

ST GILES CHURCH, LEIGH-ON-MENDIP and ALL SAINTS, DOWNHEAD

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31 December 2016

Aims and Purposes

St Giles Church, Leigh-on-Mendip with All Saints, Downhead Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, the Rev Anthony Dickson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. This includes the care of two church buildings

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at either St Giles' or All Saints and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how services can involve the groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Giles' and All Saints.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

Worship and Prayer

There were 59 parishioners on the Electoral Roll as at the end of 2016. The statistics for Mission Count for 2016 gave an average weekly attendance on a normal Sunday of 14 for St Giles' and 5 for All Saints. Church membership figures from the 2016 Parish Survey form were 17 for St Giles' and 2 for All Saints. Both are reported as Socio-Economic Category E.

Currently St Giles' offers two services a month, on the first Sunday at 11.00 a.m. a non-eucharistic All Age Service takes place whilst on the last Sunday of the month at 09.15 there is a service of Holy Communion. All Saints Downhead have one service a month which is Evensong at 6.00 p.m. on the third Sunday. Both churches are on the rotation for the fifth Sunday combined service which is shared with Stoke St Michael and the churches of the Postlebury Group.

During the year there were 4 child baptisms and one adult baptism at St Giles' and one child baptism at All Saints. There were two weddings and a service to celebrate a golden wedding at St Giles' and one wedding at Downhead. There were three funerals at St Giles'.

Two meetings of the Worship Committee were held during the year at which representatives from the United Parish of Postlebury and the Benefice of Leigh-on-Mendip with Stoke St Michael met to discuss allocation of services for such occasions as Easter, Harvest and Christmas.

Grateful thanks are extended to the Rev Colin Horn for his continued work and support in the benefice and to the benefice choir who continue to support services during the year under the leadership of Simon Francis.

Leigh Remembers the second of a short service of commemoration for the fallen of the First World War on the 100th anniversary of their death took place on Remembrance Sunday in November. The life of Edward Lambert who was 20 years old and died on 13 November 1916 on the Somme was remembered. The service took the form of a poem, citation and prayers and thanks are extended to those who took part and particularly to Graham Harris for setting up the display of information about Edward and for writing and reading the citation. Further services will take place in 2017.

Pastoral Care

The Vicar is available to visit by arrangement. Enquiries relating to occasional offices, i.e. baptisms, weddings and funerals should, in the first instance, be made by telephoning Nunney Rectory or using the Nunney Rectory email address (nunney.rectory@gmail.com) . Either the Vicar or the Parish Administrator will try and respond within twenty-four hours.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of faith and we continue to support the Children's Society via the Christingle service in December and the Royal British Legion with the service of Remembrance in November. We also collect for Zambia Link during Lent using the Jars of Grace.

The parish magazine is distributed monthly and further copies are always available in church. The magazine keeps parishioners informed of the important matters affecting the Church together with information on the services for the month ahead.

Fund Raising

During the year harvest suppers and auctions for both churches were held and we are grateful to the auctioneer, Michael Joyce of Cooper and Tanner for his faithful support. The PCC ran the skittles at the Leigh-on-Mendip Village Fair in June which was a very successful event with the weather proving to be on our side for once!

On Saturday 27 August as part of the Flower Festival weekend, we were entertained to Music for a Summer's Evening which included popular pieces by Faure, Mozart and Tchaikovsky. Our musicians were Angharad Young on harp, Nicola Loten on flute and Thomas Breeze on piano and our grateful thanks are extended to them for their continued support of St Giles' and for the beautiful music we all enjoyed. The concert was followed by light refreshments.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

St Giles' Church

Total receipts of ordinary unrestricted funds were £11,530, of which £4,690 was from unrestricted planned voluntary donations and a further £1,707 was reclaimed from HMRC Charities as Gift Aid. Restricted grants and donations of £22,866 were also

received towards the upkeep of the building and a further £213 of Gift Aid was reclaimed on restricted donations.

