

2016 Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Mary and St Edburga, Stratton Audley and Holy Trinity, Godington

Aim and purposes

Stratton Audley and Godington Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church Buildings of St Mary and St Edburga's in Stratton Audley and Holy Trinity in Godington.

St Mary's and Holy Trinity are part of the Shelswell Benefice and work with the other parishes in the Benefice to provide a variety of worship opportunities and other events.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our churches and to become part of the church community. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the Parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve all who live within our Parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We are also committed to being fully part of the community and taking our place in the building of good relationships with all who reside in the Parish. To facilitate this work it is important that our church buildings are maintained to as high a standard as is financially possible.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC as part of the Shelswell Benefice is keen to offer a range of services over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

The pattern of services at Stratton Audley was as follows:

1 st Sunday 9.15am	Holy Communion (CW)
2 nd Sunday	Evensong (BCP) at 6pm every third month
3 rd Sunday 10.45am	Family Morning Worship (CW)
4 th Sunday 6pm	Informal Worship
5 th Sunday	Usually a Benefice Service

In addition there was a communion service on Easter Sunday and at midnight on Christmas Eve, a Crib and Christingle Service on Christmas Eve, a family service on Christmas Day, a Carol Service, a Harvest Thanksgiving Service, and a Remembrance Day service. Stratton Audley also hosted the special service for the Institution, Induction and Installation of the new Rector in January.

There is no set pattern of services at Godington but services of Holy Communion were held on Christmas Day and Easter Day. There was also a Harvest Festival in September and a Carol Service in December.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 41 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll. The average attendance at regular services in Stratton Audley was 18 with significantly more 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. There were four baptisms during the year and we have celebrated four weddings in St Mary and St Edburga's. There were two funerals in church plus one funeral at the local crematorium on behalf of the parish.

Deanery Synod

Mr Tony Fox serves as the Deanery Synod Representative in order to provide the PCC with an important link between the parish, the Benefice and the wider structure of the church.

The Church Buildings

At St Mary and St Edburga, routine maintenance has been completed on the building, including the clearing of gulleys and gutters and the annual servicing of the roof alarm. This year we had our Quinquennial Inspection which found the building to be in reasonably good condition overall. The report did highlight some work needed to the clerestory windows. It also identified a couple of areas of failing plaster and the need to replace some rainwater goods to the porch. Outstanding maintenance also includes repair of the drains to the rear of the church (estimated at a cost of around £2000).

We are pleased to report that the necessary masonry work to the porch and repairs to the churchyard wall have both been completed during the year with the help of grants from Viridor Credits and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and a generous donation from the organisers of the very successful Stratton Audley Food Festival. We have also been successful in securing funding for the installation of a new ringing floor in the tower. Funds which had been collected by the village towards a possible Village Hall have been redirected to this project to free up storage space at ground level and facilitate wider community use of the church. Our architect, Alan Frost, has drawn up a detailed schedule of works for the project and we are awaiting tenders from three selected contractors.

A Quinquennial Inspection was also carried out at Holy Trinity, Godington. The easternmost window in the south wall needs repair and there is a need to renew some rainwater goods and replace some slipped or missing roof tiles. The planned decoration of the church is also still outstanding (estimated to cost around £900).

Pastoral Care

If any members of our Parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age, a member of the Ministry Team will make arrangements to visit, either at home or in hospital, and where appropriate Holy Communion can be celebrated. All members of the congregation are encouraged to be aware of their neighbours in the villages and offer care and support as appropriate.

Mission and Evangelism

Charitable collections totalled £306.

The church building in Stratton Audley has been used regularly for the 'Little Lambs' toddler group ably led by Mrs Amanda Houston, the Benefice Family Ministry Co-ordinator, and the secular singing group 'Singing for Fun' has continued, usually twice a month. The Church has also provided a venue for the Shelswell Pre-School's Christmas performance, talks organised by the Stratton Audley Historical Society, and occasional private events. The PCC are keen to see further use made of the building as a facility for the community and a means to help meet the needs of residents.

Fundraisers organised by the PCC also provide an opportunity to draw the community together. The Safari Supper was held again this year and was again a successful event and the congregation was able to contribute to the very successful Food Festival by providing teas in church.

The Benefice Magazine is available on a monthly basis and there are currently approximately 600 subscribers in the Benefice. The magazine keeps parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and communities.

Financial Review

The accounts on the following pages give details of the income and expenditure during the year.

The net result for 2016 was an excess of receipts over payments of £1,143. Adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December totalled £11,333 of which £4,723 was restricted for fabric.

Reserves policy

Currently the PCC has agreed to keep £1000 in the current account.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, the Associate Minister (House for Duty), the Associate Minister (PTO), churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and if appropriate to 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. The full PCC met 4 times during the year.

Administrative information

St Mary and St Edburga and Holy Trinity Churches are part of the Bicester and Islip Deanery in the Archdeaconry of Dorchester which is part of the Diocese of Oxford within the Church of England. The correspondence address is c/o Mrs J Fox, Timbertops, 14 Cavendish Place, Stratton Audley, OX27 9BN.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

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

Ex Officio members: Revd Alice Goodall
 Revd Bill Muncey
 Revd Liz Welters
 Mr Jeremy Adams (Churchwarden)

Elected members:	Mr Tony Fox (Treasurer)	Mrs Jackie Fox (Secretary)
	Mr Peter Evans	Mrs Deborah Moroney
	Mrs Penny Oakey	Mr Anthony Flack

Thanks

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church a special place in the community. They undertake varied roles from helping to maintain the churchyard, to church cleaning, to providing hospitality after services, to providing flowers, to being members of the PCC – all are to be thanked for their work.