

All Saints' Church, Springfield

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2019

"A friendly, welcoming church for everyone in the heart of the community"

Introduction

The Parochial Church Council of The Ecclesiastical Parish of Springfield, Diocese of Chelmsford, referred hereafter as All Saints' Springfield is a corporate body established by the Church of England and registered with the Charity Commissioners, (Charity Registration Number: 1131427). The registered address is All Saints' Church, Springfield, Springfield Green, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 7HS. The address for correspondence is 4 Old School Field, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 7HU

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector to promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish of All Saints' Springfield, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the All Saints' Church Centre buildings, part of the Burial Ground in Trinity Road, a Freehold property at 60 Chichester Drive and the internal decoration of the Rectory.

Objectives

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to become part of the parish community at All Saints' and to worship at All Saints' church. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and makes suggestions on how work in God's mission can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of the parish community through worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.

We make provision for pastoral care to people living in the parish, those on the Church Electoral roll outside the parish, and conduct mission work in the local community. In support of this we make extensive use of our church and church centre and maintain the buildings.

Parochial Parish Council

Membership

Members of the PCC are either ex officio (e.g. clergy, readers, churchwardens or Synod members), representatives of the laity elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules, or people co-opted by the PCC for special reasons.

During the year 2019 the following served as members of the PCC:

RECTOR and CHAIRMAN:	Revd Susan Iskander
CURATE	Revd Simon Pearce
CHURCHWARDENS:	Mrs Barbara Garside (Vice-chairman)
	Mrs Nicola Howard
DIOCESAN SYNOD MEMBER	Mr Robin Stevens (also Deanery Synod)
DEANERY SYNOD MEMBERS	Mr Greg Potts
	Mrs Barbara Garside
	Mr Roger McFarland (Licensed Lay Minister)

ELECTED MEMBERS:

Mr David Gauld (until 2020) Assistant Warden
Mrs Valerie Miller (until 2020)
Mrs Jan Penney (until 2020)
Mr Ben Alder (until 2020)
Mrs Paula Hiett (until 2021)-Secretary
Mrs Anne Walton (until 2021)
Mr Roy Walton (until 2021)
Mrs Carol Leverett (until 2021)
Mr Richard Brenchley (until 2021) Assistant Warden
Mr Ian Poston (until 2022)-Treasurer
Mrs Jane Britter (until 2022)
Mr Nick Milbank (PCPR)
Mrs Sally Brown (co-opted May 2019)
Mr Will Warns (retired April 2019)
Mrs Ros Webb (retired November 2019)

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

RETIRED MEMBERS

PCC Officers

PCC Officers, not being members of the PCC, included the following:

Planned Giving Recorders:

Mr Tim and Mrs Angela Pearce

Architect:

Ms. Philippa Reed of Barker Associates

Electoral Roll Officer:

Mr Peter Downes

Independent Examiner

Pauline Montague has been appointed to conduct an independent examination of the accounts and accounting records.

Committees

The PCC operates through a number of committees that meet between full meetings of the PCC so that members of the congregation with particular interest or expertise might have an opportunity to contribute to a broadened discussion and decisions.

Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

Finance Committee

Oversees the general financial dimension of the work of All Saints' by monitoring income and expenditure, budgeting, and coordinating Christian Stewardship of money through planned giving. It met three times during the year.

Fabric Committee

Attends to matters relating to the stewardship of the church buildings and fabric, the churchyards, the Rectory and the house at 60 Chichester Drive, currently rented out. It met twice during the year.

Social Committee

Co-ordinates our catering and social activities, meet informally to arrange catering for church events, such as the Easter breakfast and Harvest 'Bring and share' lunch.

Church Attendance

At the beginning of 2019, electoral roll membership was 193 (2018: 266- large difference as a new roll prepared). The number of worshippers in attendance at Sunday services averaged out at 128 adults and 24 Children (under years 16) (2018: 115 Adults and 34 Children) each week during the year. 30 adults and 23 children attended Midweek services. It is also estimated that some 201 (2018:244) worshippers attended church on Easter Day, of whom 173 (2018:165) are known to have taken communion, and that some 744 (2018: 809) worshippers attended church on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, of whom 131 (2018:141) took communion. 37 infants and children were baptised in 2019 (2018:27) and one adult (2018:0). 7 couples were married (2018: 8). 11 (2018:9) funeral services were held in church. A further 34 (2018:24) funeral services were

conducted at the crematorium on behalf of the parish of All Saints' Springfield during the year.

