

2018
ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
OF
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH,
EAST GARSTON

Aim and purposes

East Garston Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Vicar of the Lambourn Valley Benefice 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 of the church buildings 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. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, 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.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of All Saints' Church and its churchyard.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. All are welcome to attend our regular services of Holy Communion on the second and fourth Sundays of the month which cater mainly for regular churchgoers while at Festivals such as Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas, the services cater not only for the regulars but also for those who attend church on just a few occasions during the year. The children are encouraged to take part in special family services on most of these occasions.

The parish is also an active participant in the Lambourn Valley Benefice. When there is a fifth Sunday, a Benefice Holy Communion service is held in one of the three parishes. A Benefice Choral Evensong was also held on two occasions at All Saints'.

There were 61 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in 2018. The average weekly attendance at services was 15, but this number increased substantially at festivals when on several occasions the church was almost full. At the Easter service there were 53 attendees, including 8 children, and of these 34 received communion while on Christmas morning the attendance was 144, including 24 children, and there were 44 communicants.

During Lent some parishioners joined a house group meeting in Lambourn to follow a course "Abundant Life", written by Bishop Steven Croft. The course studied how the story of the raising of Lazarus reveals Jesus as contemplative, compassionate and courageous; an example of what it means to live abundant life.

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 to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated one baptism in our church this year but there have been no marriages or funerals. There was one interment of ashes.

Revd Martin Cawte officially retired on 31st October 2018 although his last duty was Lambourn's Patronal Festival service on 30th September. We are very grateful for the dedicated service that Martin and Jill have given to the Benefice.

During the interregnum the parishes have been extremely well supported by the Benefice's Associate Priest, Venerable Christine Allsopp, and in addition many of the services in East Garston have been taken by visiting clergy, Archdeacon Olivia Graham, Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey and Revd Rita Ball.

Deanery Synod

There is one person elected to sit on the Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Church Building and Churchyard

Ideally we would like our church to be open to our community for private prayer. Unfortunately, the location of the church on the edge of the parish leads to a potential for theft and vandalism which has happened in the past. Therefore, we have felt unable to leave the church open at all times for private worship but it is open from 10am to 4pm on Saturdays. In addition, the churchwardens are very happy to arrange for the church to be unlocked on request.

Faculty approval was granted by the Archdeacon for removal of dead wood and the reshaping of one of the ancient yew trees in the churchyard which had become unsightly and this work has been completed. Faculty approval was also granted by the Archdeacon for repairs to the north-west buttress of the church and to a section of the listed east churchyard wall next to the lych gate. This work is scheduled to be carried out in April 2019.

The PCC is grateful to East Garston Parish Council for its annual grant towards the maintenance of the churchyard.

Pastoral care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Revd Martin Cawte has visited all who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. He has also visited families in advance of baptisms and the next of kin following a death to provide pastoral care to those who are grieving.

Mission and evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The church is actively engaged in fund raising. This year we made £100 donations to the Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution and Christian Aid. The collection of just over £140 at the Children's Nativity service was donated to the Friends of PICU (the Paediatric Intensive Care Unit at Southampton Hospital). Sponsorship for Ride

& Stride raised £405 for the Berkshire Churches Trust and half of this was returned to our church funds.

We contribute articles to the monthly editions of Village Views magazine which is edited and distributed by volunteers in all three parishes at an annual cost of £4. The Benefice also has a weekly information sheet, Valley Welcome, which contains notices of importance to the life of the church and includes the collects and readings set for each Sunday. A Diocesan newspaper "The Door" is also made available to those attending services.

The Safari Supper in June was again a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part. Thanks to all those who helped with the organisation, those who hosted and those who provided desserts. The total raised for church funds was £1310.

We provided a refreshment marquee and soft toy tombola at East Garston's music festival and refreshments for a bluebell walk organised to raise funds for Thames Valley Air Ambulance and East Garston Amenities.

The church organises East Garston's annual Remembrance Service. A service in church was followed by the Act of Remembrance at the village war memorial. The Wantage Academy Band played for the service and then led the Archdeacon Christine Allsopp and the congregation from the church to the war memorial. After the Last Post, the Silence and Reveille, wreaths were laid on behalf of the Royal British Legion, All Saints' Church and East Garston Parish Council. Over the Remembrance weekend the East Garston Local Historical Society organised an exhibition of World War I memorabilia in the church.

Just before Christmas, after a display by the Garston Gallopers in the car park, our "choir" led the singing of carols in a packed Queens Arms. Thanks to Sue and Freddie Tulloch for publicising and hosting the evening and to Stephen Holmes and some of the Lambourn choir for helping to enhance the singing. The collection of £266.47 was donated to the Children's Society

Our team of bellringers very ably support our presence in the village by ringing in advance of our regular services, for weddings and occasionally for funerals. They have also rung a muffled peal on several occasions during the year on the 100th anniversary of the death of parishioners who lost their lives during the First World War. These men were also remembered during the service closest to the anniversary.

The church supports the Food Bank by providing a collection point in the porch for contributions from those attending our regular Sunday services.

Ecumenical relationships

The church has a very good working relationship with the Society of Friends in East Garston and often makes use of its admirable facilities for meetings.

Financial review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £21,577 of which £1,884 was collections at services, £10,050 was unrestricted planned voluntary donations, and £2,364 was from ad hoc donations. Various fund raising activities contributed £2,533. A restricted grant of £200 was received from East Garston Parish Council. Total income for the year was £21,801.

The sum that the churches in the Deanery have to find to contribute to support the mission and ministry of the Church in the Diocese of Oxford is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based mainly on a usual Sunday attendance. In 2018, our parish share was £11,131. Other expenditure from the unrestricted funds for items such as insurance, electricity, fees to the Diocese, organist and cleaner, organ tuning, and general maintenance was £6,440. Total expenditure for the year was £19,408 resulting in a total net surplus of £2,393.

The annual financial statements which form an integral part of this Report will be presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting and are available on request.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church and churchyard a welcoming place for the community and ensure that the village is provided with an accurate record of the passing of time.

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 PCC is regarded as a charity but under the Charities (Exception from Registration) Regulations 1996 it is not required to register with the Charity Commission.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In East Garston, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), 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 PCC met five times during the year with an average level of attendance of 80%. Small sub-groups met to plan specific activities such as the Harvest Lunch and the Safari Supper. Workshops were also held to involve the children in preparations for Mothering Sunday, Easter and Harvest Festival.

Administrative information

All Saints' Church is situated off Station Road, East Garston. It is part of the Benefice of the Lambourn Valley in the Newbury Deanery of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is Lambsdown, Front Street, East Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7EU or Church Cottage, Front Street, East Garston, Hungerford, RG17 7HJ.

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

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: Revd Martin Cawte (until 31st October 2018)

Churchwardens: Dr Robert Briant (also representative on Deanery Synod)

Mrs Dawn Tonge

Elected members:

Hon Rowland Cobbold

Mr Thomas Coleman (Treasurer)

Mrs Annette Furneaux (until 31st December 2018)

Mrs Ann Phillips

Mrs Karen Sperrey (Secretary)

This report was approved by the PCC on 9 April 2019 and signed on their behalf by the acting chairman, Dr Robert Briant.