

The PCC Report

met 8 times during 2009 including three extraordinary meetings, with an average attendance of 73%.

The main topics that the PCC dealt with throughout 2009 were:

- St Mary's re-ordering
Every meeting the PCC were brought up to date on correspondence, progress and budget. All queries and objections were dealt with and almost all issues are now resolved and the works are going ahead
- The Bell Tower
This has been re-decorated and improved for the bell ringers, children and their parents who use it during the service. New safety features have also been installed for access to the bell tower
- Youth Group
Various proposals/ideas were put forward as to how to keep the numbers up and keep it a success

Generally 2009 has been significant for the PCC as a great many important decisions have been made that contribute towards the ever increasing congregation of St Mary's Church

Electoral Roll: 112 on roll of which 24 are non-resident. We've added ten names this year and taken off four. If anyone's itching to do this job, tell them it's theirs without further ado! Jill Macadam.

Thursday morning group

I've really enjoyed the group this year. We've roamed through Rick Warren's purpose driven life to a study of the Shack and now we've jumping around in John's gospel. Average attendance is six plus or minus some small kidlets. Mega thanks to Alison Akehurst for child care.

Sunday groups

Loads of kids (up to 36 one week), keen adults (though more always needed) and a great venue! The kids continue to grow and challenge us. I'm not sure how to thank everybody on the rota because we all work for each other and for our kids and for God. We know who we are. All going well. Once a month we worship, or jump about together in the conker room. We have three age groups at the moment in the conker room as well as an informal creche in the belltower. Things to watch: all age worship and how to make it appropriate for all ages, keeping the interest of the eldest children, encouraging children to FYG groups.

St. Mary's Bellringers

Although we have only five regular members of the band, we have managed to ring on most Sundays for the 10 o'clock service but not the full ring of six of course! We have practiced on the majority of Thursdays with the continued help of

members of the Ringmer band. The refurbishment of the ringing room and especially the installation of a large storage heater has made ringing a much more comfortable experience for us, especially through this cold winter. As a result of this extra heat, the dampness in the south wall of the tower appears to be drying out. We still host the Divisional Beginners' Practice on the second Thursday in each month, which helps our ringers as well as those from other towers. As a band of ringers, our greatest need is still for more recruits. On Sunday May 9th, after the family service, we plan to have the ringing room open for anyone who is interested to come and see what campanology is all about. We hope to find some people who are at least interested in finding out more about campanology.

Deanery Synod Report.

As from May 2009 there have been four meetings to date. During that period the Synod have gained a Treasurer but is about to lose its Secretary. There have been two interesting presentations on the relationship between the Church and the environment and the second on the activities of Family Support Work.

Other topics discussed at length have ranged from the role and the responsibility of Synod members, the continuing development of the Deanery Pastoral Strategy, and importantly, the nature and extent of youth work in the parishes including the Rector's report on youth activities in Barcombe. The Synod meeting in November 2009 will be held at St. Mary's.

HOMELINK: Annual Report for Barcombe PCC AGM 2010



Lewes District Churches HOMELINK works within Lewes and the surrounding areas, offering interest-free loans to those with little or no savings who wish to rent in the private sector.

Target Reached!

Homelink's target for some time has been to house 24 tenants each year. This was based on matching 12 tenants placed with LDC finance with 12 from their own funds (at an average cost of £1,000 per tenant). They have already exceeded the target this year, after some lean years.

Facts and Figures

Operational - Busier Than Ever: There were 121 applications, 74 interviews arranged, and 25 new tenancies up (up until September last year). The total value of loans made to mid-September was £25,354. After allocating all LDC funds in reserve Homelink have used £12,734 of their own reserves. This shows how thankful and grateful Homelink is to all its friends, Churches and donors for their generosity. For the rest of the year and up to the end of March 2010, Homelink has continued to use the funds built up from these gifts. This could amount to a further £14,000, which means their reserves will have reduced by almost £27,000 in 15 months.

HOMELINK and Sussex Pathways (SP)

It is well known that on release it is difficult for ex-prisoners to rebuild their lives, particularly if they have lost their home and their job. SP is mentoring selected prisoners before and after release and HOMELINK will help with loans for accommodation. They need more subscribers to support this work.

Communication Update

Homelink would like to make it easier to contact Friends, (including new Friends) at the same time as reducing their carbon footprint. If you would like to receive regular updates on Homelink's work and events, please send your email address to Maggie Jakeman on: mjakeman@sky.com

Dates for your diary

The **Annual Meeting** will be on **Thursday 20th May** at St Pancras, Lewes, in the new hall adjoining the church, at 8 pm. Homelink look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

If you would like to know more about Homelink's work, this is a great opportunity to do so. Do put the date in your diary and continue to pray for all involved with the HOMELINK scheme. Thanks to all who have supported their work in the past few years.

Catherine Anscombe

SUCCESS Project

There has been little activity with the Project during the year 2009 – 10. The display board in the Link has been re-vamped and it is hoped that members of the congregation will make good use of the available material for information, ideas and so on. The Recycling Box continues to be well used. Investigations are now being made into alternative means of heating for St Mary's beyond peak oil, in particular ground-source heat-pumps and biomass heating. A Rocha, the Christian environmental group, is sponsoring a Partner Church scheme, and we are looking for ways to become more involved.

Robin Moore

Church Wardens Report 2009

We have enjoyed another year with many interesting challenges. We are always somewhat in awe and totally delighted when we see our church filled with God's love and Holy Spirit and to see this love reflected in church family members old and new. Heartfelt thanks to our Lord for His Grace and to James, Robin, Lucy and Pam for guiding us through the past 12 months.

The past year we have continued to see increased numbers attending our regular as well as major services. The reallocation of warden responsibilities to weekly vergers has continued to work well. We are extremely grateful for the way Michael Rice, Wally Hope, Michael and Sue Richards, Charlotte Mitchell, Clive Williams, Mary Duncan and Gina Gaymer-Derham have helped to share some of the burden

thus ensuring the smooth running of the various services. Without their help, the Wardens could not carry out the countless other tasks without being completely overburdened.

We would also like to thank all those other people who give of their time and energy which together helps us to be the church family that reflects our Lords purpose for us.

We would like to thank PCC members, Chalice bearers, Sidespeople, musicians, bell ringers, flower arrangers, cleaners, brass cleaners, Conker Room cleaners, tea rota members, children's/young persons organisers, lockers and unlockers, gift aiders, collection counters and bankers, sound desk operators, pastoral carers, working party members, magazine photocopiers, editors and distributors, Barcombe News contributors, accountants, examiners, readers and homilisers, facility bookers, bakers, cooks and linen cleaners. The list we know does not end here. We are our Lords hands in this place and we rejoice in this.

Looking forward to the year ahead we hope that we can continue the path towards meeting our key five year plan objectives which are: to become more prayerful, to become more youth friendly, to increase our church seating capacity through re-ordering, to improve the visibility within Saint Mary's and to become more environmentally friendly.

We would like to give a very special vote of thanks to James and the PCC for all the effort that went into the recent faculty application. We know that once these exciting changes are fully implemented we will see a positive improvement to the way Saint Mary's is able to operate in the years to come. The purchase and positioning of our new storage facility in Church Field has greatly improved our ability to consolidate the storage of church fittings in one place and a special thanks goes to Eb Cottingham for organising this new facility.

It has been once again been a privilege and pleasure to serve our Lord, James and you all at Saint Mary's and Saint Francis.

Yours in Christ,
Heather and Andy.
March 2010.