Roll, 6 of whom are not resident in the parish. The Roll was newly drawn up in 2019. The average weekly attendance, counted in October, was 80 adults and 20 children. There were 68 communicants at Easter and 66 at Christmas. The Christmas services held for the community attracted a massive 917 worshippers.

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; through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world. We have celebrated 9 baptisms and one thanksgiving for the birth of a child and 3 weddings and held 15 funeral services in our Church this year.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC represent the parish on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structure of the Church. This year the PCC has continued to support Deanery attempts to provide for the needs of young people, taken part in the annual Deanery Fair and in the Deanery Ascension Day Eucharist.

The Church Building and Grounds

Normal routine maintenance was carried out. The first stage of the new A/V system was installed and the next phase, with a dropdown screen and a more powerful projector is planned for 2020 . The Church remains open as an act of faith but problems which arise are constantly monitored.

The burial ground was maintained to the usual high standards by Robert Richmond and Roger Mansfield. A working party, largely of younger Church members, continued to undertake a series of very useful tasks. The burial ground storage shed was replaced and the appearance of the burial ground much improved. The Parish Council funded necessary repairs to the Churchyard path which had become dangerously uneven.

The Community Hall continued to thrive and to be very extensively used by the community it serves.

Pastoral Care

The vicar has continued to visit the housebound and to take them Holy Communion and to hold a weekly evening prayer service at Orchard House, with the help of some members of the congregation. He has also devoted much time to the comfort of the bereaved.

Recent initiatives such as Refresh, Soup and Sandwiches and the Craft Group continued to develop.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC has continued to support a number of charities engaged in mission and several fund-raising events have been held. We have maintained our support of the Leprosy Mission's hospital at Premananda, the Friends of the Holy Land, Jimmy's Night Shelter, Cambridge and the Mission to Seafarers. The World-wide Mission committee has arranged a series of informative speakers at Sunday services so we know more about the charities to which we donate. Outreach work has included some events such as concerts, and chocolate bingo which have appealed to the wider community.

The Royal British Legion was well represented at the Remembrance Sunday service.

In the Partnership for Missional Church programme, the process moved on to identifying a missional challenge and considering the best way to achieve it. Our parish magazine, published quarterly, is free of charge and keeps our parishioners informed of all the important matters affecting our Church and includes articles which help to develop our knowledge of and trust in Jesus.

Ecumenical Relationships

We combined with Sawston Free Church for Trinity Sunday and held the usual Lent Groups together and the Walk of Witness on Good Friday. Bruce Waldron retired as minister of the Free Church and they are currently without a minister.

Financial Review

The financial statements attached to this report show total net income of £76504.91, and expenditure of £76848.72, resulting in a loss, before revaluations, of £343.81. However, a substantial gain on revaluation of investments led to a positive movement in overall funds of £1531.75.

Net income in 2019 was lower than in 2018 because we received some very substantial legacies that year. Other sources of income, including regular giving, fees, interest, and dividends showed moderate increases, whilst gifts, including a quarterly transfer of £500 from the Community Hall, and event income, were roughly unchanged, albeit with a larger proportion of each being allocated to

specific projects. A total of £9116.18 was received from the Community Hall Management Committee as the annual balancing transfer, 67% of which was added to a restricted fund, totalling £16976.83 at the year end, for major items of repair, maintenance, and improvement to the Hall, as and when they arise.

2019 was another expensive year for repairs and maintenance, with a total of £14341.02 being spent on maintenance and renewal of church fittings, most of this on the new sound system, and a further £3963.73 on the new churchyard store, built to a specification dictated by its location in the protected envelope of our grade 1 listed church. The Ministry Share of £35945.09 was 7.5% higher than in 2018, and will continue to increase at this rate for the next few years, placing increasing pressure on our funds. Other expenditure was broadly in line with that incurred in recent years.

2020 is likely to be a financially challenging year, with substantial outlay on phase 2 of the new audio-visual system anticipated, and it is likely that any surplus will be very small. However, our finances continue to be sufficiently robust to cope with this in the medium term.

Volunteers

We should like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our Church a lively and supportive community. This includes virtually all Church members, so we cannot mention individuals but the contribution made by everyone is much appreciated.

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 method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, the licensed lay minister, the churchwardens and the elected representatives to the Deanery Synod and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the Church. All those who attend our services regularly are encouraged to register on the electoral roll.

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

The PCC met six times in 2019 with an average attendance of 80%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, detailed below, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly. This year the committees have all continued to submit written reports in advance of PCC meetings which

has meant that discussions are not needlessly repeated and the business carried out more effectively.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee, which the PCC is required to appoint. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, subject to any directions given by the PCC. It also oversees the financial affairs of the PCC.

Fabric Committee

This is responsible for ensuring the good repair and maintenance of the church, churchyard and the burial ground.

World-wide Mission Committee

This maintains contact with missionary societies and co-ordinates giving to groups outside the parish and ensures information about their activities is readily available. It arranges events to raise funds and as social occasions.

Magazine Committee

This is responsible for producing and distributing a quarterly magazine, published on the first Sundays in March, June, September and December.

PMC

This committee oversees the process whereby St Mary's is becoming a Missional Church.

Social and Fund-raising Events Committee

This committee runs social and fund-raising activities.

Administrative information

The Church of St Mary the Virgin is situated in Church Lane. It is in the Deanery of Granta and the Diocese of Ely within the Church of England

All correspondence should be sent to: The Vicarage
 Church Lane
 Sawston, Cambridge, CB22 3JR

The PCC of St. Mary the Virgin, Sawston is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Bankers

Barclays, Saffron Walden, Essex
Lloyds, Cattle Market, Cambridge

Independent Examiner
Architect

David Thompson
Ashley Courtney, Roseford Road, Cambridge

PCC members who served during 2019 are:

Vicar:	The Reverend Alan Partridge (chairman)
LLM	Jose John
Churchwardens	Andrew Overitt and Marian Watson (vice-chairmen)
Synod Representatives	David Bard and Andrew Overitt

Elected members were Dianne Conway, John Crompton, Mary Dicken, Rebecca Herrick, Suella Hunting, Anna Lovewell, Susan Lowdell, , Hilary Streeter and Rosina Whitmell.

The PCC appointed Robert Richmond as treasurer, Mary Dicken as secretary, Janet Martin as Electoral Roll Officer and Marian Watson as Gift Aid Officer. Robert Richmond is not a member of the PCC.

Compiled by Mary Dicken and Robert Richmond to reflect the position on 31 December 2019.

Approved by the PCC on 4 June 2020

Signed on their behalf by Alan Partridge, chairman