

The Parochial Church Council of St Mary, Nantwich
Registered Charity Number 1130903
Trustees' Annual Report
for the year ended 31 December 2018

Aims and Purposes

St Mary's PCC, in conjunction with the incumbent 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

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. The PCC seeks to enable parishioners to live out their faith as part of our growing parish community and is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our 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 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.

Staff

During the year we again had significant changes in the ministry team. We welcomed the Revd Dr Mark Hart as Rector in March. The Revd Professor Bernard Moss continued as part-time Associate Minister throughout the year. The part-time Associate Rector, the Revd Stephen Snelling, left the ministry team at the end of May prior to moving to Suffolk. A part-time Youth Worker was appointed in June but left after a short period. The part-time Children & Families Leader, Mrs Andrea Clews, resigned in October. In December a full-time Youth and Children's Worker, Miss Susie Boxhall, was appointed, to begin employment in January 2019. We continue to be well supported by a dedicated team of lay leaders, and retired ministers who assist on maintaining the ongoing ministry of St Mary's.

Property

The previous house used to accommodate our curate, 22 Beatty Road, was sold and the finances resolved in order to purchase another more practical property in the near future.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The Electoral Roll membership dipped from 466 in 2017 to 450 at last year's Annual Parochial Church. The major review of electoral Roll required every six years is planned for 2019.

The PCC and ministry team continue 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. The parish communion includes the opportunity for Laying on of Hands on an occasional basis. Our weekly Sunday services and average attendances throughout the year are as follows:

8 am Holy Communion –34

9:30 am Family Service – 81

10:45 am Parish Communion – 119

3:00 pm Seniors Lounge - 30 (monthly)

3:00 pm Richmond Village Care Home, communion – 30 (bimonthly)

3:00 pm Messy Church – 47 (bi-monthly, term-time)

6:00 pm Evening Service 34 (includes special services)

7:15 pm Encounter - 20 (fortnightly)

We also have two mid-week communion services:

11:00 am Wednesday – 19

8:00 am Friday – 11

10:00 am Thursday, Little Fish – 31 a service for pre-schoolers and carers, had a break on the departure of our previous children's worker but was due to begin again in January 2019.

Attendance on Easter Sunday and vigil on Easter Eve 571

Attendance on Christmas Eve and Day totalled 2073

In addition, we take communion services at some of our local residential homes once a month, by the end of 2018 this had increased from 5 to 9 homes. There are also 15-20 people to whom we take home communion.

The Bishop of Chester confirmed 7 adults and 9 children as well as baptising 2 of the children and 1 adult at a service in November. We enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life.

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

During the year, there were a total of 75 Baptisms including 7 adults, also 3 services of thanksgiving. There were 28 Weddings and 67 Funerals in our church, and 35 St Mary's Funerals at the Crematorium. We also held two memorial services to help the bereaved which were appreciated by the many families who attended (average attendance 142).

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. Baptism team provides support for families both before and after the Baptism has taken place. There is a home visit with a card on the first anniversary and an e-card sent for the following 2 years.

Our Pastoral Visiting team continue to not only provide services in local residential homes and home communion but are developing the support available following bereavement. We run a Friday Soup Lunch for all-comers. During the year a Listening Service has started, as a drop-in facility serving adults in the local community. We continue to provide packs for the homeless which include food vouchers and sleeping bags to be distributed as required. As a church we work in a formal partnership with CAP (Christians against Poverty), supporting (both financially and with volunteers) the local work to provide local money budgeting courses and a Job Club. We have Home Groups for adults as well as groups for young people across all age ranges. These groups aim to encourage members to grow in fellowship and confidence to share God's love with others. Both Men's and Ladies' Breakfasts continue to be held regularly with a variety of speakers. There are also occasional prayer groups and other opportunities to support various church activities with prayer these include a Julian Prayer Group which meets on a monthly basis in the parish and continues to grow in support. A regular lecture series is also organised and is growing in reputation with invited speakers introducing challenging topics.

Volunteers

All these activities, and more, are maintained by a wide range of volunteers to whom we are grateful for their valuable contributions as they live out their faith through practical action. There are also the Readers, retired clergy, and those who have served on the PCC or other committees and groups.

Alison Phillips, our Director of Music, leads our well-respected choir which supports many of our regular and special services and leads our young choir "Sing @ St Mary's". In addition, there is a worship band and singers who 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, 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. 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 of providing 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 also 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 (CTiN). 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 a Christmas Day lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own.

Through CTiN 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 Foodbank which continues to assist a significant number of struggling local individuals and families throughout the year.

Although decreasing in number our Parish Magazine, "This Month", is still distributed to 410 households and businesses every month and 400 copies of the news sheet "This Week" are printed weekly. We maintain a website www.stmarysnantwich.org.uk and now have a Facebook page providing useful information for enquirers, visitors and congregation members alike.

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 attract group visits.

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 including those for the Nantwich Choral Society and Nantwich Singers.

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 maintained the 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 and often sings at our 9.30 am service, and at other special events.

