

THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF CHIDHAM

Serving the churches of St Mary's, Chidham and St Wilfrid's, Hambrook

Annual Report and Financial Statements (for the financial year ending 31st December 2010) of the Parochial Church Council submitted to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on Thursday, 7th April 2011, held in St Wilfrid's Church and Hall at 7.30pm

Incumbent:

The Reverend Canon David C Pain, The Vicarage, Cot Lane, Chidham, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 8TA

Independent Examiner:

Mrs L Pearson, 15 Lovage Way, Horndean, Hants PO8 OJG

Banker:

The National Westminster Bank, 5 East Street, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 1HH

Report on the activities of the Parochial Church Council

Rodney Duggua, PCC Secretary' reports that, since the APCM in April 2010, the PCC has met on 6 occasions.

Our meetings are generally well attended, the average attendance being 14, of 18 members. 17 members were present at the March 2011 meeting.

Last year, at the APCM we addressed the question of elected laity members on the PCC. As a result of this, we still have one vacancy to fill this year for a three year term i.e. making a total of four members – three members of the PCC, namely Penny Alcock, Rodney Duggua and Tracey Mc Eachran and are all seeking re-election. The number of elected laity members is determined by the numbers on the Church Electoral Roll and once the Church Electoral Roll exceeds 200 then we will be entitled to four more members.

Our agenda follows a set form with the principal items of business being to receive reports upon: -

- Fabric
- Worship Committee
- Friends of Chidham Churches
- Westbourne Deanery Synod
- Youth Group
- Forthcoming Events
- Treasurer's report
- Correspondence received

The PCC, as well our church community, is much a poorer place with the untimely passing of Roy Kennedy with whom I had many a good humoured comment about PCC meetings, especially the challenge of Roy's computer in opening PCC documents !

Other issues of importance will arise during the course of the year that will not be covered under the above headings – for example, the very kind gesture of Anne Rogers in purchasing new hymn books in memory of Don. Members of the congregation can sleep easy that all matters before the PCC are given the most careful consideration with searching questions being asked in the accompanying cut and thrust of debate.

Fabric Review

Harry Bates reports that the major fabric concern in the first six months of the year revolved around the procurement of two stained glass windows to be installed in St. Cuthman's Chapel, to mark 800 years of worship in St. Mary's Church. The Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Church Building Council and many others had to be consulted before a Petition For Faculty could be sought from the Chancellor of the Diocese. Once the Faculty was granted the designer, Mel Howse, worked flat out to meet the installation target date of 17 June in time for the Flower Festival at the beginning of July. The windows are a great

success and much admired by parishioners and visitors to the church. It was particularly gratifying that the project was financed entirely by generous donors whose names are recorded in a special book.

The general appearance of St. Mary's graveyards was improved by the hard work and enthusiasm of 11 parishioners and 21 Sea Cadets on one Saturday morning in June.

A section of the north boundary wall, between St. Mary's Church and the Manor House, collapsed in September. The Diocese had no record of ownership. Having checked his deeds, Mr Phillip Britten, the owner of the Manor House, had found reference to previous repairs to the wall and had assumed that it was his responsibility to cover the cost. The PCC noted, with gratitude, the resolution of the problem and Mr Britten's generosity.

Electrical inspections of both St. Mary's and St. Wilfrid's were carried out in September and the following month the Parish Architect, Mr Richard Meynell, completed the Quinquennial Inspections.

St. Mary's had two Category 'A' items requiring early attention. The first concerned the lightning conductor, which since has been rectified. The second was to establish ownership of the west boundary wall, which has yet to be resolved. There were a further thirteen Category B items which will be progressed in due course. The general condition of St. Mary's was assessed as good.

St. Wilfrid's had two Category 'A' items both concerning the state of the flat roof. These were rectified in December at a cost of £5,710. There were a further eight Category B items which will be progressed in due course. Considering its age and timber construction, the fabric of St. Wilfrid's was satisfactory, but there would be a requirement for ongoing expenditure to maintain it in reasonable order.

Achievements and Performance - Church Attendance

In 2010 the average weekly attendance, on a 'normal' Sunday i.e. not in a major festival or contained in a peak holiday period, was 70 adults and 18 children. However, these figures increased at festivals.

The Mission Action Plan (MAP)

June Lewis reminds the APCM that the challenge from our Bishop in 2008 was to produce a Mission Action Plan to present to the Bishops at Caritas in Brighton on 21st June 2008.

The theme was a 3year plan based on the diocesan "LIFE TOGETHER" vision. In 2008 the theme was "Attending to God." In 2009, "Building and Christian commitment." and in 2010, "Commending God's Love for the World".

This plan was adopted and followed by the PCC throughout the 3 year time frame.

