



Ideford Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin

Address for correspondence:

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Annual Report and Financial Statements

of the Parochial Church Council for the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ideford

for the year ended
31st December 2020

Haldon Team Rector:
The Reverend Roderick Withnell (January to July)
Vacancy (from July to date)

Haldon Team Vicar: The Reverend Jane Frost
Haldon Team Associate Priest: The Reverend Sue Astbury

Bankers:
Lloyds Bank, Newton Abbot Branch, Devon

Independent Examiner:
Mrs Frances Tilley
5 Fore Street
Ideford

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

The Parochial Church Council of Ideford Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ideford Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2020

Aim and Purpose

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (the PCC) has the responsibility of promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of 'Ideford with Luton', the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, as well as the Church itself, which is a Grade II Listed Building. The Haldon Team Rector, the Reverend Roderick Withnell, retired from the Haldon Team Ministry in July 2020. A vacancy for the position of Team Rector followed. The Haldon Team Vicar, the Reverend Jane Frost, held the position of PCC Chairman throughout the year.

Objectives and Activities

Within Covid-19 rules and guidelines. When planning our activities, the PCC has considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion and supporting the village community. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, 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; and
- Mission and outreach work.

The PCC held three formal 'zoom' meetings throughout the year and several planning and risk assessments relating to the pandemic. Unfortunately, due to Coronavirus, and under the guidance of the Church of England, all St Mary's Ideford activities were cancelled during 2020. After the first lockdown was lifted St Mary's was open for Private Prayer on Wednesdays and Sundays and two Services per month have been offered. A 4.30 p.m. Evensong on the first Sunday and 10.30 a.m. Holy Communion Service on the third Sunday. Both Services have been regularly attended by 8 – 10 parishioners. Christmas was very uplifting with two identical Christmas Services being offered and a socially distanced seat booking system in place. All cleaning precautions have been put in place with all Risk Assessments completed. The postponed APCM and Annual Parish Meetings were held on 18th October.

Achievements and Performance

2020 began with optimism and enthusiasm for Ideford Church parish community. Following amazing community fund raising success in 2019, new ropes for the bell tower were delivered and then hung by the Bell Tower Captain in February 2020 and plans made for celebrations. Villagers looked forward to the sound of Ideford Church bells ringing once more and further success in competitions. The success and Team wide support of Ideford's Messy Church initiative was reaffirmed with bookings for six events throughout 2020. The fund-raising team made plans for community events to provide much needed financial support for fabric maintenance. All these plans came to an abrupt halt in March with the Covid-19 pandemic. We all found ourselves not only in 'lockdown' but locked out of the much loved parish church. The achievements and performance of the PCC in 2020 had been required to focus on consideration and implementation of new protocols for safe and essential access to the church for maintenance, security, cleaning, sanitising and compliance with Covid-19 guidelines. The PCC adapted to meetings held via 'zoom' and recognised the significant impact of virus control measures on the whole village community. Members of the PCC and 'Team St Mary's' initiated Easter cards, designed by all ages and delivered by the young folk to homes throughout the village. Photos and inspirational words were posted on Facebook and in the Parish Newsletter. The village really did come together as a community in an extraordinary year. Volunteers continued to look after and care for Ideford Church throughout the summer

months and supported Covid-19 compliant fund-raising events including a takeaway 'Cream Tea', made 'Masks for Christmas' and organised a Christmas Raffle that raised funds shared with the Village Hall and Village Green charity. 'Art of the Possible' was Haldon Team's strapline for everything managed creatively for Christmas and Ideford's contribution was a 'walking Advent calendar'.

Minutes of the Annual Church Meeting, postponed until October, recorded heartfelt thanks to all those in the community of Ideford who contribute to the life of St Mary's.

Worship and Prayer

In March we temporarily closed our church buildings due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the Haldon Team Ministry offered online services instead. Thanks to the dedicated team of volunteers, led by the Verger, we were able to open Ideford Church for personal prayer and reflection on Wednesdays and 2nd and 4th Sundays, following strict protocol of hygiene and safety. Limited services resumed in August but many parishioners were still isolating and attendance was lower than usual. We were grateful for the opportunity to gather once again for prayer and worship in the parish church. We missed being able to sing but enjoyed the recorded music, hymns and readings selected by the visiting Clergy and the online services recorded in turn at each of the churches in the Haldon Team. Harvest Evensong was held (but not sung) in October and donated funds to a Teignbridge charity food bank. The village community gathered in the churchyard on Remembrance Sunday for a short service and on VE day. In December the PCC organised a 'walking Advent Calendar', a community project, with villagers displaying in their windows or garden an Advent theme. An Advent map in the Parish Newsletter guided folk around the village to see the 'calendar' displays throughout December, culminating in the Nativity display in the porch at St Mary's on Christmas Eve. The Nativity tableau was completed during the service of Readings and Music for Christmas'. After the appropriate Bible reading, Jesus 'arrived' in the manger and then, after the Shepherds' reading, the shepherd boy was taken to the porch by the Rice family. The two Services of music and readings, each restricting the congregation to twenty people, were fully booked and a short celebration of Christmas was held on Christmas Day. We are grateful to Reverend Jane Frost, Reverend Sue Astbury and Reader Richard Frost for all their support throughout the year, their contribution to the Parish Newsletter, the Haldon Team Newsletter and the Haldon Team website, especially during a vacancy for Team Rector.

