

St Mary's, Hardwick

Annual Report

of the

Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December, 2011

Team Vicar

The Reverend Alison Myers
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St Mary's Hardwick is part of the Lordsbridge Team of 11 parishes.



Purpose of the PCC

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Vicar, the Revd A Myers, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, socials and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building and Churchyard.

Organisation of Church and PCC

PCC members from APCM 2011

Team Vicar & chair: Revd Alison Myers
Church Wardens: Thelma Westbury (Treasurer)
Chris Ford
Deanery synod rep: Thelma Westbury
Lois Frettsome
Team Council rep: Vicki Farmer
Elected members: Michaela McNeill (until APCM 2014) (Secretary)
Martin Lee (until APCM 2012)
Sharon McMahon (until APCM 2012)
Lois Frettsome (until APCM 2013)
Sue Cornwell (until APCM 2013)
Karen Wight (until APCM 2012)
Vicki Farmer (until APCM 2013)

PCC members to APCM 2011 (Jan - Apr 2011)

Incumbent & chair: Revd Alison Myers
Church Wardens: Thelma Westbury (Treasurer)
Chris Ford
Deanery synod rep: Thelma Westbury
Lois Frettsome
Team Council rep: Vicki Farmer
Elected members: Anne Campbell (until APCM 2011) (Secretary)
Michaela McNeill (until APCM 2011)
Martin Lee (until APCM 2012)
Sharon McMahon (until APCM 2012)
Lois Frettsome (until APCM 2013)
Sue Cornwell (until APCM 2013)
Karen Wight (until APCM 2012)
Vicki Farmer (until APCM 2013)

The method of appointing the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election on the PCC.

The Local Team

The local team consists of Alison (the vicar), Chris and Thelma (churchwardens). The team meets every 2-3 weeks to oversee the week-by-week running of the church: primarily organising services, pastoral care, and the coordination of other church-run activities; and to pray together for church and community.

The Events Committee

The Events Committee consists of Anne Jones, Caroline Edgley, Mary Skipper, Thelma Westbury, Sue & Peter Cornwell and Lois Frettsome. As vicar, Alison is an ex-officio member. It meets around 5 times a year to plan fundraising and social events.

The Standing Committee

This is the only committee of the PCC required by law and consists of the Team Vicar, the churchwardens and two representatives of the PCC. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions of the Council. Meetings of the standing committee are called only when required. The Standing Committee did not meet in 2011.

The Team Council

This new body of lay and ordained people from across the Lordsbridge Team now meets about three times a year in the Coton parish room. It has responsibility for communicating best practice and as a council of reference for whole team projects. Coton is represented by the Team Vicar and a lay person.

The Bourn Deanery Synod

Bourn Deanery Synod meets three times a year, and is made up of clergy and representatives from the parishes in the Deanery. The business part of the meeting consists of a Treasurer's report, the Rural Dean's notices, Team updates and a report from the Diocesan Synod representative. This is followed by a speaker on a topic of common interest. This part of the meeting is open to others.

Activities of the PCC and church

Thelma writes: "Chris and I are very conscious of the support we receive from our fellow members of the congregation, and from all those who come to the services and events throughout the year. A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes that contribute to the day to day running of St. Mary's. The cleaning, flower arranging, organ playing, reading, and leading prayers, acting as sides people, and providing refreshments, without all of which the church could not function properly. This year has also seen the Sunday Club really taking off, with as many as 12 children attending on a Sunday, and many more at the fun days we have held. During the year we have celebrated times of joy with Baptisms, and Weddings, and those of great sadness, at the loss of relatives and friends. We have come together to celebrate Feast Days, and special events, and as we were reminded at the rededication of the Lych Gate, as to how many people had passed through the gate and on into the church in happy and sad times, and with its future now assured, will go on doing so for many years to come."

PCC Meetings

In 2011 the PCC met 5 times for a full evening meeting, and once immediately after the annual meeting. Business included regular review of worship, and updates on finance, Sunday Club activities, local church & community events, and the maintenance of the building. Major discussion topics during the year included the refurbishment of the Lych Gate, stewardship and the TRIO campaign, the five marks of mission & updating the 'Mission Action Plan', the new ministry share formula and plans for a noticeboard by the lychgate.