In the past year, which also celebrated the 800th year Anniversary of St Mary's church events took place each Month which were all highly successful and reinforced our commitment to MAP.

Westbourne Deanery Synod Report 2010

The Chidham PCC representatives on the Deanery Synod are Reverend Canon David Pain (Clergy) and Cliff Archer, Adrian Matthews and Graham Fielder (Laity).

Graham Fielder reports that the Synod usually meets every three months with the venues in 2010 being Chidham, Compton, Bosham (cancelled) and Funtington. The Venerable Mervyn Banting was Acting Rural Dean following the retirement of the Venerable John Holman in 2009. The year also saw the election of a new Secretary (Jennie Dolman) and a Treasurer (Peter Rogers) to replace Tracy Crank and David Tinsley respectively.

At meetings normal business covers such matters as minutes, finance, elections, lay education and training, Diocesan Synod Report and matters to be raised at the Diocesan Synod.

Following normal business there is usually a presentation and talk by a visiting speaker or a discussion on some other Church related matters. In 2010 these included:

- Mr. Ali Campbell, Head of the Diocesan Children & Youth Department on strengthening and extending youth work in the parish.
- Mrs. Rachel Moriaty on Church schools in the diocese.
- Discussion on 'Review of the Deanery of Westbourne and its future pastoral care' and the 'Report of the Chichester Diocese Synod to Westbourne Deanery Synod'.

Electoral Roll Report 2011

Alyzn Johnson reports that the roll has been revised for the APCM of 2011. There are now 171 people on the electoral roll of which 72 live outside the parish of Chidham and Hambrook. Alyzn has included those living near St. Wilfrid's church in Flatt Road, Nutbourne as being within the church parish boundaries. Many others live within walking distance of St Wilfrid's along the main road in Nutbourne.

Other members of the congregation live from Fishbourne, Chichester and even Bognor Regis to the East and Southbourne, Prinsted and Emsworth towards the West.

Gift Aid

Graham Fielder, Gift Aid Secretary, reminds everyone that the tax reclaimed from Gift Aided contributions is a very important source of income for the PCC. The claim

to HMRC is made following the end of the PCC's financial year so tax reclaimed in 2010 will be based on Gift Aided income for 2009.

Gift Aid tax reclaimed in 2010 amounted to £6508. The PCC was also able to take advantage of two other sources of Gift Aided contributions, namely, donations to the new stained glass window and the sponsored walk round Chidham.

This produced an additional £2979 in refunded tax making a total of almost £9500 for the year.

Gift Aided contributions income from bank standing order payments and money received in the orange collection envelopes. Over half of those who have set up standing orders also make regular additional contributions through the orange envelopes.

With the increasing demands on parish finances the ability to recover tax from Gift Aided contributions becomes increasingly important.

Report from the Child Protection Officer

Alyzn Johnson reports that all churches have a duty to not only care for and protect their young people and vulnerable adults but also to promote the welfare of children and young people.

Alyzn was appointed parish validator for this parish in the autumn and duly sent my registration forms to Church House in Hove.

In November this year the PPC signed the Parish Child Protection Policy Statement and the Parish Agreement requesting the Diocesan Board Fund act as its umbrella body for disclosure requests to the Criminal Records Bureau.

Since then completed CRB forms for members of our congregation who hold significant positions within the church and those who work with our youth and Sunday clubs have been sent on. The Diocesan Board Questionnaire has been completed and future training in Child Protection has been requested for several members of our congregation who will eventually assist the parish in this area.

There is a new register of people who have applied for a CRB enhanced check and a timetable for returning our annual Parish forms to Church House.

Alyzn has now started to write and compile Risk Assessments forms with the leaders of our Youth and Sunday clubs for their regular and holiday activities.

This is not Health and safety 'gone mad' but sensible exercises where we consider potential hazards so that we can better protect and care for young people. The law may change yet again fairly shortly but in this parish we have undertaken to comply with current legislation and safeguard our congregation and those we come in contact with as best we can.

Youth Group

Carol Vigor reports that, as usual, for our Youth Group, the year was a whirlwind of activities! Members of the Youth Group are drawn from our congregation and meet

together socially once a month, but we have a number of other activities during the year. We regularly have 30+ at our meetings, with a current age range of 8 – 15 year olds.

