

St Mary and St Bartholomew Church, Cranborne.

Annual Report for the year 2020.

The members of the PCC were elected at the Annual Meeting in accordance with the Church Representative Rule.

Rector: The Reverend Robert Simpson. (Chair of the Council)

Churchwardens: Richard Brown,

Rose Turner until October 2020

Elected members: Angela Bonfield-Secretary, Linda Packman-Treasurer.

Rosemary Jarvis, Michael Campbell, Sandi Malpas, Michael Nurton, Angela Mullens, Ben Cullen,

Sue Otton left in October 2020 after 53 years' service to the PCC and thanks were expressed to her for her long time commitment. She continues to organise the church flowers.

BACKGROUND

St Mary and St Bartholomew, Cranborne is a member of the Quintet United Benefice which was formed in 1980 by an Order in Council. It comprises the parishes of Cranborne with Boveridge, Edmondsham, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands and has one Rector.

The Quintet Council makes decisions on all subjects involving the Quintet Group as a whole, such as the Synod, Deanery, Archdeaconry and Diocese matters, initiatives for Mission, outreach, the pattern of worship, and the Christian principles on which the Group is run.

Each PCC controls its own finances but income arising from planned giving and donations to the Quintet Group is allocated and paid over in equal shares to each parish. Common expenses, such as the share of the Diocesan quota, are paid from the central quintet account and each PCC pays an agreed proportion. The Cranborne proportion is 40% of the total.

St Mary and St Bartholomew PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Rector to ensure the upkeep of the Church building and to promote, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

St Mary and St Bartholomew PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Review of the year.

The council met in February, August and December. The PCC Standing Committee met in August to discuss finances.

In order to create some space for various use and fellowship 3 rows of pews have been removed at the back of the church and stored temporarily to monitor the viability of this arrangement. However, the pandemic has entailed lengthy closure of the church so more time will need to be given to this.

There are discussions regarding the installation of a mobile mast in the Tower and permission has been sought from the DAC to install discreet equipment.

Discussions took place regarding the proposal to merge the Benefice with Gussage All saints and Gussage St Michael, these are ongoing.

The churchyard has required significant maintenance. The community came together to form a working party alongside the regular support of a volunteer. The yew trees and hedge cutting have been done as well as the general upkeep.

There were no fundraising events this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic. However, a Quarter Day was held in September when some generous donations were received for the church.

The Parish Council gave funding towards the churchyard maintenance and £300 towards the fund to clean the dials of the church clock.

Impact of COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic:

On 17th March 2020 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York issued a notice for the suspension of public worship in the Church of England due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. This notice was upheld in our diocese by the Bishop of Salisbury. This suspension lasted until 4th July. Until the second Sunday of Easter (19th April) the churches were required to be kept locked with no access permitted even for the clergy.

Obviously this had a dramatic impact on our usual activities for worship, mission and outreach. It is pleasing to report that apart from Mothering Sunday we have been able to offer a service of some sort every Sunday. Initially this was achieved by the Rector filming services at the Rectory (including through all of Holy Week and Easter) which were then posted on to a specially created Quintet Group of Parishes Facebook page. From the 19th April until the 4th July the Rector and organist were able to re-enter the church buildings and so began a pattern of recording a Sunday service of either ante-communion or full Holy Communion around the 4 churches in turn which was posted on the Facebook page. Our first Sunday again as a physically gathered congregation was the 5th July. Detailed risk assessments were carried out and the decision taken by the Rector and churchwardens to alternate a 9.30am Parish Communion between the churches at Cranborne and Wimborne St Giles, these being the only churches big enough to contain a sizeable congregation allowing for safe distancing between worshippers of 2 metres. Given that a number of our regular congregation still found it necessary, for health reasons, to keep themselves isolated at home we continued (and still continue) to record a service and broadcast it each week.

Further suspensions of worship took place during government lockdowns in November 2020 and from 17th January 2021 to 14th March 2021 during which the provision of recorded services sustained our congregational life.

Church attendance is as follows:

- Electoral roll 28
- Weekly attendance- during the pandemic services were alternated with Wimborne St Giles- Parish Communion had an average attendance of 35. There was also access to the services via a recorded service on video link.
- Weddings 2, Baptisms 1, Funerals 6.

Fabric report for 2020

January 2020 Security Services Inspection.

February 2020 Fire extinguisher servicing.

February 2020 Clock winding repair

October 2020 - Lawn mower service

November 2020-Annual boiler service

Angela Bonfield PCC secretary. Feb 2021.