



St Margaret of Antioch Wellington

Annual Report 2019

2019 ANNUAL REPORT
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
ST MARGARET'S OF ANTIOCH, WELLINGTON

AIMS AND PURPOSES

Our primary aim is to work across our whole community to underpin the Church of England's over-arching ethos of promoting its mission – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. We strive to do this by seeking ways to enhance the role of the Church within Wellington Parish, both in terms of worship and by the use of our building for other activities, so that it is of real benefit to the whole community.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The PCC wants to be able to reach out to as many people as possible and to develop ways to ensure that St Margaret's remains 'all inclusive' and is not seen as somewhere only for the worshipping community. We have had our first full year with our new vicar and, for the first time in over 100 years, we have welcomed a curate to further strengthen our leadership team.

Our historic building is Grade 1 listed with parts dating back to the 12thC – maintaining its fabric in good order has to remain one of our prime objectives; this requires our active involvement in repairs, general maintenance and grounds upkeep, much of which is done by volunteers. One pressing task is to stabilise the eastern churchyard wall so that the church grounds can again become safe and inviting. This year will see our next quinquennial inspection which should ensure that there are no unknown weaknesses with the building and the churchyards.

We are working with Natural England as part of The Bats in Churches Project to identify solutions that will reduce the impact of the bats on our church environment. This is a four year project wholly funded by the National Lottery, through Natural England. Over that time there will be a number of activities undertaken and a variety of solutions tried. The first visible stage will see the construction and installation of some bat boxes within the church to try to limit the spread of the roosts and concentrate them in an area of our choosing rather than the bat's choice.

It is the intention in the coming year to continue to strengthen relations with the primary school which is located opposite the Church and to encourage the children and their parents to attend our regular services.

Pastoral care remains a priority and the presence of an additional clergy member will aid this.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Our achievements for the year are:

- We continued to formulate plans for the re-ordering of the west end of the Church in order to make it a more useable space and so encourage wider use of the Church; the ultimate aim is to include a toilet and a small kitchen/servery.
- We held a successful 'Experience Easter' event in church for the school where all the pupils learnt more of the meaning of Easter.
- We have started 'Open the Book' lessons at the school.
- We had good attendances at our Carol Service and our Christingle service and saw lots of new faces in the congregation; donations from the latter were given to The Childrens' Society.
- Attendance at our 'special' services such as Mothering Sunday, Harvest Festival and Remembrance continue to be most encouraging.
- Two members of the Church continue to run a monthly lunch club which provides much valued social activity especially for the older and more isolated members of our community.
- We were able to offer a modest increase in our Parish Share – it is worth noting that we have always paid this in full, year on year.
- We support local food banks.
- Members of our Church coordinate collections for Christian Aid and the British Legion Poppy Appeal.
- We continue to provide a range of types of regular worship – from lay-led and family services to Holy Communion so that there is something to appeal to all.
- We are represented at Deanery Synod by 2 PCC members one of whom is a member of the House of Laity within the Synod.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

We are pleased to be able to report that, as last year, St Margaret's is in a sound financial position. We have funds available, or identified, to cover our planned requirements over the next 12 months. However there is a matter of

some concern at the time of this report over the unknown costs of repairing the churchyard wall.

In the year, our net receipts for unrestricted funds were £29,054. Of this, £14,855 was from voluntary donations, and a further £3,351 was from Gift Aid, which means that Giving comprises just 62% of our income.

Planned giving via Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), Standing Order and weekly envelopes increased by 7% whilst casual giving and donations increased by 15%. There have been encouraging signs on awareness of Gift Aid although there is still room for improvement; a Gift Aided donation increases its value by 25% at no cost to the giver.

Despite this rise in giving, we continue to rely heavily on fundraising, which this year resulted in an income of £8,015 and enabled us to survive the year.

Whilst a truly creditable result, this is not a sustainable strategy for the long term.

We spent £27,718 of our unrestricted funds during the year to provide the Christian Ministry of St Margaret's; our reason for being. Of this, £18,508 went to the Diocese as our contribution to its running costs, primarily the remuneration and accommodation costs of the clergy. A further £2,005 paid clergy expenses. The remainder of our outgoings covered costs arising from the running and upkeep of the church and the churchyards. Total expenditure rose by 3.5% on last year due to increased ministry costs.

