

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

PARISH OF SAINT MARY, NORTH ELMHAM.

AIMS AND PURPOSES

St Mary's Parochial Church Council ("the PCC") has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector in promoting within the parish of North Elmham the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the Church in North Elmham including deciding how funds are to be spent. The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Mary's and to be a part of the parish community. We put our faith into practice through our services and we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of the community through worship and prayer, learning about the Gospel, the provision of pastoral care and outreach work. As part of our work we maintain the fabric of the church building.

BACKGROUND.

After ten years as Rector of St Mary's, Revd Nicholas Varnon retired at Easter 2016. We are extremely grateful to him for all the care and guidance that he has given to the life of St Mary's and the parish.

We were pleased to welcome Revd Sally Kimmis who was installed as Priest in Charge and Team Rector Designate of the Elmham Group Benefice at St Mary's North Elmham on 8 May 2016. It was an uplifting and well attended service, followed by refreshments at the Institute.

During the year, the six parish Elmham Group was suspended and St Mary's has been subject to pastoral reorganisation along with all parishes forming part of the Sparham Deanery. Various potential schemes have been considered, and the subject of much consultation by the Diocese. The final scheme involves the establishment of a 13-parish group of churches known as The Heart of Norfolk ("the Group") and the creation of a team ministry for the Group to be shared by a Team Rector and a Team Vicar. The formal constitution of the Heart of Norfolk has yet to be approved in law. Revd Kimmis is the Priest in Charge and Team Rector Designate of the Group, which comprises the parishes of North Elmham, Guist, Worthing, Bintree, Twyford, Billingford, Foulsham, Stibbard, Wood Norton, Guestwick, Foxley, Bawdeswell and Themelthorpe.

A Team Forum was established comprising representatives of each parish in the Group. The purpose of the Team Forum is to discuss matters relating to the Group as a whole on a bi-monthly basis. North Elmham PCC has been represented at Team Forum meetings by the Church Wardens/Virginia Edgecombe. Team Forum meetings have been a key way of developing our relationship with the other parishes in the Group. Until the pastoral reorganisation scheme has been approved by law, the Team Forum has no legal status; however, it is anticipated that it will become a formal Team Council once the Group is in existence.

During the summer, Revd Kimmis moved into the Rectory, North Elmham. Early in the year we identified that Revd Kimmis, as Rector of a large group of parishes, would need administrative support. A job profile was prepared and after advertising the post we were pleased to welcome Nicola Clayson who acts as part-time Administrator for the Group. She is employed by North Elmham PCC under a two-year contract. Her salary is paid out of

restricted funds donated specifically for the purpose from both the Bishop's charitable fund and a private individual, with a contribution towards cost being made by each parish. There is no guaranteed funding beyond August 2018. Following Nicola's appointment office space at The Rectory has become somewhat tight and, after various discussions with both the Bishop of Lynn and the Archdeacon of Lynn, we are pleased to report that the Diocese has agreed to fund the conversion of the garage into an additional office.

While Revd Kimmis has been Team Rector Designate since May, the post of Team Vicar was unfilled throughout the year. The job was advertised in the summer and a few applications were received, although the number received was disappointing. An offer was made to an applicant but was not accepted. At the end of the year Revd Canon Christopher Davies (formerly vicar of Wymondham Abbey) was appointed on an interim basis. His much-needed support to Revd Kimmis is greatly welcomed.

Many people have been involved in the life of St Mary's over the year, some in a formal, public way, with others working more "behind the scenes". The willingness of each individual to use his/her own talents to promote the mission of the Church, and to support others in so doing, is rewarding and has added greatly to our Church life. The generous contribution of all is very much appreciated.

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

Worship and prayer

In the main, before the retirement of Revd Nicholas Varnon two Sunday services were held at St Mary's each week, these being Holy Communion and either Morning Prayer or All Age Worship. Since May 2016 there has been a single Sunday service, this being one of Holy Communion, Morning Prayer and All Age Worship on a rotational basis, plus an additional Holy Communion service once a month at 8am. In addition to the Rector, services have been led by Revd Leslie Wilman (retired clergy), Mr Norman Johnson (lay reader), Mr John Labouchere, Mr Martin Budgett, Mr Mark Burdon and Mr Arthur Smith.

Average attendance at Sunday services (excluding festivals/Group services) was 18 adults with between one and three children under 16. An advantage of being part of a larger group of parishes has meant that the number of people attending Group services has increased. As in previous years the best attended service of the year was the Christingle on Christmas Eve, which was attended by a stunning 342 people.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of our 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. In 2016 we have celebrated 2 baptisms, 1 wedding and held 6 funerals in our church. Funeral services have also been conducted by the Rector for parishioners at the crematorium.

The superb quality of the music at St Mary's continues to enhance our worship and we are grateful to Jonathan Dodd and Martin Budgett for this.