Worship

Worship continues to follow a regular pattern:

1st Sunday – 9.30am Holy Communion and Sunday Club

2nd Sunday – 9.30am Holy Communion and Sunday Club

3rd Sunday – 9.30am All Age Worship [this will move to the second Sunday from May 2012]

4th Sunday – 9.30am Holy Communion and Sunday Club

On 5th Sundays we join with Dry Drayton and Coton, at the north end of the team, for a united celebration service and we are developing the pattern that these are All Age Holy Communion services. This year these have included a service based around the Bible for the King James anniversary, a summer celebration, and a service for All Saints. We are now also holding All Age Holy Communion services for the major festivals.

Other developments included using images via a data projector from time to time, involving children and young people occasionally in drama, readings and intercessions, music, learning some new songs/hymns, and experimenting with the use of signing in all age worship. A small mixed age group enjoyed creating the Christmas crib scene which we used in church in Advent. We were joined in the autumn by Rebecca Fardell an ordinand at Ridley Hall.

We were stretched over the summer and missed one Sunday service, although there were services going on locally to which we were invited.

Thank you to all those who play a part in our worship together – preparing the church, reading, leading intercessions, providing music and other tasks. Thank you too to Leslie Manderson for regularly taking services, and to Rebecca Fardell for her contributions to services.

Family activities and Sunday Club

Sunday Club members have increased steadily over the year which is very encouraging. Christmas cards were sent to twenty two children and young people who have attended over the past year, including some from neighbouring parishes of Dry Drayton, Coton and Caldecote. We have a committed team of adult helpers and have been blessed with a talented group of young people who help regularly.

The Sunday Club team has also organised several family events over the past year, including:

- A Pancake Party, held on Shrove Tuesday 2011
- “A Fun Family Easter Morning” held on Tuesday 19th April 2011
- “Summer Afternoons at St Mary’s.” This was held every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon during August, and provided an opportunity for fellowship over a cup of tea and cake in a relaxing environment. Each afternoon a church member organised a children’s activity and the church building was open during these afternoons for prayer and quiet reflection.
- Our first “Family Light Party,” held on Monday 31st October 2011.
- A “Fun Family Christmas Morning” held on Tuesday 20th December 2011

All these events have brought many families and new faces into church, sometimes with over 80 people attending. The Sunday Club team are very grateful to the many church and village members who have provided help and support over the year, enabling these events to happen.

During Advent 2011, a team of Young People and adults from the church took part in the "BIG Crib", an initiative from the Diocese of Ely. We made Big Crib figures of Mary, Joseph, an innkeeper, a shepherd, a young shepherd boy, and an angel as well as a wooden crib. These were displayed in Dry Drayton Church during the exhibition week and moved to St Mary's Church, Hardwick for the Christmas services.

Illumin8, the monthly Lordsbridge youth café, has received a new lease of life this year with an average of 15 young people attending. A monthly social gathering of young people in Hardwick is developing on Friday evenings hosted by various parents.

Tuesday Link group

The Link Group was conceived by Lois Clark of Dry Drayton who thought it would be a good idea to strengthen the ties between the churches of Hardwick and Coton as well as Dry Drayton. At different times the Group has been led by Lois, Carole Lunn from Dry Drayton, Alison and Gill King, who is a member of the congregation of Coton. The group has averaged between ten to fifteen people gathering at Lois' house, the Parish Room and Gill's house in Coton and Vicki Farmer's house in Hardwick to talk on different passages in the Bible or for a period of reflection and quiet. About once a term, Vicki has kindly offered her home for a social evening to bring together people's thoughts and ideas for the future.

Pastoral Care

The monthly 'Butterflies Bereavement' group, based in Coton and initiated by Gill King in 2011, is a joint initiative for communities in the north end of the Lordsbridge Team, offering care and friendship to the bereaved.

Prayer

This year saw two new initiatives. On Wednesday at 9.30 – 10.00, Morning Prayer is now held in the church, focusing on world issues as well as prayers for the local community, local church and individuals. A rolling 4 month prayer calendar has also been created and circulated so that over a 4 month period each road in Hardwick is prayed for together with those on the electoral roll, groups that meet and work in the village and church activities.

Communication

This year we agreed with the PCC and parish council a design and position for a noticeboard outside the lychgate enabling clearer and more up to date notification of services. A weekly email of service times, youth events and other activities was piloted in 2011 and continues, to a growing distribution list. This ties in with the weekly paper pewsheets – thank you, Janet. We have experimented successfully with (reusable) banners at major festivals and, more creatively, with the 'wisemen' in the outside the lychgate in the run up to Christmas – many thanks to Coton for this gift.

