

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Nantwich

Registered Charity Number 1130903

Trustees' Annual Report

for the year ended 31 December 2016

Aims and Purposes

St Mary's PCC, in conjunction with the Rector, the Rev Canon Dr Barry Wilson, is responsible for the whole mission of the church – through worship, teaching, nurture, social gatherings and special events, pastoral care, evangelism and ecumenical cooperation. The PCC also seeks to recognise gifts and skills in others, encouraging them to share in this mission.

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 vision statement is "Know God, Show His Love, Grow His Church" so our mission in the parish is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. In particular we seek to enable parishioners to live out their faith as part of our growing parish community.

As stewards of the church's resources, the PCC seeks to fulfil this objective as efficiently and effectively as reasonably possible. When planning our activities for the year, the Rector and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and especially the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain and develop the fabric of our Grade 1 listed 14th century church and it is good to be able to report that the long planned project of reordering the church, providing toilet facilities and a replacement lift for the less able was completed in March 2016.

During the year we joined a diocesan venture led by the Lead Academy which provides a network to assist the leaders of the larger churches of the diocese in their planning and administration.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The slight increase recorded at last year's Annual Parochial Church meeting continued. Since the previous year's meeting in 2015, when there were 448 on the Electoral Roll, 20 had been added and 7 removed making a total of 461.

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services on a Sunday, during the week and over the course of the year. These gather our community together for different forms of worship and provide opportunities to invite others to join us. The variety of styles and times of services are planned to enable as many people as possible to worship and feel part of the parish community. Our weekly Sunday services and average attendances throughout the year are as follows:

8 am Holy Communion - 35

9:30 am Family Service - 115

10:45 am Parish Communion - 125
3:00 pm Seniors Lounge - 32 (monthly)
3:00 pm Richmond Village Care Home communion – 27 (weekly)
3:00 pm Messy Church – 30 (bi-monthly)
6:00 pm Evening Service (includes special services) - 67
7:15 pm Encounter - 25 (fortnightly)

We also have two mid-week communion services:

11:00 am Wednesday - 18

8:00 am Friday – 10

Who Let the Dad's Out was held monthly on a Saturday morning through the year - 25

Attendance on Easter Sunday and vigil on Easter Eve - 626.

Attendance on Christmas Eve and Day totalled 2242.

The Bishop of Chester confirmed 5 adults and 7 young people as well as baptising 2 of the candidates at a service on 8 May. We enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. St Mary's Baptism team provides support for families both before and after the Baptism has taken place. Home visits with anniversary cards continue for 3 years.

The occasional offices ministry continues to be a significant part of our outreach.

During the past year, there were 87 Baptisms including 2 adults and 23 Weddings and 3 services of renewal or thanksgiving. There were 58 Funerals in our church, and 46 Funerals at the Crematorium. We also held two memorial services to help the bereaved which were appreciated by the many families who attended.

Pastoral Care and Outreach to the Local Community

Nurture

St Mary's seeks to nurture and encourage people of all ages in their Christian faith. Vanessa Layfield has joined the ministry team as Pastoral Care Coordinator. Along with a pastoral care team she has enabled many new ventures from packs for the homeless which included food vouchers and sleeping bags to working with CAP (Christians against Poverty) to provide money budgeting courses.

An Alpha course was organised by Kaushal David, our curate, 14 attended in 2016 with a further course arranged for 2017.

We have Home Groups for adults as well as groups for young people across all age ranges and following the Jesus Shaped People initiative last year there are various weekly prayer groups and opportunities praying for various church activities. The Home Groups aim to encourage members to walk in God's love and share it with others. Both Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts are now held regularly. A Julian Prayer Group meets on a monthly basis in the parish and is growing in support.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who live out their faith through practical action. In particular we would mention our previous churchwardens, Mr Nigel Winzer and Mrs Deborah Snelling who took on a lot of the additional organisation for the reordering of the church. We also thank our Readers and retired clergy, as well as those who have served on the PCC, for their valuable contributions.

