

Annual Reports
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council of Hampden
Park and the Hydneye, Eastbourne

For the year ended 31st December
2021

Banks:

Santander, Bridle Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L30 4GB
NatWest Bank, 96 Terminus Rd, Eastbourne BN21 3LX
CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Avenue, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ
(Opened 13/12/21)

Independent Examiner:

David Jenkins, Accountant, MDJ Services, Unit A6, Chaucer Business Park,
Dittons Road, Polegate, BN26 6QH

Aims and Purposes

Both PCCs have the responsibility of co-operating with the parish priest, Fr Adam Ransom, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. They are also specifically responsible for their respective church building and the church hall.

Objectives and Activities

The PCCs are committed to enabling the whole community to find faith in Jesus Christ and to worship him at church. The PCCs along with the priest-in-charge, maintain an overview of the worshipping life of the parish. All our services aim to put our faith into practice through music, prayer, scripture, and sacrament.

In obedience to God's Mission we seek to help ordinary people in the parish live out their faith. We encourage worship and prayer, increasing understanding of scripture and deepening relationships with Jesus. We seek to provide pastoral care to those in the church and wider parish community. We hope to reach others through missional and evangelistic activity.

We are committed to encourage generous giving through our stewardship schemes and through raising funds by trading in our halls.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

Our worship pattern was revised once again due to the continuing Covid-19 Pandemic. For some periods we were unable to meet for worship and had to use online provision, which had its own unique challenges given that most of our congregation are not internet savvy.

We streamed worship online when possible and were able to have in person worship, albeit restricted, for Easter and Christmas with some events having to be cancelled at Christmas last minute due to rising Covid rates. Numbers in both churches have been stabilised but were still below pre-pandemic figures. Occasional offices in church picked up with 5 baptisms, 3 Weddings and a funeral taking place in the parish.

From July a new pattern of worship was put in place in which we began worshipping on alternate Sundays in each church building, amalgamating the two congregations. This was in response to the fall in numbers attending church as well as the practical provision of clergy across the two churches.

During 2021 we were able to increase the amount of singing that we could do as a congregation in response to changing government Covid restrictions and the PCC thanks Mrs Jill Bell and all the choir members for their support in 2021.

We held a Hymns and Pimm's event which was enjoyed by those who attended and allowed us to sing our praises and share what the hymns meant to us personally.

The Church and Hall

In order to serve the community and to raise funds to meet our financial obligations we rely on our church and hall buildings to be maintained to a good state of repair. During the year of 2021 our Churchwardens have been instrumental in co-ordinating the constant review and repair of the fabric of the building.

There have been a number of minor repairs to various parts of the building as guided by our Quinquennial report (2017) and observation. We are blessed with a mostly sound building, which houses both our worshipping community and community groups and parties.

St Mary's hall was completely rewired to be brought up to current building regulations and provide a safe space for the community to meet.

A search for an inspecting architect to replace Peter Pritchett, who retired, is underway and we are mindful of the quinquennial report which is due to happen in 2022 and the works that will no doubt be flagged up from it.

The halls were able to be rented out again for part of 2021 and this helped us to be able to run various mission initiatives and to gain a vital rental income once again.

Pastoral Care

We continued to reach out to people during the restrictions by telephone in 2021 and visiting and home communions were allowed once again which meant that Fr Adam and others could make house-calls once again.

Mission and Evangelism

Between January and March 2021 Fr Adam was able to distribute a number of small emergency care packages funded by the PCC. He was also able to distribute £1000 worth of supermarket vouchers to local families from funding made available to the deanery from EBC Covid hardship fund.

In October we held a light party as an alternative to Halloween event. 25 local children plus their carers attended and had food and fun as well as receiving a goody bag that had some materials relating to the Christian faith.

With restrictions easing we were also able to restart a number of our regular groups:

St Peter's Pebbles: This toddler group restarted in July 2021 and run through the summer holidays, and we were touched by the number of parents who said that this was the first interaction with other children that their child had had because of the pandemic. The group varies in size and makeup but on average around 12 local infants with their carers attend each week from a pool of approximately 50 registered children. The PCC are grateful to those who volunteer regularly.

Little Lambs: This toddler group restarted in September 2021 with the help of Summer Elliott, a local student, who volunteered to lead the group with Sue Stoner. The group has on average 25 children attend each week out of a pool of 80 children registered with us. The PCC would like to thank Sue and Summer, along with those who volunteer to help week by week.

Friendship Group: Although a small group the people that attend deeply value the chance to socialise with one another. Under Jill Bell's leadership the group restarted in the summer and had on average 8 attend each week at St Peter's Hall. Sometimes the group helps prepare activities for St Peter's Pebbles, which gives them a connection to the young families that attend the toddler group. Efforts have been made to try to reach out to lonely older people in the community to offer the group as a means of support. The PCC would also like to thank Joan Woolley for her assistance with the group.

'Scattered Grain' continued to be produced and made available to people in both physical and email formats. It continued to be well received and has been a useful tool in communicating with parishioners as well as being a source of education, information and entertainment.