Building and fabric

Looking back over the last year, one of the major highlights was the simple service, held on Sunday 6th November to celebrate the refurbishment of our Lych gate. This was made possible by monies raised by the Herrington family, Ruth and Peter Richardson, and various other donations from the appeal in the Hardwick Happenings.

Giving and the TRIO campaign

We also ran a TRIO (The Responsibility Is Yours) campaign in the early autumn to communicate financial situation to electoral roll members and to ask them to reconsider their giving to support local ministry. This had a fantastic response (many thanks to all those who responded) and our regular giving increased from around £755 per month to around £1151 per month. (Figures including Gift Aid).

Events and fundraising

Why do we have events? For fun! It's a lot of hard work, but everyone enjoys the Church Fete, the Harvest Supper, the Quiz, the Safari Supper, and many more. The more serious side is the fund-raising part. When we have to raise £13,000 towards our ministry share, on top of which are the running costs, and repairs to the church fabric, one begins to see why events (fund raising) are a very necessary part of church life. This past year we have had a number of events which have been both fun and have raised money.

Lordsbridge Team Council

The Team Council is a wonderful opportunity to meet with those from other parishes, share good practice, learn from one another and see where we can support each other. We send out a bimonthly magazine, the Lordsbridge Life, which gives details of news items within the Lordsbridge Team and we also have a website in progress. We look to see what we can do better and more efficiently by pooling funding at team level, such as Youth work. At the moment we have a small working party looking to see what gifts and resources we can share between parishes.

Deanery Synod

After coffee, speakers have entertained us on topical and very interesting topics followed by lively discussions. In March the speaker was Christina Rees a writer and broadcaster and founder member of Watch (Women in the church) a campaigning organisation started 15 years ago. She is also a member of General Synod. Along with input from Mike Booker and Michael Mathews the theme was how we move on with Women and the Episcopate, bearing in mind that there was a number of clergy unhappy with the idea of Women Bishops. The speaker at July's meeting was Scilla Latham the new church building officer - she gave an interesting illustrated talk on how church buildings can be used for more than worship, examples of community rooms, shops and cafés were shown - it gave us all plenty of food for thought. At November's meeting the Rev. Corin Redsell, the new Deacon and Curate in the Lordsbridge team was welcomed. After coffee we watched the YouTube presentation by Bishop Stephen. The theme was the five T's: Tell, Teach, Tend, Transform and Treasure. Members of the congregation are very welcome to join us after the business part of the meetings.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Vicki, Lois, Michaela, Thelma and Alison for their contributions to this report.

Treasurer's report

There is much to be thankful for this past year, we were able to pay the full amount of our parish share, and had a very successful TRIO (The Responsibility Is Ours) appeal, at the end of the year, which raised the level of giving, by the members either increasing their existing direct debits, the amount pledged each week (envelope scheme), or making brand new commitments. This means that we can claim more income tax back through the gift-aid scheme. (25p in the £1). We ended the year with a small deficit.

The figures below show where the money comes from and where it goes to.

	<u>Actual 2011</u>	<u>Estimated 2012</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Planned giving	8197	10080
Collections /donations	1749	1800
Income Tax recovered(Gift Aid)	1979	2520
Fees: weddings, funerals	2077	1500
Receipts from other sources	1965	1900
Events	<u>2656</u>	<u>2675</u>
Total Receipts	<u>18623</u>	<u>20475</u>
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Parish Share	13044	14000
<u>Church running costs</u>		
Insce, electricity, admin.expenses	<u>5808</u>	<u>6475</u>
Total expenditure	<u>18852.</u>	<u>20475</u>

[I have included Insurance & 50% grass-cutting costs and repayments—these inflate the figures of receipts from other sources, and are included in the running costs; this highlights the problem we would have if council didn't pay for these items (2011 £1720 - 2012 £1800).]

General fund-raising

Safari Supper	333
Art Exhibition	307
Harvest Supper	383
Cards	195
Bazaar	141
Fete	<u>1,298</u>
	<u>2,657</u>

Restricted fund-raising (Fabric Fund)

Pampered Chef	125.
Quiz	<u>627</u>
	<u>752</u>

As you can see, there is quite a significant difference between what we raise by the events and what we need to cover the costs of keeping St. Mary's going.

Balances

General fund (AS AT 31/12/2011)	<u>£1087</u>
Fabric fund	<u>£7565</u>
Portacabin	<u>£2216</u>