

The Parish of Ponteland St. Mary the Virgin and Holy Saviour

2022 Annual Report

1.0 Introduction

St Mary's Parochial Church Council has the responsibility together with the incumbent for the running of the parish church and serving the population of Ponteland (some 14000 souls); developing the whole mission of the church on matters pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It is also responsible for the fabric of the ancient church in Ponteland, Holy Saviour Milbourne, 2 Grange Road and the Parish Centre.

2.0 Mission Statement

"We are a parish proclaiming the good news of the risen Christ, and supplying the spiritual, moral and social needs of all who seek assistance, particularly those living in the parish of Ponteland."

3.0 The Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year, the following served as members of the PCC: -

The Incumbent: Revd Captain Paul Allinson

Curate: Revd Rosemary Harrison

Associate Priest: Revd Canon Christine Brown

Churchwarden: Mr David Butler until May 2022, Ms Christine Caisley-Farrell and Mr David Dunscombe from July.

Representatives of Deanery Synod (ex officio): Dr Janet Welsh; Mrs Michelle Smith; Mrs June Atkinson

Elected Members:

Elected 2020 : Mrs Jaqui Buffham, Mr David Comeskey, Mrs June Atkinson, Mr Peter Hopley.

Re-elected 2021: Mrs Carole Butler (PCC Secretary), Mr Clive Jordan (Treasurer), Mrs Angie Jordan, Mrs Georgina Matthews.

Elected 2022: Mr John Doherty, Mr Ted Henderson, Janet Robertson (until June).

Co-opted as Accountant: Mr Clive Ringrose.

Co-opted: Mr Donald Lloyd (Planned Giving Officer), David Butler (co-opted May 2022).

Holy Saviour Milbourne

Deputy Wardens: Mr Brian Henderson, Mrs Gwenneth Nicholson.

PCC Representative: Mr Duncan Wheeler.

The total membership of the PCC for 2022 was 24, which includes Deanery Synod reps, Holy Saviour reps, and Clergy. The PCC met 6 times during 2022 with an average attendance of 16.

The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission, (Registered No. 1134771), and the members of the PCC act as Trustees to the Charity.

4.0 Committees and Working Groups.

The PCC operates through the Standing Committee and several subgroups that have specific roles as designated by the PCC.

Standing Committee – this is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings subject to any directions given by the PCC. The committee comprises of the Incumbent, the Church Wardens, the PCC secretary, and the Treasurer. The standing committee did not meet in 2022.

Sub groups:

Financial and Charitable Giving - coordinated by Mr Clive Ringrose

Property/Maintenance - coordinated by Mr David Butler

Safeguarding - coordinated by Mrs Rosemary Rhodes

Milbourne - coordinated by Mr Duncan Wheeler

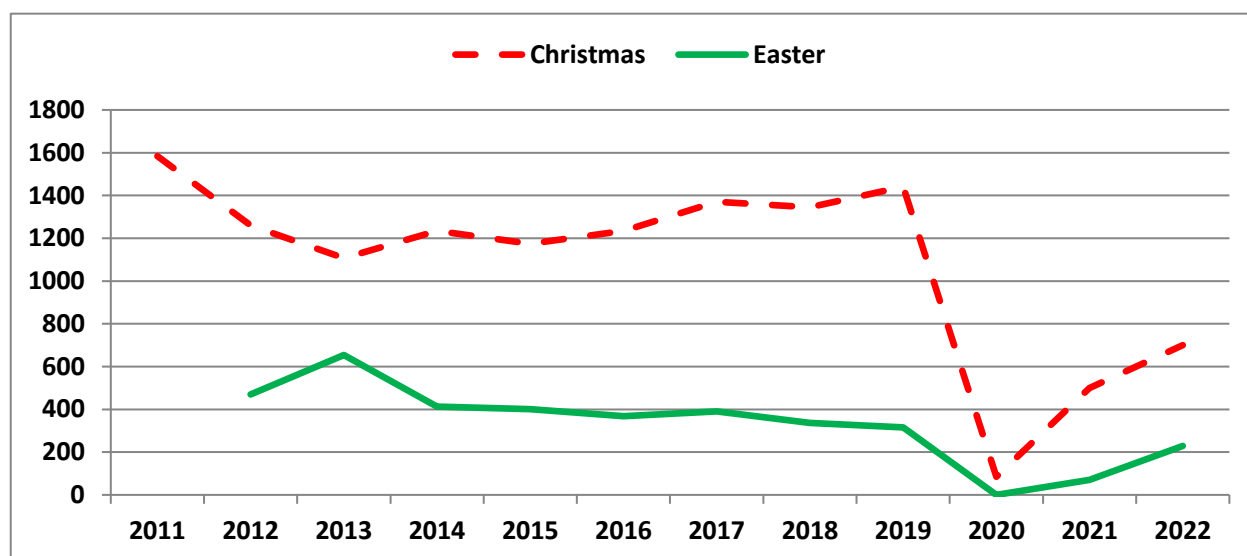
5.0 Church Attendance

A total of 194 parishioners were registered at March 2022, (currently 194 March 2023).

Attendance figures during the year continued to rise after the low numbers triggered by the pandemic, with 129 attendees over the Easter period and 595+ at Christmas . The rises can be seen clearly on the graph below.

