

St. Edmund's Church, Dolton **Parish Annual Report, 2018.**

Aim and purposes

St. Edmund's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Reverend Susan Oldham, 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 and upkeep of the Church and churchyard.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St. Edmund's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC has considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the specific 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
- Missionary and outreach work.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC are 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, our Wednesday services provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst our Sunday services alternate between Holy Communion (two Sundays each month), morning prayer and a family service.

A Lent course has been held to provide teaching and preparation for Easter, while a weekly home group is now held to deepen study of the Bible.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 38 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll.

Weekly services in term time were also held for the adjoining Church of England Junior School with an average attendance during October of 30 children. We held our traditional Carol Service, Christingle Service and midnight Eucharist each of which attracted good congregations.

Again, the Easter services held on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday were well received.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod, our incumbent and Frances Whistler.

This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church, to share common problems and to act on advice or recommendations emanating from Diocese.

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The Church building.

We want our church to be open to our community for private prayer. To further this aim, we open the church daily from 8am to 5pm. It is evident from entries in the visitors' book and local comment that numerous people take advantage of this facility.

A faculty application has been successful to allow an area of the churchyard to be dedicated as an area for the burial of ashes.

Two memorial panes which were designed and engraved by Lawrence Whistler have been installed in the church (north window).

Pastoral Care

The members of St Edmund's Church continue to be very proactive in the care of those who require help, both within the church and the community it serves. There remains a wide network of church members involved in many of the village groups and events which take place in the village, such as the village lunch club, community coffee mornings and events which further support the village community.

Pastoral care is also shared by the clergy who remain active in bereavement support, home communions and general visiting.

St Edmund's is dedicated to offering a memorial service each year for those throughout the benefice who have been recently bereaved, to support and acknowledge the grieving process. This year, the Red Cross was invited to provide information about its support services at the memorial service.

Marriage preparation is offered for those intending to marry in the church.

Mission and Evangelism

Our full social calendar provides many opportunities to offer events which draw people into relationship with church members and into the church itself. The social and fundraising group works well with the other churches of the benefice to help and promote events.

This year, the procession around the village on Good Friday drew several interested people into the service and regular services such as Christmas and Easter continue to be well attended by those not normally attending.

We took the lead in organising the villages' commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War. This involved a broad section of the local community including the school and centred around raising money for the 'There but not there' charity

Ecumenical Relationships

We, again, shared together with Dolton Baptists and the Methodists from Iddesleigh at the annual 'Songs of Praise', held at Dennis Cross in August. We continue to share with the Iddesleigh Methodist Chapel at Pentecost. Revd Susan lead a couple of service at the chapel during the year to which all were invited.

Safeguarding

St. Edmund's PCC complies with their duty under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Disciplinary Measure, 2016, (duty to have regard to the House of Bishop's guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). The co-ordinator in respect of the benefice is Mrs Jackie Sweet. Regular reviews of our obligations are carried out to ensure continued compliance.

3.

Financial Review.

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £35,515, an increase of over £3,700 on 2017. It should be noted that very little was spent on the church fabric, maintenance and repair. The Parish Giving Scheme which came into operation in 2016 is still proving successful and has simplified the administration. We now receive contributions either through the Scheme, by Standing Order and/or church collection plate. This year, collections including tax relief through the Gift Aid system amounted £24,011, slightly down on the previous year. We had another successful year of fund raising. Over £2,400 net was raised, some specifically designated to the maintenance and upkeep of the church and churchyard. In addition, events were held that raised a further £1,579 which were donated to agreed charitable causes. We actively supported the Torrington Food Bank with regular contributions donated by the congregation.

£32,533 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St. Edmund's including the £19,522 contribution of our Parish Share to Diocese. (The sum that the churches in the Diocese are asked to find is calculated according to a specific formula which is based mainly on the number of people in the worshipping community taking a three yearly average). This year, we declared 34 regular attenders (the numbers being defined by the formula). This was a reduction in numbers from 42 the previous year, reducing our contribution in 2019 to £18,318.

Expenditure, generally, was in line with the budgeted forecast.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £2,982 on unrestricted funds.

During the year, we received a legacy from the estate of Ethel Turner which has been invested into the CCLA investment funds. It is the wish of Ethel Turner that the money should be used for the upkeep and maintenance of the organ or '.....any other charitable fund or any other pressing need of the Parish Church'.

We wish to express our grateful thanks and appreciation to all those who give so generously and without whose support we would have considerable difficulty in honouring our financial obligations.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church welcoming and friendly. Although we have an ageing congregation, all make their own contribution to ensure the smooth running of the church. It is necessary to cover a whole spectrum of work including maintenance and upkeep of the churchyard, preparation of floral displays, brass cleaning, coffee making and preparing the church for services and special events. We particularly thank those who, although they are not regular attenders, provide valuable support and input.

Structure, governance and management.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Edmund's, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (Reverend Susan Oldham), the assistant curate (Reverend Tony Connell) two churchwardens 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 deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 85%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of sub-groups each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees which include worship, fabric, social and

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fund raising and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their deliberations being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information.

St. Edmund's Church is situated in Church Street, Dolton. It is part of the Torrington Deanery in the Diocese of Exeter within the Church of England.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity exempt from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members.

Incumbent: The Reverend Susan Oldham, Chairman

Reverend Tony Connell, Assistant Curate.

Churchwardens: Mrs Mary Marshman (Resigned September 2018) and Mr. John Thouless

Hon. Secretary:- Mrs. Julia Drury

Elected members:

Mr. John Thouless, Treasurer.

Mr Frank Hooper (Resigned July, 2018)

Mrs. Celia Howitt.

Ms. Sue Hyne

Mr. Simon Newton.

Ms Frances Whistler

Sacristan.

Mrs. Beverley Thouless.

Organist.

Mrs. Eve Howes and Mrs Janet Allin

Foundation School Governors.

Posts vacant

Gift Aid Officer:- Mr. H. Marshman.

Independent Examiner. Mr. Malcolm Easton, FCA, Chartered Accountant (Retired).

Approved by the PCC onand signed on their behalf by the

Reverend Susan Oldham (PCC chairman).....

Dated.....