Among several highlights, our residential Trip in May to the Youth Hostel at Totland Bay on the Isle of Wight stands out. 36 very excitable people (and that was just the leaders!) left St Wilfrid's to catch the Car Ferry from Portsmouth. If the enjoyment of the crossing wasn't enough, we were invited to visit the bridge on the ferry (through a family contact) which made the journey more special. On arrival in Fishbourne we drove to Appley beach east of Ryde where we spent a day in glorious sunshine whilst it was pouring with rain at home. Father David came with us and spent an enjoyable day relaxing in a deck chair on the beach. Having safely deposited Father David on a ferry back to the mainland we travelled to the Youth Hostel for the rest of our trip. The poor weather on Sunday meant we had to alter our planned visits but didn't dampen our spirits! During the weekend we visited Carisbroke Castle where the Donkey working the well was a favourite and Alum Bay which offered coloured sands and the always requested gift shops! We all went swimming at a small leisure centre in Freshwater, completely filling the pool to the surprise of the attendants who were expecting a quiet Sunday afternoon. We returned to Ryde for more ice creams, gift shops and funfairs on our way home. By far the most memorable part of the weekend however will be the pantomimes performed by each room – what fun! Our young people were so well behaved throughout the weekend and a joy to be with!

In January we held a Quiz evening and in March we organised a Curry evening to raise funds for the residential trip. We transformed St Wilfrid's into an Indian Restaurant for the evening, much enjoyed by everyone who attended. We organised a very popular cake sale in April and in June we arranged events to watch the World Cup games involving England, complete with vuvuzelas, drums, flags and hot dogs. We also provided waiting staff for the Congregation Tea Party in November and the Soup Kitchen event to raise funds for the Flower Festival. In addition, 4 group members who had helped with the fundraising but couldn't go to the Isle of Wight due to school exam work, went on a day trip to the London Dungeons and Oxford Street!

At our regular monthly meetings through the year, among other things, we made pancakes and toast, displayed our favourite Christmas presents, held our now legendary Beetle Drive, played board games including roulette, played football and rounders and walked up to Kingley Vale. If that wasn't enough we also organised and led the Mothering Sunday and Harvest services in St Mary's church. A very packed year indeed!

Friends of Chidham Churches

Stephen Johnson reports that 2010 was the year when we celebrated 800 years of St Mary's Church and events throughout the year were organised by the Friends.

In addition we were able to commission and have installed a new stained glass window for the church.

The year opened in January with an inaugural service and visit by the Bishop of Chichester. It was a very happy occasion, and clearly much enjoyed by the Bishop.

This was followed by an interesting evening of Local History, presented by Philip MacDougall.

In February we had a very tasty cookery demonstration evening and launch of the 'Bishops' Kitchen' Recipe Book in St Wilfrid's. with chefs Gary Vigor and Philip Taylor. Carol Vigor solicited the recipes and put the book together, and presented the evening. The book has sold a lot of copies, but we fortunately still have a few left.

Later in the same month the School, the WI and members of our congregation combined to put on an evening of WW2 history and drama at Chidham school. Alyzn Johnson wrote and directed a playlet based on a plane crash near St Mary's and the action of local heroes, which was performed by the occasional parish players. There were also contributions from the WI players re-enacting VE day and the children of the school recalling how during the war children were evacuated to Chidham.

In March Rod Starr put on a concert with each century of St Mary's being illustrated with a variety of music in which the occasional choir participated, together with a little history.

In April, with the weather improving, we had a fascinating talk by David Bone about the stonework of St Mary's.

And in May, Penny and Alan Allcock organised a fun sponsored walk/jog around Chidham to coincide with Rogation Sunday. Philip MacDougall also did a talk about the history of St Mary's.

In June we had a very enjoyable Barn Dance in a barn kindly provided by Jonathan Bentall. This was a very popular event and blessed with a fine warm evening. Special thanks to Mike Smith, Carol Vigor, Steve Clark and Roger Hayles for making it all happen.

Our stained Glass window was installed in July. The reaction to the design by local artist Mel Howse, which represents both St. Cuthman and St. Wilfrid, with their links to Chidham and to the local Sussex coastline, has been very positive.

The cost of the window was raised by many generous individual donations, and funds previously raised by the Friends. The window can be considered as a part of something tangible that this generation has contributed to our beautiful church.

Harry Bates worked tirelessly to get the necessary approvals from the church authorities and the window was installed in time to be enjoyed by visitors to the splendid Flower Festival organised by Nina Bates and her team at the beginning of July. Many people came to the church, some from far afield. Many people helped with the event and everybody enjoyed it. The Teazle people, a legacy of the festival, still make an amusing curiosity for visitors.

Also in July we had our traditional event in the Vicarage gardens – appropriately food and Drink from times past. Carol and Gary Vigor and Steve Clark conjured up the tastes of times past, and fortunately Father David again provided the fine weather.

In August, we had a lovely guided walk around Cobnor thanks to Diana Beale and Roger Hayles.

In September Annabelle Hughes gave a talk about Sussex timber framed buildings – not quite the talk about the architecture in the village that we were expecting, but very interesting even so.

Also in September, Emsworth Museum had an exhibition about Chidham's 800 years which was put together by Alyzn Johnson and Philip MacDougall.

