

Aim and purposes

St Bartholomew's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Jonathan Gordon, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services 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, we have considered the Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we try to enable everyone to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Bartholomew.

Achievements and performance

Worship and prayer

The PCC is 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, evening prayers provide a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship while opportunities are provided for people to engage in more outgoing worship such as that provided at other services including our Family Service, Pet Service and others during the year.

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This year we have been successful in welcoming more families into our church and our Family Worship Liturgy on the morning of the 4th Sunday each month is regularly reviewed with Messy Church being involved.

In addition, a great deal of time and thought was spent during the year on facilitating new services. Many have said how much easier it is to follow the services now that they are printed out in booklets.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 88 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, some of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 65, but this number increased at festivals.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism, we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage, public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services, friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. We have celebrated many baptisms and weddings and held funerals in our church this year.

Deanery Synod

Two 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.

Pastoral care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Reverend Jonathan and Rev. Michael has visited all church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. Transport has also been arranged for those who have found it difficult to go to doctor's surgeries or hospital.

Mission and Evangelism

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. Charity fund raising is always an important part of church life and in "living God's Love" we aid the Tariro Charity in

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Zimbabwe and Rev. Michael visits yearly to assist with the orphans and children who need help.

Through this Mission, we have been successful in linking St. Bartholomew's church and school with children from the Parish church of St. Andrew, Highfield Harare. The children from our school have exchanged Penpal letters and are forming a good relationship across 5000 miles.

We have formally linked both churches and regular prayer for both congregations are regularly said .

The Knit and Natter group of St. Bartholomew's provide woollen clothing which is sent to many parts of the world. And thanks must go to that Committee.

Our parish magazine is distributed quarterly. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge and trust in Jesus. We have also started a "leaflet raid" to every home, advertising important events in the church calendar. This is proving to be a success.

Messy Church started in the church in September 2015. We meet on the first Saturday of the month from 10am to 12pm. This is proving to be a success with younger families in the village and enables mums and dads to get to know each other. The 2 hours comprises of craft making eg. Jesse tree symbols, a time for worship and thanksgiving. Many thanks must go to Caroline, Mark, Deborah and Rob and Rev. Michael for their hard work.

The café which is held in the church room every Tuesday afternoon still continues to be a great success. Monies raised from the café go to the school, playgroup and the church. Thanks must go to Danielle Mcloughlin and all her helpers.

The church has been at the forefront in keeping a library available for everyone in the village. The County Council having decided to close the mobile library due to financial constraints, there was a fear that any library service would be out of reach for many within the village. With the help of Rev. Michael, Debbie Meech and bookshelves have been fixed into the church room and the County Library service have donated 150 books as well as donations of books from the village. The "library" in the church room has been called "Book Swap" and latest indications show that many in the village are using this service.

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Books that have got too old and stay on the shelves are taken to the recycling centre on a regular basis.

The mission Action Plan (MAP) for St. Bartholomew's is updated and reviewed yearly by the PCC. The last update was February 2016 and details can be found on the Diocesan Website.

Ecumenical relationships

The church is a member of Churches Together in Tring. There is also a pulpit exchange with the Baptist Chapel in Wigginton and this usually takes place at Harvest time.

Financial review this can be found in the church accounts

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular, we want to mention our churchwardens Mrs Green and Mr Newton who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf and Mr. Adams who has helped us all to understand the church's accounts and its finances.

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure. The PCC is a Registered Charity.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Bartholomew's the membership of the PCC consists of the Rector, rev. Jonathan Gordon, Associate Priest, Rev. Michael Eggleton, the churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those

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who attend our 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. New members receive initial training into the workings of the PCC.

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 80%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include mission and outreach and fabric and finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St Bartholomew's Church is situated at the crossroads in Wigginton. It is part of the Diocese of St. Albans within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Vicarage, Vicarage Road Wigginton Tring Herts. HP23 6DZ tel: 01442 823273

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2016 until the date this report was approved are:

Ex Officio members:

Incumbent: The Reverend Jonathan Gordon(Chairman)

Associate Priest Rev. Michael Eggleton

Wardens: Mrs Jo Green
Mr David Newton

Elected members:

Mr Peter Bristow, representative on Deanery Synod

Mr David Parker representative on Deanery Synod and School Governor

Mr. Mike Adams (Treasurer)

Mr. Charles Hogarth (Fabric)

Mrs Shirley Ambrose

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Mrs. Rita Fantham (Electoral Roll)

Mr Keith Oldland

Mr. Steve White

Mrs. Barbara Burch

Mr. Richard Robins

Mr. Paul Richardson

Mr. Richard Burnell (School Governor)

Approved by the PCC on May 1st 2016 and signed on their behalf by the Reverend Jonathan Gordon (PCC Chairman)