

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

Administrative information

St Mary's Church is situated on Church Road, Barcombe and St Francis Church is situated on the High Street, Barcombe. The Church is part of the Diocese of Chichester within the Church of England. All correspondence should be addressed to Rev'd James Hollingsworth, The Rectory, 1 The Grange, Barcombe, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 5AT.

The parish is a charity but is excepted from registering with the Charity Commission within the meaning of the Charities Act 1993.

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) :-

Incumbent:	The Rev'd J Hollingsworth	Chairman
Wardens:	Mr A Lamont Mrs H Shephard Mr O Petersen	(Until April 2010) (From April 2010)
Deanery Synod Representatives:	Mrs C Mitchell Mr M Richards	(until 2011) (until 2011)
Elected members:	Mr R Anscombe Mr A Cannings Mr E Cottingham Mr A Cross Mrs C Culme-Seymour Mr P Frost Mr N Hill Mr A Lamont Mr I Pounce Mr A Rice Mrs M Sherman Mr A Smith Mr G Tomsett Mrs G Warren	(until 2010) (until 2013) (until 2013) (until 2012) (until 2011) (until 2012) Vice-chair (until 2011) (until 2013) (until 2011) Treasurer from April 09 (until 2010) (until 2010) (until 2013 (Treasurer from April 10) (until 2012) (until 2011)
PCC Secretary	Mrs A Fry	

Structure, governance and management

Membership of the PCC is determined under the Church Representation Rules and consists of ex-officio member (the Rector), the churchwardens, the members of the Deanery Synod, and 12 members of the church, who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Church Members are warmly encouraged to stand for election to the PCC and a balance of skills & experience is sought where possible.

The PCC is responsible for a wide range of matters affecting the Parish Church, including compliance with health & safety and disability legislation and child protection. In their capacity as trustees, members of the PCC are responsible for the stewardship of funds and for the appropriate accounting and reporting of the parish finances; the PCC works to ensure that each member of the committee is equipped to fulfil their role.

New members of the PCC are quickly included and fully involved with their roles and responsibilities at the first PCC meeting after the APCM. The PCC secretary and the Hon Treasurer are elected at this meeting. The PCC secretary, the Treasurer and the Churchwardens all attend courses run by the Diocese on their particular work.

Regular mailings from the Diocese keep these officers up to date with changes in church regulations and financial procedures and these are reported to the whole PCC as appropriate.

The PCC has appointed Heather Shepherd (until April 2011) as Child Protection Officer who is responsible for ensuring that a Criminal Records Bureau search is conducted on all those who work with children and vulnerable adults in the church.

There are also a number of sub-committees which report to the PCC and that are responsible for specific areas of the church's activities :

Standing Committee is the only committee required by Law. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any direction given by the full PCC.

Finance Committee oversees the general financial dimension by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting and the establishing and review of appropriate financial controls.

Buildings Committee deals with the fabric of St Mary's and St Francis'.

Missionary Giving Committee oversees the giving of a tithe of the income to various charities and keeps the congregation informed of the activities of these charities through guest speakers, prayers and information.

Success is a committee overseeing the promotion Ecological Sustainability within the Church Community and wider.

Risk Assessment

The PCC confirms that the major risks to which the council has been exposed have been identified by a risk analysis exercise carried out by PCC members. The risks have been reviewed and systems and procedures have been established to manage the risks.

Public Benefit

The PCC acknowledges its requirement to demonstrate clearly that it must have charitable purposes or aims that are for the public benefit. Details of how the PCC has achieved this are provided in this report. The PCC confirms that it has paid due regard to the Charity Commission guidance on public benefit before deciding what activities it should undertake.

Objectives and Activities

The primary objective of St. Mary's and St. Francis' is the worship of God and the proclamation of His Gospel through the power of the Holy Spirit, according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church – pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The main objectives of the PCC are:

- To develop links in the wider community.
- To support and educate the young in the Christian faith.
- To grow in listening to God and prayer.
- To maintain the church building.

In working to achieve these objectives, the PCC has initiated the following activities during the year:

The PCC has continued to pursue the Church's Mission Action Plan of building a teenage friendly church and of growing in prayer ministry.

The PCC met for a vision building day in October and began to establish a way forward for the next objectives. The amongst areas initially discussed were Mission, Spiritual growth, Youth, Community Involvement, Pastoral care, Worship, Prayer and Ecology. In 2011 the PCC will take these headings and begin to work out a more detailed achievable plan in each of these areas.

In January, due to the snow, we moved one main service from St Mary's to St Francis. We celebrated the many wonderful people who enable the work and mission of the Church to continue; from distributing the Parish Magazine through to those who help with Children's work and cleaning and bells and so on.

The Internal Reordering continued under the care of John Simpson. This was completed in time for Easter and a special celebratory service was held in May with the Archdeacon Phil Jones and Rev'd John Staples preaching.

In March, a professional group of musicians called Face2Face came to the Village Hall to play their music and to relate it to their faith and what God has done in their lives.