Electoral Roll. At present there are 34 Ideford parishioners on the Electoral Roll. There was one Memorial Service held in Ideford Church in January 2020. No weddings or baptisms due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Deanery Synod

No Meetings were attended.

Church Fabric

Insufficient funds were available to undertake any planned repairs of the church fabric during 2020. Routine maintenance was restricted to the annual contract to service fire extinguishers and the pre-winter clearance of roof gutters and rainwater downpipes.

Mission and Evangelism

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at St Mary's Ideford and to become part of our parish family. We actively welcome everyone and our main objective is to be a welcoming, open and helpful part of our village community.

Financial Review

The financial statements attached were approved by Ideford PCC at their Meeting on 8 March 2021 and examined by Frances Tilley as Independent Examiner on 11 March 2021 before submission to the Diocesan Board of Finance by 31 March 2021. The Annual Parish Meeting and APCM will be held at Ideford Parish Church on 2 May 2021 at 6.30 p.m. after Evensong.

At 1 January 2020 funds of £5,000.98 were held in the church accounts. Throughout 2019 Ideford Church PCC, supported by the village community and not only rose to the challenge of fund raising to recover the church's precarious financial position but also supported the

Bellringers' appeal to raise £1,687.10 to replace the church tower bell ropes. Therefore, of the £5,000.98 held on 1 January 2020, £1,687.10 was designated for the purchase of new bell ropes and £400 restricted for fabric repairs to the tower. The bell ropes were purchased in February 2020 at a cost of £1,312.80 which with the addition of the Listed Places of Worship Grant VAT) of £218.80 leaves a balance of £593.10 designated for the bell ropes fund. A claim for refund of Gift Aid Tax is outstanding.

The Covid-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the financial position of Ideford Church throughout 2020, and indeed continues to do so. The lack of church services, including weddings, has led to a significant fall in income compared to 2020. The PCC is grateful for the generosity and support of the wonderful parishioners who have continued to donate during this challenging period, especially the contributors to the Parish Giving Scheme whose ongoing support has met direct debit payments of insurance, heat, light and maintenance throughout the year.

Unfortunately, due to the timing of lockdown, the planned fundraising events of the year had to be cancelled. Instead, but on a smaller scale, the fundraising team held a 'takeaway' Cream Tea event in October, received income from the Easy fundraising scheme, sold homemade 'Masks for Christmas' and received a one-third share of Ideford's Christmas raffle. Towards the end of the year financial management of the Parish Newsletter was handed back to Ideford Church Fund by Ideford Parish Council together with a surplus of £107 from previous years.

Common Fund. Ideford apportioned assessment £5,702.50p. In their response to the Diocesan 'Parish Finance Questionnaire' for the six months 1 January – 30 June 2020, Ideford PCC anticipated being able to meet 80% of their 2020 Common Fund. Covid-19 had prohibited opportunities for community fund raising events and church fee income resulting in a potential £4,000 shortfall in income for the year. Regrettably, as a consequence of ongoing Covid-19 lockdown, cancellation of planned fundraising events, reduced income from collections and an unexpected request for a contribution of £400 towards Haldon Team administration and website costs, the PCC was unable to meet their target by 31 December. Drawing on funds raised in 2019, £3000 had been paid towards the 2020 apportioned assessment by the end of December. At their January 2021 Meeting the PCC approved a further £500 payment to bring Ideford's 2020 contributions to £3,500 leaving a balance outstanding of £2,202.50 i.e. just over 62% and being the maximum CF payment achievable for 2020. Ideford PCC will now focus on raising funds towards the 2021 CF assessment.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has no reserves.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults). A copy of the Action Plan from the Safeguarding Dashboard will be uploaded to the Team website as one of the APCM reports. There are a number of Safeguarding matters to be addressed prior to the commencement of any Children's Activities, for example, a role description for the activity lead and a specific risk assessment. As a Church, we are up to date with all other Safeguarding matters. Thank you to all concerned.

Structure, Governance and Management

At the APCM on 18th October 2020 five Members of the PCC expressed their willingness to continuing to serve as a collaborative team. The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. In the absence of a Churchwarden for St Mary's, the PCC comprised the Team Vicar (Chair), Members of the PCC elected by those on the Electoral roll, a Deanery Synod representative, Safe Guarding Liaison Officer and PCC Secretary. The Sidesman and Ladies ensured that everyone received a warm welcome to Church Services and provided support and preparation for visiting clergy during the vacancy. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, to stand for election to the PCC and contribute to the management of Ideford Parish Church. Mrs Martin was re-appointed as Treasurer and Mrs Tilley would be invited to act as Independent Examiner.