Proceedings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year, it numbered 21 (2018:20) members throughout 2019. An average attendance of 14 (2018:13) members at meetings was achieved.

The PCC and its committees met regularly to debate and agree actions concerning the worship and pastoral activities of the church.

During the year the work of the PCC included:

- Renewal of the Electoral Roll
- Review of the Worship Together Service and agreed to try for more involvement of young people in the services. Communion Together should have a more traditional feel at Easter, Harvest and Christmas
- Movement of Church Estates Trust to the PCC
- Implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation across the activities of the church.
- Implementation of safeguarding and safer recruitment procedures
- Agreed to make an offer of £105,000 to the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership for the 2020 Parish Share (in 2018 for 2019 £111,000) subject to Direct Debit discount.
- Agreed to support Dave Gauld's extension of his authorisation as a Local Preacher.
- Agreed the PCC priorities for mission:-
- Agreed to installation of video projector and screen to in Church Centre Hall to enhance the services held for the Sunday Special congregation and support other users of the hall in their meetings.
- Developing & supporting the Mission and Ministry Partnership. –Commitment to playing a full part in helping to develop the collaborative working and mission focus of the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership.
- Appropriate resources for Mission. – to develop our Christian giving.

Church Activities during the year

Worship and Prayer

We are keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. For example, the Wednesday Communion service and Morning and Evening prayers on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship whilst opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship such as that provided by the monthly "Worship Together" service held on the first Sunday of the month. Baptisms are usually held monthly in the afternoon to accommodate family groups and at other times when appropriate. The families are welcomed at the corporate "Worship Together" service or at the Sunday Special services.

Every Wednesday morning during term time, Children in Church continues to provide a valuable opportunity to welcome pre-school children and their carers into the safe and friendly environment of the church, to play and to enjoy a range of other activities, and to join in a short child-friendly service if they wish. It is very popular, with an average of 18 adults (2018:18) and 23 (2018:23) children coming every week.

The Sunday Special worship service continued to develop with a good attendance of young families and children and is now a significant mission activity in the Parish with many regular attendees. An average of 19 adults and 21 children (2018: 21 + 17) attend these services. The service is designed with children and adults in mind and takes place every Sunday, except the first of each month, in parallel with the traditional church service at 10.30am. The attendees are able to participate in the Eucharist in the church during second and fourth Sundays and additionally a

Eucharist is offered in the hall, during the third Sunday worship. The links with the rest of the congregation have been developed during the year.

Residents in the parish are encouraged to participate in our activities and 38 (2018:27) individuals, primarily infants, were baptised in 2019. The families appreciate these services.

Two people were confirmed at the Cathedral on 24th November and an additional person was confirmed at All Saints Church, Doddinghurst on 1st December giving total of 3 in total for 2019 (1 in 2018)

The Uniformed youth organisations; the Boys Brigade, Brownies and Guides attend church parade services.

Pastoral Care

- The church organisations provide support for anyone seeking help. These activities include practical befriending, follow-up pastoral care visits of the bereaved and personal prayer support provided by the clergy and our Prayer Ministry Team.
- The Church Centre is used daily by the Pre-School, providing early years schooling to children from the local community.
- The Lunch Club continues to provide elderly people with a monthly opportunity for fellowship and friendship while sharing a meal. In addition 'Cuppa & Chat' and 'Chat & Do' groups provide a regular opportunity for people of the Parish to meet for fellowship.
- The church continues to support services at Lyons Court and The Lawns Nursing Home with worship and Pastoral visits.