Financial Review

The PCC successfully applied for two grants during the year and were awarded £10,00 from the National Lottery Fund and £3,000 from the Chalk Cliff Trust towards the costs of refurbishing and replacing the electrics in St Mary's Hall. The work had been completed but the invoice not received until the new financial year and therefore the funds are shown in the accounts. These are shown as Restricted Funds.

The Unrestricted Fund receipts for 2021 were £38,072 (2020 £37,160) and the Unrestricted Fund payments for 2021 were £43,936 (2020 £55,342), this difference being mainly due to the reduced Parish Share paid to Diocese. Of the full parish ministry costs (£71,183), our pledge was £30,847, of which the PCC were only able to pay £17,156 leaving £13,691 unpaid at year-end. This is shown as a technical liability, however the Diocese have yet to decide whether to write this off again this year.

The difference between receipts and payments is a deficit of -£5,826 (2020 -£18,182) and whilst an improvement is not sustainable as, allowing for debtors (£8,273) and liabilities (-£25,908), the Unrestricted Fund stands at (£22,355).

The receipts have been depressed for the past 2 years due to Covid impacts and it is reasonable to assume this will improve during 2022, if not then contingency planning will need to be reviewed.

Following the merger of St Marys and St Peters parishes the PCC undertook a review and agreed a regularisation of the funds, bank accounts & budget.

Various 'Restricted' Funds were identified as correctly belonging to group members and not the church, these are being returned to the members during 2021/2022, details in Finance Report. The Music & Rhyme (Toddler Group) had ceased activity and funds previously held in a separate account (now closed) were passed to the PCC and allocated to the 'Dedicated' Mission Fund.

A new account has been opened with the Charities Action Foundation (CAF) Bank which enables dual-approval for on-line payments (in compliance with charities requirements and good practice guidance) and a reduction in cheque payments & escalating postal costs. The remaining accounts will be migrated over & closed during 2022.

The Friendship, Pebbles & Little Lambs groups have been confirmed as being part of the missional work within the parish and under the control of the PCC and therefore covered for insurance, liability, safeguarding etc and exempt from hall fees.

Reserves Policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on the general unrestricted funds (excluding property) which equates to a minimum of 3 months' worth of unrestricted payments as contingency against unforeseen situations. This was increased from 2 months in light of Covid impacts during 2019/2020.

The closing balance of £22,355, achieves this, and therefore expect to have sufficient cash flow to continue to pay bills when they fall due. It is reasonable to assume receipts will improve during 2022, if not then contingency planning will need to be further reviewed.

Safeguarding

The parish continues to review and update all safeguarding procedures, following the current diocesan guidelines including implementing 'Simple Quality Protects' (SQP). The Parochial Church Council fully recognises its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

Volunteers

The PCC wishes to thank all those who have volunteered in any way over the course of the year in helping keep things running.

In particular it wishes to thank Jill Bell, Derek Freeman, William Pratt and Sue Stoner for their tireless work in the maintenance of the fabric of the buildings and work as wardens over 2021 and to Richard Stevens, Daphne Freeman and Doreen French for their assistance.

Thank you to Tony Kemp for undertaking the role of treasurer and thank you also to Lance Roberts for his assistance to the treasurer.

The PCC also thank David Stoner for his work on the grounds of St Mary, Chris and Sandra Palmer for their work on the grounds of St Peter, Laura for her work on the hall invoicing and to Sue Stoner, Jill Bell and Joan Woolley for their work in managing the hall hires.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At both PCCs consists of the Priest in Charge, churchwardens, and elected members. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and those who are confirmed are encouraged 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 decisions on how the funds of the PCCs are to be spent. All members are made aware of their obligations as Charity Trustees and their responsibility to uphold safeguarding practices.

The PCCs meet no less than once every three months plus hold an Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

Administrative Information

The parish of Hampden Park and the Hydney consists of St Marys Church, which is situated in Decoy Drive, Hampden Park, Eastbourne and of St Peter's Church, which is situated in The Hydney, East Hampden Park, Eastbourne. It is part of the Diocese of Chichester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is the Benefice Office, 69 Decoy Drive, Eastbourne, BN22 9PP. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

There are 69 people currently on the electoral roll of the parish.

PCC members who have served from the 1st January 2021 until the 31st December 2021

Priest in Charge and Chair: The Revd Adam Ransom (Ex-Officio)

Treasurer Our treasurer, Mr Tony Kemp, is not a member of the PCC and attends in an advisory capacity at the PCCs invitation. He may not propose, second or vote on any matter.

Wardens: William Pratt (Ex-Officio)
Sue Stoner (Ex Officio)
Jill Bell (Ex- Officio)
Derek Freeman (Ex-Officio)

Representatives
of the Deanery
Synod: Sue Stoner (*Until APCM 2021*)
William Pratt
Jill Bell (*until APCM 2021*)

General Synod Member: Jacob Vince (Ex-Officio) (*From Autumn 2021*)

Elected Members: June Norris
Lance Roberts
Paul Morris
Maria Morris
Elizabeth Perkins
Derek Freeman (*until APCM 2021 when elected warden*)
Daphne Freeman
Joan Woolley
Yvonne Wright (*until APCM 2021*)
Angela Kirby
Christopher Palmer