We have a well-respected choir which supports many of our regular and special services and were pleased to appoint Alison Phillips, a member of our church choir

and leader of our young choir "Sing @ St Mary's" as Director of Music. In addition there is a worship band and singers who continue to support the 9:30 family service. Our church building is open for visitors 6 days a week from 8:30am to 4:00pm with a rota of stewards in attendance. This provides a place for quiet prayer and contemplation. The Church Visitors Centre and Shop situated off the south porch is open from March to December, where volunteers meet and welcome visitors, serve refreshments and sell books, cards, CDs, DVDs, church guides and souvenirs. During the year we held a Flower Festival which attracted over 6,000 visitors who not only enjoyed the displays and venue but also the hospitality of refreshments. Volunteers enable us to carry out other outreach work. Open House met monthly on Wednesdays for those recently bereaved or lonely and we continued to hold a monthly Seniors' Lounge with the aim to provide friendship and support for those who might otherwise be on their own on a Sunday afternoon. This also meets at Richmond Village, a local care home, on the intervening fortnight. Members of the Mothers' Union, the Flower Club, the Housekeeping team, the Tapestry Group, Choir and Bell Ringers all seek to show the love of Christ to the wider community in their service to St Mary's.

Ecumenical Relationships and Outreach

St Mary's works alongside its partner churches under the umbrella of the Churches Together in Nantwich with our Rector Barry Wilson as chairman. The partner churches worship and collaborate together at a number of key points throughout the year. These include: The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Good Friday open-air witness, Nantwich Show, Christian Aid events, Women's World Day of Prayer and Soup Lunches on a Friday as well as a Christmas Day lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own.

Grants are also made available to young people undertaking significant humanitarian or evangelical work, usually overseas, in the form of Millennium Bursaries.

Churches Together supports the Street Pastors' scheme which is appreciated by the town, club goers and the police. In addition it supports the Food bank, which continues to assist a significant number of struggling individuals and families throughout the year.

The Visits Team Ministry

We continue to welcome large numbers of visitors, tourists, organised groups to the church and school parties both local and from further afield. These come following our close association and working with Nantwich Museum.

We are a member of the Greater Churches Network and the Cathedrals Plus network which may also encourage group visits. This year we featured as the Chester diocesan entry in a new publication by Church Care, "Churches of the Church of England".

Outreach ministry

The church is a much appreciated venue for many additional events including Reaseheath, the local agricultural college, graduation ceremony, a varied summer season of concerts as well as the Nantwich Choral Society and Nantwich Singers concerts. We again hosted a concert for the town's Jazz Festival on Easter Monday, as well as a concert by Eddi Reader during the town's Words and Music festival in October.

In September St Mary's hosted a Mission week led by Revd Canon Roger Simpson, the Archbishop of York's Evangelist. This event provided various events across the town, churches and schools.

Children's and Young People's Work

St Mary's is very active in youth and children's work, from babes in arms to young adults, in a variety of settings. We were pleased to appoint Andrea Clews to the ministry team in the autumn. There are generally three or four children's groups that meet during the 9.30 am service on Sunday mornings: Church Mice (pre-schoolers), Launch Pad (KS1), Orbit (KS2) and Gravity (KS3). Friday Nite Live is a lively, friendly group for young people in Year 7 and up that meets fortnightly.

Our children's choir, Sing @ St Mary's continues to flourish under the leadership of Alison Phillips and often sings at our 9.30 am service, and at other special events. Other groups for pre-school children continue to be well attended, including Mums and Tots and a bi-monthly Messy church. One group (Praise and Play) closed in the summer prior to restarting in 2017 as "Little Fish".

St Mary's has links with all the Nantwich schools and regularly leads school assemblies. Local primary schools have taken part in special services such as Primary Carols and Experience Easter. Brine Leas and Malbank secondary, as well as Pear Tree primary, schools all held their annual carol service in church. In addition many school parties have visited to explore various aspects of their National Curriculum studies. Our young people's guides and clergy continue to support groups in this way.

Mission Support

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. St Mary's Mission Support Committee channelled £14,505 to different charities, local, national and international. We continued in our commitment to the local Foodbank and Church Mission Society (Kenya) and also started to support a Kenyan student in her schooling. We also provided part of the funding for toilet facilities at a Ghanaian school and supported CAP (Christians against Poverty) by planning and funding a listening course. There is still money to be directed to a new Deanery Support Initiative.

There was special collection for Christian Aid as well as the active support for the Christian Aid week collection and the 'Samaritan's Purse' shoe box appeal.

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £233,917. Restricted income of £84,717 was also received and is detailed in the Financial Statements.

The planned giving through stewardship envelopes and standing orders decreased by £1,623 (1.5%) and loose plate remained the same. Unrestricted income was similar to the previous year.