Mission and Evangelism

- Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The church actively supports the Chelmsford Food-Bank, with regular donations of food items, and participates in the Christian Aid collections in the parish.
- At the Angel Tree service people donate gifts to be given, through the Prison Fellowship, to the children of fathers in the local prison.
- 300 (2018:350) parishioners take our parish magazine "in touch", which is distributed by a team of volunteers or available at the church centre. It provides news of our activities and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus. Our website provides comprehensive information about our church, our faith, our services and activities, the latest news and calendar of what's happening, how people can be married or bring their children for baptism here, and how to find us and contact us
- Four House-Groups provide opportunities for members to meet, study and discuss the Bible and its application to everyday life.
- The Discovery Course provides opportunities for Christian learning and support.
- The four schools in the Parish used the Church for their Christmas Carol services again in 2019. The clergy opened and closed each of these services. Classes from Tyrrells and Perryfield Junior schools visit the church as part of their RE lessons. During term time the Rector attends Perryfield Infants and Bishops (church school) for assemblies. The Curate attends Tyrrells and Perryfield Junior Schools. School and Youth Ministry are active in Boswells
- The Emergency Services carol service was held at All Saints' for the first time in 2019.

Work with Children

Work with Children at All Saints' continued during 2019 with:-

- Children in Church (see 5.2.1 above) which continues to provide a valuable opportunity to welcome pre-school children.
- Sunday Special, (see 5.2.1 above) which has an active and enthusiastic attendance on Sundays and is developing new leadership among the parents.

- Boys Brigade meeting weekly, comprising Anchor, Junior, Company and Senior sections. The Rector is now chaplain to the Company.
- Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meeting weekly in the Church Centre.

Church and Church Centre

- The church is open on many days of the year for private worship.
- The Church Centre is well maintained with accessible rooms and continues to be heavily used by all the Parish Organisations, as well as being used by some Community-based organisations and Charities. It is available for use by private individuals for birthday parties and other events.
- The church is used for weddings throughout the year with 7 (2018:8) couples being married and 2 (2018:0) couples having a wedding blessing in 2019. The families appreciate the music provided by the organist and choir, and ringing of the bells.

Church Relationships

- Four members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church of England. Briefings on the proceedings of the Deanery and Diocesan Synod meetings are provided to the PCC.
- The PCC is committed to playing a full part in the North Chelmsford Mission and Ministry Partnership, and helping to develop the collaborative working and mission focus, including the establishment of ministry at St Francis Community Church in the Beaulieu development, as it evolves in the coming years.

Ecumenical Relationships

- The church is a member of Christians Together in Chelmsford, (previously Churches Together) and regularly participates in the Good Friday Procession of Witness in the High Street. Christians Together publicise and co-ordinate ecumenical activities across the city, including a regular Breakfast together.

Parish Organisations

- Apart from the activities in and beyond the parish that have received mention in the preceding section of this report, much of the church's activities and mission in the parish is carried out week by week by dedicated people and groups meeting in the Church Centre to pursue a variety of social, educational and recreational activities. Annual reports of the activities of these groups are presented in a separate report.

Role of Volunteers

- Our Rector (stipendiary) prepares and conducts the services, assisted by a Curate (stipendiary). Five Lay Ministers and an Authorised Local Preacher support services. Christian disciples, who live out their faith in service of the church and community in this way, lead all the activities (on a voluntary basis) within the church.
- Two Churchwardens and the Church Council oversee parish activities, while volunteer workers carry out all Church Centre management and Parish administrative functions. All the activities reported under 5.2.8 are led and supported by volunteers, including the organisation of meetings, booking of speakers, provision of refreshments, etc.

Financial Affairs of the PCC

Giving & income

- There are now 89 (2018:92) members in our Planned Giving Scheme. Planned Giving in 2019 contributed over £81,000, (2018: £79,500) with associated Gift Aid providing an additional £20,500 (2018: £20,000) of income tax reclaimed from the taxman.
- The cash in collection bags provided income of over £8,000 (2018: £6,000).

- The successful fete, bazaar and other fundraisers brought in nearly £7,500 (2018: £5,000).
- Donations for the use of the church centre generated £13,000 (2018: £9,500).
- Wedding and funeral fees provided a net income of over £5,500 (2018: £4,000).
- Advertising in the church magazine provided income of £1,300 (2018: £800) with the sales of the magazine more than covering the print costs.
- The house we own in Chichester Drive provided rental income of more than £10,000 (2018: £10,000), which represents a good return on the capital tied up in the property.