Planned giving through cheques and standing orders decreased by 12% in 2016 due to some regular donors moving out of the area and others reducing their regular donations. At the end of the year there were 23 people giving regularly to support the work of the church and we continue in our efforts to persuade more of our regular worshippers to use either of these methods of payment for their donations.

£9,947 was spent on our regular outgoings from unrestricted funds, including the Diocesan Parish Share of £7,083 which was paid in full and largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. The sum that the churches have to find is allocated according to a formula that is based mainly on the number of regular worshippers and in 2016 the amount paid to the Diocese amounted to £440 per church member. (This will increase to £449 per member in 2017, partly due to a general decline in membership throughout the Diocese).

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £1,583 in unrestricted funds. Adding bank and deposit balances carried forward at the end of the year, the balances carried forward at 31 December for unrestricted funds totalled £15,162 of which £10,400 has been set aside for repairs to the Chancel and Nave roofs and the payment of fees for an archaeological assessment of the Church and congregational seating and is carried forward as designated funds.

There are also restricted funds totalling £22,942 to be used for the upkeep of the church, including specific grants and donations for the Flower Fund and various building projects planned for 2017/18.

All Saints Church

Total receipts of ordinary unrestricted funds were £953 of which £63 was reclaimed from HMRC Charities as Gift Aid on small donations in church collections during the year. Restricted grants and donations of £1,700 were also received towards the upkeep of the building and churchyard and a further £300 of Gift Aid was reclaimed on restricted donations.

Planned giving by cheque or standing order was unchanged and at the end of the year there were still only two people giving regularly to support the work of the church.

£1,127 was spent on our regular outgoings from unrestricted funds, including the diocesan parish share which was paid in full in January at a discount of 1.5%.

The net result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments of £367 in unrestricted funds. The balances carried forward at 31 December for unrestricted funds totalled £7,432.

There are also restricted funds totalling £8,070 to be used for the upkeep of the church.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance of unrestricted funds which equates to at least three months' general running expenses to smooth out fluctuation in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

For St Giles' church this amounts of £2,682 and for All Saints £875 and the unrestricted (including designated) funds carried forward to next year for both accounts are well in excess of these figures.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund

VOLUNTEERS

Friends of Leigh Church – FOLC – were very active during the year and provided regular updates on progress to the PCC. The PCC are very grateful to FOLC, and in particular Graham Harris, for their invaluable help in submitting successful bids to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Fund for repairs to the Chancel Roof and to the Heritage Lottery Fund for Places of Worship Fund for money to tackle the Nave roof and parapets. This initial stage of the HLF was for the development phase and work is ongoing for the stage two bid to be submitted in September 2017. Further smaller successful bids were made for development of the Tower Room including a servery, provision of a toilet and the utilities required to provide these services.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church representation Rules. The PCC consists of the incumbent (our Vicar), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The PCC met nine times during the year (including two extraordinary meetings) with an average attendance of 95%. The standing committee which consists of the officers and wardens and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, continues to meet with the standing committee of Stoke St Michael at regular intervals

Administrative Information

St Giles' Church is situated in Church Walk, Leigh Street, Leigh-on-Mendip. All Saints Church is situated in Park Lane, Downhead. The correspondence address for both churches is Ashville, Monger Lane, Midsomer Norton, Radstock BA3 2SP. The

churches are part of the Frome Deanery which is in the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2016 until the date of this report was approved are as follows

Incumbent	Rev Anthony Dickson	Chairman
Wardens	Mr Stephen Britten Mr Alastair Weston Mr Tom Rodford	Until 2016 APCM from 2016 APCM
Elected Members	Mrs Anthea Brooks (Secretary) Mrs Margaret Loten (PCC Treasurer) Mrs Susan Rodford (Safeguarding Officer and Deanery Synod representative) Mr David Mattick Ms Paula Freeland Mr Chris Ingrem	