Despite a hiatus during the year without a Children and Youth Worker Mums and Tots continued to be well attended and the term-time weekly service for pre-schoolers and their carers. 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 and Weaver school held their Christmas performance at St Mary's. 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 with the approval of the PCC channelled £16,790 to different charities, local, national and international. We continued in our commitment to support two Kenyan students in their schooling and made additional donations to other charities:

Operation Mobilisation, Al Sharooq school, Railway Children, Christian Link Association of Single Parents (CLASP), as well as one off gifts to Cheshire Agricultural Chaplaincy, Novimost and Christian Aid Kerala Disaster fund. Some of the money that had been assigned for a Deanery Support Initiative has been taken up but the remainder is yet to be re-allocated.

St Mary's has continued to support Christian Aid although the House to House collection has ceased without an active representative for that Churches Together committee.

Financial Review

Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £227,102. Restricted income of £76,936 was also received and is detailed in the Financial Statements.

The planned giving through stewardship envelopes and standing orders reduced by £680 (1%) whilst loose plate increased by £1,089 (4%). Unrestricted income was similar to the previous year.

£224,869 was spent to provide the Christian ministry from St Mary's Church, including the contribution to the Diocesan parish share which increased by £1,570 (2.5%) in the year and largely provides the stipend and housing for the clergy.

The restricted income of £76,936 was higher due largely to a surplus on sale of the Curates House. Restricted expenditure was £6,512 much reduced on the previous year

The net result for the year was an excess of income over expenditure of £8,745 unrestricted and an excess of income over expenditure of £70,424 restricted, totalling £79,169 surplus. After adding the balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December 2018 were £60,177 unrestricted (including General Fund) and £222,926 restricted

Reserves policy

In 2018 it was PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible) of £20,000 to cover emergency situations. The balance of £60,177 held on unrestricted funds more than matched this target.

The balance of £222,926 in restricted funds 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.

The number of elected lay members of the PCC varied within 2018 with 2 elected members resigning during the year. 2018 ended with 11 elected members and 1 co-opted member, in addition there were 4 elected Deanery Synod representatives. These together with the ex-officio members, the Incumbent (Rev Dr Mark Hart from March), the Associate Minister (Rev Prof Bernard Moss) plus the 2 Churchwardens

(one of whom was also a Deanery Synod representative) latterly made a total membership of 19 in 2018.

A decision was made at the 2016 APCM to reduce the elected members of PCC to 4 (each for a 3-year term) each year in order to reduce the overall size of the PCC.

There were 8 full Council meetings during the year, including the short meeting immediately following the APCM. The incumbent together with the Associate Rector, Associate Minister, the two churchwardens, Secretary and two or three members of the PCC formed the Standing Committee which met between PCC meetings.

The PCC monitored the work of various groups including Mission Support and Fabric. They also received reports from the Pastoral, and Children and Youth Workers, Deanery Synod Churches Together in Nantwich. PCC receives regular reports on the finances of the church and decide how the funds should be spent.

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.

St. Mary's Church takes the responsibilities of safeguarding very seriously. The PCC have adopted National Safeguarding Policy and Practice Guidance, issued by the Church of England, including 'Promoting a Safer Church' and the 'Parish Handbook'. The Parish Handbook is carefully referenced to support the day to day work of the parish in relation to safeguarding. St. Mary's Parish Policy is reviewed and signed annually.

We have two Parish Safeguarding Officers, one for children and one for vulnerable adults. Safeguarding is reported on at every PCC meeting and Parish Safeguarding meetings are held monthly.

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 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Dr Mark Hart (from March 2018)
Associate Rector: The Reverend Stephen Snelling (until June 2018)
Associate Minister: The Reverend Professor Bernard Moss
Churchwardens: Mr Steve Lockett (until APCM 2018) (Treasurer)
Mrs Pat Stalker
Mr Chris Harris (From APCM 2018)

Lay members:

Until APCM 2018

Mrs Jackie Ford
Mr Nick Hutt
Miss Helen Lockett

Until APCM 2019

Mrs Vanessa Layfield
Mrs Kath Slater (previously Leonard) (Resigned November 2018)
Mr Paul O'Brien
Miss Beth Roberts (Secretary) (Co-opted from 2017)
Mr Nigel Winzer
Mrs Dot Woods


Until APCM 2020

Mrs Gill Appleton (Deanery Synod representative)
Mrs Penny Beeston
Mr Peter Bennett
Mrs Belinda Coghlan (Co-opted until 2018 then elected)
Mr Bryan Coghlan (Deanery Synod representative & PCC Lay Vice Chair)
Mr Chris Harris (Churchwarden from APCM 2018)
Mr Andrew Kelly (Elected until May 2017 then Deanery Synod representative, resigned February 2019)
Mrs Anne Vetter (resigned February 2019)

From APCM 2018 until APCM 2021

Mrs Andrea Clews (Resigned November 2018)
Miss Helen Lockett
Mr Steve Lockett (Treasurer)
Mr Rob Icke (From APCM 2018)

Approved by the PCC on 28 March 2019 and signed on their behalf by Rev Dr Mark Hart (PCC Chairman)



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