Lent course. Compline was conducted weekly during Lent, each service being followed by a study group attended by five or six people. The group followed a "York Course" on the Psalms.

Advent course. A weekly study group of seven or eight people met weekly throughout Advent. Again a "York Course" was followed, this being 'Living in the Light'. The course

looked at the different ways St. Paul, Matthew, John the Baptist and the Virgin Mary saw the coming of Jesus.

Tea service. A group of parishioners (between eight and twelve, including helpers) has met intermittently in different homes for worship and prayer, followed by tea and cake. We are sorry to report to recent death of Alec Green, a keen member of the Tea service group and send condolences to his family.

Electoral Roll. The Church Electoral Roll is the formal register of members of the Church. It recorded 45 parishioners. Not everyone on the Roll has been a regular worshipper at Sunday services. Similarly, some regular worshippers have chosen not to go on the Roll.

Business. The PCC met on six occasions during 2016 with approximately 80% attendance. Details of the Meetings are recorded in the Minutes Book which is available for inspection. Relevant Deanery Synod business is reported to the PCC by Deanery Synod representative(s) or the Rector is recorded in the PCC Minutes. A statement with regard to the structure of the PCC can be found towards the end of this report.

Standing committee. The Standing Committee, required by law, consists of the Churchwardens, the Treasurer and the Secretary, and is empowered to transact business on behalf of the PCC between PCC meetings, subject to any directions given to it by the whole PCC. By invitation, the Rector has contributed to the business of the Standing Committee, where relevant.

CHURCH FINANCES.

The Church's activities are under-pinned by finances and the Treasurer has the responsibility of ensuring that the finances are dealt with according to the regulations which apply to the Church as a charity. The PCC bankers are Barclays, Dereham, and the independent examiner is Mr. Malcom Woods of Walton House, Wendling Road, Longham, Dereham, NR19 2RE. Independently examined accounts for 2016 are attached to this Report.

The Parish Share is the contribution towards the cost of mission and ministry of the church in the Diocese, which is primarily the cost of clergy. The Parish Share request for 2016 was £26,306 and £20,100 was paid.

The PCC is, once again, extremely grateful to the Elmham Church Events Committee (ECEC) for the financial support that it has provided. ECEC organized the Church Fete in May and the Flower and Music Festival over the August Bank Holiday. Each event was very successful, both in terms of financial profit and also enriching village life, involving at least 100 members of the wider community. We are very grateful to Jo and Tom Fitzalan Howard for opening their home for the Fete.

As a result of these fundraising events, the Church has received a £2,000 contribution towards insurance costs, with £3,349 being paid to the PCC's restricted fabric fund and a further £2,000 paid to a new restricted account for community/outreach projects. ECEC has retained a portion in a development fund for possible match funding under a Heritage Lottery Fund (or similar) grant application.

In previous years there has not been a specific allocation of money raised by ECEC for community/outreach projects. However, having listened to members of the community, the PCC decided that more work should be done to reach out to the lonely and vulnerable within the parish. Preparatory work was carried out in 2016 to hold a monthly tea party and a grant of £1,000 was received from Norfolk Community Foundation to assist with this.

A successful application was also made to the Diocese Mission Fund for a £600 grant to assist with office equipment for the garage conversion.

We have also been extremely blessed in having our heating oil paid for by a member of the community meaning that we have been warm during services.

FABRIC REPORT.

During 2016 repairs were carried out to the north west aisle and also a clerestory window. A decision was also made to level the floor in the Lady Chapel and to re-carpet it, subject to a Faculty being granted.

Various applications have been made in recent years to the Heritage Lottery Fund for a grant to assist with works to develop the church for mission. Regrettably, the applications have been unsuccessful. The PCC was advised during the course of 2016 that one of the reasons for this may be that, when compared to other churches, it has been kept in good repair.

CHILDREN and VULNERABLE ADULTS OFFICER.

Mrs Sally Wilman (Foulsham) kindly took on this role.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT.

The PCC is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It 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. During all or part of 2016, the following served:

Rector (ex officio):	Nicholas Varnon to 28 March 2016 Sally Kimmis from 8 May 2016
Church wardens (ex officio):	Dr. Susanna Wade Martins Mr. John Labouchere
Deanery Synod Representatives (ex officio):	Mr. John Labouchere Mrs. Virginia Edgecombe

Elected members: Mr. Arthur Smith (Deputy Churchwarden), Mrs. Heather Caley (Treasurer), Mr. Robin Don, Mr. Mark Burdon, Mrs. Hetty Burdon, Mrs Joanna Fitzalan Howard, Mr. David Worship (Deputy Churchwarden), Mrs Virginia Edgecombe acted as correspondence secretary until July 2016 and full secretary thereafter.

Original signed on behalf of the Parochial Church Council:

Date: 2017

Sally Kimmis. (Rector, Heart of Norfolk Group)