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over expenditure of £1,336 on unrestricted funds. PCC decisions during the year saw £1,933 transferred to the West End Fund, resulting in a reduction of the unrestricted funds by £597 although still maintaining a balance in excess of £20,000.

In the restricted fund, the West End project benefited from an unexpected grant from the Archbishop's Council of £4,000. This turned out to be an unpaid grant from the restoration work in 2010 and as such was agreed by the PCC to be allocated to the West End Fund.

RESERVES POLICY

It remains our PCC policy to try to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months routine payments, equivalent to £7,000. This is held to smooth out fluctuations in cash flow and to meet unexpected calls for cash.

The balance of £20,022 held at the year's end exceeds this level but we are conscious of the potential costs for the repair of the churchyard wall and intend to take no action until this matter is resolved.

FUTURE PLANS

Our plans for re-ordering the West End of the Church continue to progress with revised plans and detailed costings being produced by our architects. Our fund continues to grow and this year will see increased activity in the matter of seeking grant aid. The funds available now stand at almost £36,000.

RISK MANAGEMENT

The PCC sees the major risk to St Margaret's future as not being able to meet its financial commitments, probably in common with many other rural Churches. We are working hard to mitigate this risk as best we can by reaching out to the community as a whole where we already know that much goodwill towards the Church exists. We face the continual misconception that the "Church of England is wealthy" and often have to justify why we need to hold so many fund-raising events.

VOLUNTEERS

The PCC owes a debt of gratitude to all those volunteers who help us keep our house in order – from the team of flower arrangers who provide beautiful displays in the building at no expense to us at all, those who clean and polish – and cope admirably with the mess that our colony of bats creates during the summer months, those who tidy the surrounding burial ground and brew endless cups of tea at all sorts of events.

TRAINING

PCC members have undertaken the appropriate module in Safeguarding training run by the Diocesan Safeguarding Officer *and* where relevant courses are offered by the Diocese, it is the continued intent of PCC members to attend those which are appropriate to ensure that we are appraised of all our legal obligations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

PCC members are appointed as set out in Church Representation Rules and membership comprises the Vicar, the Curate, the two Churchwardens and elected members from the congregation who are on the electoral roll. We

continue to encourage regular worshipers to register on the electoral roll and since the last APCM have co-opted 2 new PCC members.

The PCC meets quarterly, plus the Annual Meetings, and works from a published agenda with minutes issued in a timely manner after meetings so that those tasked with action can see what is expected of them. Decisions on general matters are taken and discussion held on the current financial position and expected expenditure. Quarterly accounts are provided by the Treasurer at each PCC meeting along with a written overview.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. It is exempted by order from registering with the Charities Commission as gross income is under £100,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

St Margaret's of Antioch is located on the C1108 which is the main village street in Wellington, approximately half a mile from the A49 trunk road. It is part of Leominster Deanery and one of the Canon Pyon Group of Churches. The PCCs legal standing is covered under the section above. There are no existing committees within the PCC.

PCC members are: (all have been in post for the whole of 2019 except as stated)

Ex-officio members:

Incumbent – Rev. Preb. Jane Davies

Curate – Rev. D Wyatt

Churchwardens – Mrs Margaret Makin and Mr Peter Manson (also Health and Safety Officer)

Elected members:

Mr Keith Brimley - Treasurer

Mrs Barbara Andrew – Deanery Synod representative

Mrs Sue Hall – Electoral Roll Officer

Mrs Val Eversham

Mrs Margaret Woodward - Safeguarding Officer

Mrs Emily Wilson (Co-opted May 2019) – Deanery Synod representative

Miss Emily Morrison (Co-opted May 2019)

Our accounts are independently examined by Mrs Jennifer Jarrett; we bank with RBS Business Banking and have no specific retained legal representatives.

Day to day management rests with the Churchwardens.

Report adopted at PCC meeting held 25th February 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Davies', is positioned above the typed name.

Rev.Preb Jane Davies, Chairman of meeting