£254,393 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Mary's Church, including the long awaited purchase of a Grand Piano for £20,611 and the contribution to the Diocesan parish share which increased by £1,494 (2.5%) in the year and largely provides the stipend and housing for the clergy.

The bulk of the restricted income £76,563 was for the Restoration and Development Fund, (R&D) as was most of the restricted expenditure of £172,679. This expenditure completed the re ordering of the West End including the provision of toilets.

The net result for the year was an excess of expenditure over income of £20,476 unrestricted and an excess of expenditure over income of £97,545 restricted, totalling £118,021 deficit. After adding the balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December 2016 were £47,664 unrestricted (including General Fund) and £147,770 restricted.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) of £20,000 to cover emergency situations. The balance of £47,664 held on unrestricted funds more than matched this target.

The balance of £147,770 in restricted funds, which includes an emergency reserve of £20,000 in the R&D, is retained for the purposes described in the Financial Statement for each fund.

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 a Registered Charity.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules 2015 and since registration in July 2009 with the Charity Commissioners, PCC members are also Trustees.

At St Mary's there were 13 elected lay members of the PCC in 2016. There were also 4 elected Deanery Synod representatives. These together with the incumbent (Rev Barry Wilson), the Associate Rector (Rev Stephen Snelling) and the Curate (Rev Kaushal David, from July) plus the 2 Churchwardens made a total membership of 22 for 2016. At the APCM it was decided to reduce the elected members of PCC to 4 each year, each for a period of 3 years, this will reduce the size of the PCC over the next few years.

There were 8 full Council meetings during the year including one short meeting after the APCM.

The incumbent together with the Associate Rector, the two churchwardens, Secretary and two members of the PCC formed the Standing Committee which met between PCC meetings, and an additional member of PCC was co-opted between May and November.

The PCC monitored the work of various sub-committees and working parties - Mission Support, Stewardship, Visitor's Centre and Shop and the Fabric.

They also receive regular reports from the Pastoral, and Children and Youth Workers. PCC receives regular reports on the finances of the church and decide how the funds should be spent. This year much of their business was taken up by reports concerning the re-ordering of the west end of the church to provide improved access and facilities.

Dates of PCC meetings and Minutes, once approved, were displayed in the church so that parishioners may read about matters discussed and decisions reached. The APCM minutes were also published with the opportunity for comment before approval by the PCC during the year.

The PCC works under the Safeguarding and Vulnerability Policy and Procedures, 'Safe in Our Care', produced by the Diocese of Chester in 2015. The Parish Policy on the Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk together with 'St. Mary's

Safeguarding Policy and Good Practice Guidelines for Working with Children and Adults at Risk' are in line with the Diocesan Policy and approved by the PCC. We have a Safeguarding Children Co-ordinator and a Safeguarding Adults at Risk Co-ordinator.

Administrative information

This report is in respect of the Parochial Church Council of St Mary Nantwich in the Diocese of Chester. The correspondence address is St Mary's PCC, The Parish Office, Church Walk, Nantwich, CW5 5RQ
The Registered Charity Number is 1130903

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2016 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Dr Barry Wilson (Chairman)
Curate: The Reverend Kaushal David
Associate Rector: The Reverend Stephen Snelling
Churchwardens: Mr Nigel Winzer (until May 2016)
Mrs Deborah Snelling (until May 2016)
Mr Steve Lockett (from May 2016)
Mrs Pat Stalker (from May 2016)

Lay members:

Until APCM 2017
Mrs Gill Appleton (Deanery Synod representative)
Mrs Angie Bartlett
Mrs Belinda Coghlan
Mr Bryan Coghlan (Deanery Synod representative & PCC Lay Vice Chair)
Mr Andrew Kelly
Mr Steve Lockett (Treasurer until May 2016 then Churchwarden & Treasurer)
Mrs Ros Reid (Deanery Synod representative)
Miss Beth Roberts (Secretary)
Mr Simon Russell
Mrs Margaret Whitehurst (Deanery Synod representative)
Until APCM 2018
Mrs Jackie Ford
Mrs Marie Hamner
Mr Nick Hutt
Until APCM 2019
Mrs Vanessa Layfield (from April 2016)
Mrs Kath Leonard (from April 2016)
Mr Paul O'Brien (co-opted until April 2016 and then elected)
Mr Nigel Winzer (Churchwarden until April 2016 and then elected May 2016)
Mrs Dot Woods (from April 2016)

Approved by the PCC on 28 March 2017 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Canon Dr Barry Wilson (PCC Chairman).