Chris Lear, Reader in Training, led our single Lent evening on Saints. The Rector was invited to take up an additional role of Archdeaconry Warden of Readers for Lewes and Hastings area.

Confirmation Classes began for adults: Andrew Allsobrook, Jeff Goddard, Mikey Lear, Dionne Peck. Teenagers: Josh Caswell, Jack Cranfield, Amy Widgery. And also for Ten year olds: Iggy Goddard and Abigail Hollingsworth. Dionne Peck and Josh Caswell was baptised in May and August respectively. Rt Rev Wallace Benn came to take a Confirmation service in September.

The School had their Easter, Harvest and Christmas services in School this year, each for their own reasons. Some assemblies are taken by the Rector, Mikey Lear, Basil Bigg and Gillian Warren. The three foundation governors are the Rector, David Dyer and Basil Bigg.

The Mother's Union had a closing service in May after many many years of service to the Church and to the MU.

Mikey Lear took over the running of FYG (St Francis Youth Group) which continues to get about 15+ to the primary school age (FYG2) and 10+ to the teenage group (FYG3). Mothering Sunday included the Cubs and Beavers and puppets. At the end of August, Holiday Club, run by Sarah Lear, was held for the first time in St Mary's. This worked extraordinarily well in terms of having lots of space and possibilities. We averaged 43 per day over the 5 days. The Scouts made the Christingles as part of their Group Faith Badge and then led the service and distributed the christingles.

The Prayer corner was established with a book for people to write prayers in through the week. The book is included in Sunday intercession. Tea-lights are available for lighting. Christine Howard has initiated a prayer ministry team so that fortnightly after the 10am service, two people are available to pray with people. Mrs Pam Cottingham has continued in her role as Pastoral Assistant.

Over June, July and August, the Rector took a sabbatical. This involved a month in Jerusalem. In the meantime, others within the church took services and spoke. Rev Robin Moore was in charge over this period and the Church grew.

In September we had the Confirmation service, a Harvest Festival and lunch. A discipleship course called Following Jesus was started. The bereavement service was held at the end of October. Simon Allaby came to speak further about prayer ministry.

There are five home groups who have studied this year the remainder of Jeremiah; some more Romans and Acts; the beginning of 1 Samuel and all of 1 Timothy. There are about 40 people in these groups.

Despite the snow, the Christmas Fair was a great success; the Open Rectory went ahead. We moved one 10am service to St Francis but kept the Carols and Midnight at St Mary's. On reflection it might have been wiser to have moved the Christmas Day 8am service from St Mary's to St Francis.

Church Attendance

There were 109 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average weekly attendance, counted during the month of October, was 114 but this number increased at festivals. With 160 coming to worship on Easter Day and 220 on Christmas Day. At Christingle we had 193 people. The Sunday 10am service averages 96 people including children.

The PCC met 7 times during 2010 including 1 extraordinary meeting, with an average attendance of 68%. Committees met as required in between meetings and minutes of their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed where necessary.

Financial Review

Ian Pounce retired as Treasurer and Alasdair Smith became the new Treasurer from April 2010.

The total income for the year increased by £1,840 compared to 2009. This has been brought about by increased revenue from church hall lettings (£2,957) and parochial fees (£1,722). Overall voluntary income actually fell by £1,075. Investments continue to generate lower returns and dividends and interest were £1,166 lower than the previous year.

Total expenditure for the year was £19,071 higher than 2009. This was as planned and reflects the completion of the reordering at St Mary’s. A total of £46,214 was spent on major repairs and fabric costs in 2010 as compared to £17,059 in 2009. The full diocesan parish contribution of £52,500 was paid as was the missionary giving as recommended by the giving committee.

After accounting for all income and expenditure across all funds the net value of the PCC’s assets fell by a total of £36,193 – again reflecting the reordering works.

After many years of selfless service Elaine Matthias relinquished her role of recording and banking the weekly collections. The PCC are very grateful to Elaine for her support and assistance over the years. The PCC would also like to thank Andrew Lamont (Expenses) and Ben Thomas Williams (Gift Aid) for their assistance in accounting matters during the year.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to seek to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds calculated in two parts as follows :

1. Approximately six months worth of unrestricted payments as a contingency against unforeseen situations (£40,000 in 2010) and
2. A provision for the maintenance of the fabric of the church to meet costs arising every five years following the Church Architects Quinquennial inspection of the building (estimated at £6,000 per annum)

The total of the unrestricted funds held at the year end was £99,647 including an amount of £15,340 designated for use for the maintenance of the fabric. The remaining amount £84,307 is in excess of the required amount under the PCC policy.

It is PCC policy to invest funds balances with the CBF Church of England Investment Fund , the CBF Church of England Fixed Interest Securities Fund and the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

The PCC will continue to distribute 10 % through the Missionary Committee.

Signed on behalf of the PCC , by the Reverend James Hollingsworth

Chairman

Date2011