

Church Council of Christchurch, Parracombe

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2023

Aim and Purpose

Christchurch's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Rector, the Reverend Samantha Stayte, in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical till June 2023. Since then Revd. Samantha has left us and we are now in an interregnum period. The PCC is also responsible for maintaining the Church of Christ in Parracombe

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 family. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

.Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus. Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.

Mission and outreach work. To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the Parish Church.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Sunday services were held at 9 am the first and third Sunday of the month. The celebration of the Eucharist lies at the heart of the life of our parish but we also enjoy the opportunity for less formal worship facilitated by a monthly Morning Worship service, which were often led by members of the congregation.

At present there are 20 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. The average Sunday attendance at the 9 am Service on Sundays was 11.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. There has been two baptism, one wedding, one funeral and one burial of ashes.

Since the interregnum we have been fortunate to have had various members of the clergy officiating which has enabled us to continue with monthly Holy Communion.

Deanery Synod

Esther Bray is our newly elected representative to sit on the Shirwell Deanery Synod. This will provide the PCC with a link to the Churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod. At present Esther has not attended any meetings, but has made contact with Rev. Rosie Austin.

Church Fabric

Visitors to Christ Church often comment on its beauty and peaceful atmosphere. Maintenance continues throughout the year. This year there has been a problem with damp on one wall. This has become worse again over the winter, we are lucky to have a local resident who is helping with this problem.

In the village community there are people who regularly help with the graveyard and Church maintenance. There is regular cutting of the grass. Also the Church clock is wound weekly. We have a Rota of cleaners, and flower ladies who do the most beautiful displays.

Mission and Evangelism

The legal formalising of the Lyn Valley Mission Community has provided the impetus for structured reflection led by members of the Ministry and Mission Diocesan team, towards the creation of a shared MAP. School/church relationships are strengthening further with a shared emphasis on exploring spirituality. Church members are well represented on other community bodies, serving for the common good of the village.

Throughout the year Christ Church supports various charities through collection and fund raising. This year we have supported, The Red Cross, Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution. The Royal British Legion.

Financial Review

Christ Church Parracombe: Treasurer's Report – January 30th 2024

The accounts for 2023 have been completed and audited, and a copy of the signed accounts provided.

- As of 1st Jan 2024, our General Fund stands at £437.47 from which the annual levy will need to be paid.
- We were able to pay 49% of the common fund assessment for 2023, a total of £1500 out of £3077.
- Our single largest expense is still insurance; this amounted to £2039 for 2023 which is an increase of £51 from the previous year.
- Our C of E Deposit Account now stands at £979.74 and the graveyard extension fund is £3055.33
- We received donations and bequests of £433 and bank transfer giving of £1009
- Charitable giving amounted to £566.50 for the year (Red Cross, British Legion, RABI, Devon Historic Churches and Friends of Exeter Cathedral).
- Electricity amounted to £1131 (up from £740) for the year, a 53% increase from the previous year
- In order to maintain the fabric and grounds of our church we have continued to have the grass cut at a cost of £651 (up from £528) the year.
- There will be a £1000 excess for the insurance claim to repair the clock.

Dave Brunner
(Honorary Treasurer)

Safeguarding

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

Linda Highton is the Christ Church Safeguarding Officer. Members of the PCC have attended a safeguarding course this year.

Volunteers

For the life of the parish to flourish, the PCC depends on volunteers who work so hard to support the Church in a myriad of different and often hidden ways. Our special thanks go to our Churchwarden Sue Rawle who has enabled the smooth running of the practical life of the church through this year.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. As a result, the full PCC met 4 times during 2020. As a small Parish, the PCC has not set up any sub-committees.

PCC members who have served up to the 31st December 2023

Rector. Chair. The Revd. Samantha Stayte Till June 2023

Churchwardens. Vice Chair. Mrs Susan Rawle.

Deanery Synod. Mrs Esther Bray.

Electoral Officer. Mrs Janet Petherick.

Secretary. Mrs Linda Highton.

Treasurer. Mr David Brunner.

PCC Members:

Mrs Carol Brunner.

Mrs Sue Robey.

Approved by the PCC on

Chairman