In October we had a wonderful harvest festival service with Bishop Lindsay and a traditional harvest feast organised by Carol Vigor, with the children and young people of the congregation very much centre stage. Also in October, Rod Starr put on an organ recital again with a varied and interesting programme enhanced by splendid refreshments.

In November we were delighted to welcome the new Bishop of Horsham to Chidham for a service of thanksgiving and dedication of the new window. We also celebrated the year with a party and celebration cake for the congregation in St Wilfrid's.

In December we had a special carol service in St Mary's, and Victorian Carol singing organised by Carol Vigor outside St Wilfrid's with brass band, lanterns, some dressing up, and suitably cold Victorian style temperatures. Hot soup at half time inside St Wilfrid's was much appreciated.

In the run up to Christmas we also produced a commemorative mug, which proved very popular. At the time of writing we have a small number left.

And so we came to the end of a memorable year. There are many people to thank. The committee of the Friends of course who have done so much, but also so many other people who worked so hard and generously gave their time, and everyone who came along and cheerfully spent their money to support the various events.

It is a new year. I am conscious that the Friends need to move forward again, and develop a new programme of objectives. I hope to come forward with more detail shortly on this.

We also need to make a fresh start on the recruitment of members and collection of subscriptions.

We do have a date or two for your diary – there will be a talk about St Cuthman on May 26th, and our now traditional Vicarage gardens event on July 16th which has the working title of Totally Tropical.

Chairman's report

Father David commences his report with great sadness, for in February of this year Roy Kennedy, one of our churchwardens died. Roy was an excellent warden who helped so many people in the congregation, including myself. He is greatly missed and our sympathy and prayers continue to be offered for Pam and the family.

The past year was dominated by the 800 year celebration of the church which was a great success. I would like to thank Stephen Johnson and the Committee of the Friends of Chidham Churches for their hard work. A separate report covering the events is included in this report. It was a great achievement to have three bishops to take various services during the year. Bishop John, our Diocesan Bishop, took the opening service in January and was very impressed with the congregation and Sunday Club. Bishop Lindsay, former Area Bishop and now Bishop Administrator at Walsingham, came all the way from Norfolk for our Harvest Thanksgiving service in October. This service involved our Youth Group and was very well attended. The Bishop joined our Harvest Lunch at St Wilfrids. The third visitation was Bishop Mark, our new Area Bishop, and he came in November to dedicate the new Stained Glass Window, which has been received warmly by the congregation and our many visitors. This service was well attended by members of the congregation and the Sunday Club and a number of visitors. The Bishop went away with various gifts from the church. Another Bishop will be visiting us in April this year for our "Music and Meditation Service" on Good Friday.

The Lenten House Group met once again in the Vicarage and studied the York Course on the subject of "Faith, Hope and Love" with contributions by Bishop Tom Wright, Anne Atkins, The Abbot of Worth and Professor Frances Young. This year (2011) we are studying "Rich Inheritance – Jesus' Legacy of Love". The Group has seen some new faces in the past year, but there is still room in the Vicarage for more – why not join us?

During 2010 there were 17 baptisms, which included one adult and seven Confirmations. There were ten couples married in the church during the year. The average Sunday attendance at services was 70 adults and 18 young people. This is most encouraging. Our Wednesday services at St Wilfrids average about 15 but we have reached 20 on one occasion! The service is followed with coffee and biscuits and half an hour of socialising. The Sunday Club is increasing in numbers and the Youth Club under the leadership of Carol Vigor is thriving – in May last year a group went to the Isle of Wight for a long weekend. It is good to see a number of our young people serving at the Parish Eucharist on a Sunday morning.

The choir, which is increasing in numbers, have come together under the leadership of Rod Starr, on four occasions during the year – Good Friday, Harvest, Dedication of new Stained Glass Window, and the Christmas Carol Service. A big thank you to them for their contribution.

At Easter we lost the services of our Reader – Ron Crank – but at the time of his departure we were blessed with the arrival of Colin Ottewell – a trained Reader from Southwark Diocese who, with his wife, had moved into the area – this really was an answer to prayer and we are delighted to have Colin taking part in our services.

In July we saw the departure of the Headmistress – Lynda Aplin – from Chidham (Church of England) Primary School. The school have now welcomed Claire Murphy as their new head.

Fourteen people from the parish will be joining a group from Billingshurst and elsewhere on a pilgrimage to Yorkshire and Northumbria entitled "Early Saints of

Northern England” led by Sister Rita Margaret and me. This should prove an interesting event.

Finally, I feel it is right for me to mention that I have already completed the five years I promised to be with you, and in addition I have seen you through the wonderful celebrations of our 800 years anniversary. However, I must point out that I am getting older, and this year I reached the grand old age of 75 years, and I believe the time will soon come for me to hang up my “clerical collar”.