Occasional services: There were 32 (21) baptisms and 6(8) marriages, 39 (20) funerals and 9 interment of ashes at St Mary's, one at Holy Saviour during the year. (Figures in brackets refer to 2021)

Attendance trends at St Mary's – Christmas and Easter



6.0 Review of the year

Services continued to be affected by the Covid pandemic until Easter, when the first services were conducted where communicants were offered the chalice. The opportunity to fully participate in the Eucharist was welcomed by all.

Our new parish website was up and running by the New Year; many thanks to David Butler for actioning this. Weekly reflections by the clergy continued to be filmed throughout the year and placed on the website and YouTube, these present a link for those unable to get to church, as well as for regular attenders who like a 'thought for the week'.

Easter services resumed their normal pattern, with a well-attended ecumenical Raising of the Cross service held on Good Friday on the Green.

A Deanery evensong was held in St Mary's in March which was well attended by church members from across the Deanery. The parish achieved Level 3 safeguarding status.

In May it was noted that the weather vane on the spire at Holy Saviour was damaged, this was fixed together with essential repairs to the spire later in the year.

On the 4th June the beacon was lit on the church tower to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, sadly however, she died on the 8th September and the union flag was flown at half-mast to commemorate her passing.

In June a very successful Party in the Park was held with over 3000 people attending, however the number of volunteers from the churches is dwindling, which may put this popular event in jeopardy in the future.

In July we welcomed Christine Caisley-Farrell and David Dunscombe as our new churchwardens.

September saw a Generous Giving initiative by the Diocese and a representative from the Diocese addressed the PCC at their September meeting to explain the scheme in detail.

The Friends of St Mary's arranged a working party to clear leaves from the churchyard in November and also two Christmas concerts, which were held in church at the end of the year.

The year ended with the resumption of the normal pattern of Christmas services. Thanks go yet again to Tom and Joe (Wylam Nurseries) for donating the Christmas tree.

Thanks are also extended to our administrator Ruth for being ever helpful, and to Alison who continues to produce the interesting and informative Grapevine every month.

7.0 Financial Summary

While the short term effects of the Covid pandemic are now past, there are longer term impacts on attendance and use of Parish Centre. It is likely that 2022 is the first "normal" year after the pandemic. The PCC agreed a Parish Share with the diocese of £80,000, up from £65,000 in 2021. To pay this amount the PCC used £3,000 from its reserves.

Unrestricted Income: The main item of income is Planned Giving. In 2022 the PCC received £71,335. This was a fall of only £591 from the amount received in 2021. It is 16% down on the last pre-Covid year. Open plate collections at £12,551 were up significantly up for the second year running. They were 10% up on pre-Covid years. Gift Aid collected was up by £1,000 to £20,934. This was due to the increase in open plate collections. It remains a significant source of income for the PCC. Use of the Contactless machine increased. £2,502 was received via this machine. This was an increase of £1,100 on the previous year. Most of its use was at baptisms, but there were regular contributions throughout the week from visitors. The income from hiring out the Parish Centre was £16,910. This was an increase of £6,266 on 2021. Income from hiring the Centre is comparable to pre-Covid levels. The PCC received a legacy of £132,500.

Unrestricted Expenditure: The largest item of expenditure is Parish Share. For 2022 the diocese set a figure of £97,884, which had been used for the previous 2 years. After discussions with the diocese a figure of £80,000 was agreed. The PCC paid this amount by using £3,000 from its reserves. Expenditure on running and maintaining the churches was unchanged at £22,500. The largest items were: St Mary's gas £3,532 up by £100 from 2021 and St Mary's electricity up to £1,526 from £973.

Restricted Income: The restricted income in 2022 was £40,499. The largest items were a donation of £10,000 and an insurance claim of £15,000. This insurance claim was to cover repairs to the weather vane and spire at Holy Saviour. They had been damaged by storm Arwen.

Restricted Expenditure: The largest item of expenditure was for work on the spire at Holy Saviour. Whilst the scaffolding was up to repair the storm damage, the windows and gutters were repaired costing £2,600. Other items of expenditure included: repair to Holy Saviour boiler £990; the laying of paving in Holy Saviour churchyard £780; mixing deck for St Mary's sound system £864; repairs to St Mary's sound system £550; Peel boards in the tower £2,300; repairs to St Mary's kitchen roof £850.

8.0 Reserves

Since 2013 the PCC has had a Reserves Policy based on Church of England guidance notes. The policy of the PCC is to maintain its reserves equal to at least 3 months expenditure. In 2022 this was £36,737. At the end of 2022 the General Reserves were £175,806. If the exceptional items of the legacy of £132,500, the designated funds for 2 Grange Road (£6,000) and St Mary's heating pipes (£9,000) are deducted then the general unallocated reserves stand at £28,306.

Stephenson & Coates have agreed the accounts.

9.0 Risk Management

The PCC is under an obligation to consider major risks to which St Mary's may be exposed and systems are in place to minimize such risks. Our Safeguarding Policy is in line with the current procedures set out by the Diocese. The insurance policy for the churches provides cover for the buildings, contents, and third-party claims.

10.0 Legal and Administration Information

Parochial Name Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

North Road

Ponteland

NE20 9NU

Tel 01661 824470

Bankers: Santander and Lloyds Bank PLC

Auditor: Stephenson Coates

Carole Butler

PCC Secretary March 2023