

Annual Reports  
and  
Financial Statements  
of the  
Parochial Church Council of **St Mary,**  
**Hampden Park, Eastbourne**  
  
For the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December  
2020

**Banks:**

Santander, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB  
Nationwide B/Soc, Piper's Way, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN38 1NW

**Independent Examiner for the PCC:**

David Jenkins, Accountant, MDJ Services, Unit A6, Chaucer Business Park,  
Dittons Road, Polegate, BN26 6QH

## Aims and Purposes

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the parish priest, Fr Adam Ransom, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. They are also specifically responsible for their church building and the church hall.

## Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling the whole community to find faith in Jesus Christ and to worship him at church. The PCC along with the priest-in-charge, maintain an overview of the worshipping life of the parish. All our services aim to put our faith into practice through music, prayer, scripture and sacrament.

In obedience to God's Mission we seek to help ordinary people in the parish live out their faith. We encourage worship and prayer, increasing understanding of scripture and deepening relationships with Jesus. We seek to provide pastoral care to those in the church and wider parish community. We hope to reach others through missional and evangelistic activity.

We are committed to encourage generous giving through our stewardship schemes and through raising funds by trading in our halls.

## Achievements and Performance

*The PCC would like to note that due to the Covid-19 pandemic that has affected our lives so much in 2020, including the preparation of this report, the following is not as full a reflection upon the life of our church in 2020. We hope that it will at least provide a flavour of what happened.*

## Worship and Prayer

Our worship pattern had to change greatly during 2020. For large periods we were unable to meet for worship and had to use online provision, which had its own unique challenges given that most of our congregation are not internet savvy.

We streamed worship online when possible, indeed the whole of Holy Week and Easter were live streamed on Facebook from Fr Adam's study! Numbers in both churches have been down and occasional offices in church have all but ceased bar two weddings which happened under the restrictions in place during September.

When we could worship in church once again a new pattern of worship allowing both churches to meet was introduced. Numbers at worship have varied due to the rate of transmission of the virus over the year but it has been encouraging that a small core of people have continued to worship when possible.

Our worship has been greatly impacted by Covid-19 restrictions both in terms of social distancing requirements and the inability to have congregational singing. For a brief time, we were allowed a small choir to sing and our thanks go to Jill, Elizabeth, Derek, Daphne and Carol for their renditions at the Sunday Eucharists. We look forward to the time when restrictions are eased and we can worship more fully once again.

## Deanery Synod

Deanery Synod has not really been operational during this past year due to the pandemic- there have been no meetings that our representatives could attend.

## The Church and Hall

In order to serve the community and to raise funds to meet our financial obligations we rely on our church and hall buildings to be maintained to a good state of repair. During the year of 2020 our Churchwardens have been instrumental in co-ordinating the constant review and repair of the fabric of the building.

There have been a number of minor repairs to various parts of the building as guided by our Quinquennial report (2017) and observation. We are blessed with a mostly sound building, which houses both our worshipping community and community groups and parties.

Our halls for most of the year have had to remained closed, however, we were able to host an NHS Clinic in St Mary's church hall.

## Pastoral Care

Our pastoral provision over the course of the year has been mainly through the telephone, internet and post as we have endeavoured to keep in touch with those in our congregation. Pastoral teams were formed to ensure contact with members of the congregations. A big thank you to the lay pastoral assistants for calling those on their lists and to Richard Stevens for administrating the week-by-week operation of the team

## Mission and Evangelism

The pandemic has greatly impacted on the ways in which we can reach out to those in our communities. For large portions of 2020 both churches were closed. Some good things did come out of the predicament:

- A magazine 'Scattered Grain' was started to reach out to the church at home. People have received this through email and the post to ensure that people can feel that they remain connected to the church, particularly in times of national lockdown.
- A daily podcast (internet-based audio recordings) was started in which Fr Adam recorded morning and evening prayer. A small but faithful following has listened in daily.
- Services have been streamed online and a greater engagement with the wider community through our social media channels has occurred.

## Financial Review

The income for 2020 was considerably down (~£11,000) on the previous year, and there was a modest drop in corresponding expenditure (~£4,000) which has reduced the end balance for the year.

However, the reduction in reportable funds in 2020 is only ~£3,500. This is because the previous years account balance had incorrectly omitted the outstanding bills for 2019 (which were not banked until 2020) and had the effect of 'inflating' our closing balance for 2019. The adjustment this year has now corrected that anomaly.

Fortunately the hall hire by the NHS for the last quarter of the year helped keep us in the black.

Close attention will need to be kept ongoing and hope that things improve during 2021.

## Reserves Policy

PCC Policy is to try to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds which equates to at least 2 months unrestricted payments. This is equivalent to £5,500. It is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet emergencies. The cash balance of £5,737 held on unrestricted (including designated) funds at the year end has just managed to remain compliant despite the impact of Covid-19 on our finances.

It was the PCC's intention to review this policy during 2020 with a view to setting our reserve to a more appropriate level, however this has been held over until post Covid-19 and an assessment of any financial impacts resulting from the merger of the 2 parishes in 2021.

The balance of £9,650 held in the restricted funds are retained towards meeting the costs of Church repairs, restoration and enhancements. These funds are currently consolidated within the church bank account. (see page AFR-5 & AFR-6 of the Treasurer's Annual Report).

## Volunteers

The PCC wishes to thank all those who have volunteered in any way over the course of the year in helping keep things running.

In particular it wishes to thank William Pratt and Sue Stoner for their tireless work in the maintenance of the fabric of the building.

Thank you to Tony Kemp for undertaking the role of treasurer and thank you also to Lance Roberts for his assistance to the treasurer.

The PCC wishes to thank David Stoner for his hard work in maintaining the grounds in such a well-kept way.

## Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC consists of the Priest in Charge, churchwardens, and elected members. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and those who are confirmed are encouraged 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 decisions on how the funds of the PCCs are to be spent. All members are made aware of their obligations as Charity Trustees and their responsibility to uphold safeguarding practices.

The PCCs meet no less than once every three months plus hold an Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

## Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

A Safeguarding Officer has been appointed, a PCC Safeguarding Policy has been agreed and we endeavour to work with best safeguarding practices in all we do.

## Administrative Information

St Marys Church is situated in Decoy Drive, Hampden Park, Eastbourne. It is part of the Diocese of Chichester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Benefice Office, 69 Decoy Drive, Eastbourne, BN22 9PP. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 until the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Priest in Charge and Chair:                      The Revd Adam Ransom (Ex-Officio)

Treasurer    Our treasurer, Tony Kemp, is not a member of the PCC and attends in an advisory capacity at the PCC's invitation. He may not propose, second or vote on any matter.

Wardens:    William Pratt (Ex-Officio)  
Sue Stoner (Ex Officio)

Representatives  
of the Deanery                                        Sue Stoner  
William Pratt  
Synod:

Elected Members:  
  
Lance Roberts  
Maria Morris  
Elizabeth Perkins