What we spent

- We were again able to pay our parish share of over £109,500 (2018: £109,000) in full.
- We were able to pay the usual bills to heat, light and insure the church buildings.
- From the General Fund we spent £1,000 (2018 £7,500) on repairs and maintenance of the church and church centre, and for the bathroom refurbishment costs of £6,500 at Chichester Drive. (2018 general repairs £1,000)
- From the General Fund we again gave £200 (2018 £200) to the Bishop's School, £25 (2018 £25) to the Friends of Chelmsford Cathedral, and instead of the previous fixed subscription we gave a donation of £100 to Christians Together in Chelmsford. In 2018 we also supported an appeal from All Saints' Rayne with a £100 donation.
- Early in 2019 we gave our new Independent Examiner a thank you gift voucher for £30 in recognition of her undertaking the examination of the 2018 accounts and for the extensive assistance she provided to the Treasurer and PCC throughout 2018, all at no cost. (2018 £nil)

Charitable giving

- Many charities were supported by collections at services and events held in the year including Angel Tree Project, The Children's Society, Church Army, Fellowship Afloat, Mission to Seafarers, CMS, Embrace, YMCA Essex, CHESS, Chelmsford Foodbank, Combat Stress, Macmillan Cancer Support,
- and The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, Shelter, and the Shoebox Appeal. The total amount donated was £3,962 (2018: £5,301)
- and some of this was also given with Gift Aid.

And this resulted in...

- Due to increased unrestricted income, we ended the year with a surplus on the General Fund of £6,427.
- From this we have made three prudent provisions of £2,000 each for future expenditure on repairs at the rectory and Chichester Drive, and for organ repairs and improvements. These are all additions to designated reserves.
- This leaves the balance of £427 to be added the general fund reserve. (2018, a deficit of £242 reduced the General Fund reserve.)

'The Great Organ Fix'

- Further donations have been received during the year for the work needed to repair and improve the organ. These have added a further sum of over £8,000 (2018 £34,500) and the Restricted and Designated funds for the appeal together total £61,500 as at 31 December 2019. (2018 £51,500)

Church Estate

- During the year, the PCC was informed that the trustees of the Church Estate (Charity number 227437) had obtained permission from the Charity Commissioners, subject to the PCC's agreement, to resolve to transfer the assets of the trust to the PCC and then to close the charity. The PCC resolved to accept the proposal to hold this permanent endowment, and to continue to use the income from the transferred assets for the original purpose, which is for the use and repair of the church or the poor of the parish. The assets are held

as investments and bank balances.

- As at the year-end the permanent endowment investment was valued at over £35,500 and the restricted fund held investments valued at over £11,500 together with cash balances of £7,000.

Statutory Accounts

The Statutory Accounts are an integral part of this report. The format of these accounts has been revised in 2019 to accommodate the transfer of assets from the Church Estate trust, and to better allocate items under more appropriate headings. Comparative figures for 2018 have consequently been changed where applicable.

There is also a summary account available for the church's General Fund. This includes all the day-to-day activities of the church but does not include the funds the PCC holds that are for a special purpose e.g. maintenance of the church building, or the organ appeal.

INCOME	2019	2018	EXPENDITURE	2019	2018
	£	£		£	£
Planned giving	81,360	79,591	Parish share	109,890	109,386
Income Tax recovered	20,684	20,531	Church services/Youth activities	8,085	7,583
General collections	8,360	6,196	Admin, incl. printing,		
Sub-total	110,404	106,318	stationery & telephone	1,576	1,536
Wedding/Funeral fees	5,682	4,216	Burial ground/gardens	2,217	1,371
Special donations	3,893	4,426	Clergy and rectory expenses	2,643	2,471
Fete, Bazaar & other events	7,430	5,737	Magazine costs	1,225	1,414
Magazine sales	2,961	2,464	Church heat, light, insurance	10,775	8,072
Use of Church Centre	13,068	9,531	Other building expenses	7,906	7,099
Rent	10,590	10,329	Charity donations excluding		
Grants	0	613	special collections	325	325
In memoriam	0	100	Costs re events	0	391
Other	773	528	Centre cleaning/consumables	2,797	2,813
			Other	935	2,083
TOTAL	154,801	144,262	TOTAL	148,374	144,544