

Plympton St. Mary

*Annual Report
and
Financial Statements
of the
Parochial Church Council*

For the Year ended 31st December 2007

Incumbent

*The Rev. M Cameron
St Mary's Vicarage,
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Plympton,
Plymouth PL7 4HP*

Bank

*NatWest,
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PLYMPTON. ST. MARY. - ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2008

St. Mary's PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, The Rev. Prebendary Margaret Cameron, to promote in the ecclesiastical parish of Plympton St. Mary the whole mission of the Church, worship, mission and service. We seek to work together pursuing our mission statement:

“Serving Christ in the heart of Plympton and beyond.”

The Parochial Church Council

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected annually at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Clergy: (ex officio on PCC)

Rev. Prebendary Margaret Cameron, Rev. Roger Beck, Rev. Mark Brimicombe and Rev Harvey Barnes.

Wardens: (ex officio on PCC)

Mr. Peter Leigh (until May 2007); Mr. Julian Otto and Mr. Keith Escott (from May 2007)

Elected to the Deanery Synod, for session ending 2009 (Ex officio on PCC)

Mrs. Margaret Leigh, Dr. Tim Smyth

Elected Members

Elected to 2010

David Farley
Alison Thompson
Carolyn Wade

Elected to 2009

Miss Mavis Buttle
Mr. Thomas Allen
(resigned)
Miss Lucy Skinner
Mrs. Lin Foster
Mr. David Evans

Elected to 2008

Mrs. Glenys Otto
Mr. David Nicholls
Mr. Keith Shepperd (Treasurer)
Miss Deborah Tozer (Secretary)
Mrs. Joan Humphries
Mrs. Alison Martin
Mrs. Sarah Duckworth

Co-opted Member: Mrs. Mary Wild

The PCC is made up of: All Licensed Clergy (4), Wardens (2), Deanery Synod Reps (3) and 15 elected members: each elected for a period of 3 years. Also, persons co-opted by the PCC, in accordance with regulations.

Committees & Working Groups:

Standing Committee.

This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. The PCC has set up a number of working groups to consider various aspects of the church's work and responsibilities. These report on a regular basis and make recommendations for the PCC to consider in the following areas: Christian Stewardship, The Churchyard, The Parish Centre, Publicity, Social Events, The World Church, Worship & Pastoral Care. All PCC members serve on at least one of these groups. During the year a faculty was obtained that designated a further area of the Churchyard for the interment of cremated remains, situated on the west side of the church, but with the express condition that flower vases etc were not permitted.

One of the main tasks undertaken by the PCC during the year has been that of compiling a Mission Action Plan. This was completed in July and submitted to the Archdeacon of Plymouth for consideration by his group. We await their comments and recommendations. In our thinking about how to proceed towards a Mission Community, we are aware of the need to work more closely with our neighbouring parish of Plympton St. Mary. Therefore our Mission Action Plan has a provisional nature, so that we can continue to explore ways of working together in mission and ministry. We looked at four areas of the church's life (Worship; Loving Service in the Community; Building up the Body of Christ; Proclamation) and identified the following priorities:

Worship:

Young people must be a real priority. We need a paid youth worker to initiate this and to build a team of lay people to work with the young.

- Café Style Worship, as a fresh expression of church
- Some re-ordering of the parish church (for community use as well as worship)
- Initiatives to encourage people back to church
- Lay pastoral assistants to maintain regular worship in residential and nursing homes

Loving Service in the Community:

- More work in the residential and nursing homes—befriending etc
- Bereavement support on an individual basis
- More liaison between parent & toddler groups, schools and church
- More contact with residents in sheltered accommodation

All the above require more lay involvement

Building up the Body of Christ:

- Develop house groups—add to the present number
- Free clergy from administration to allow more time for study and teaching
- Establish enquiry courses

Proclamation:

- Strengthen ecumenical links, using opportunities to work together, e.g. currently Palm Sunday procession and Chaddlewood Good Friday walk of witness
- A team of lay leaders (possibly including ex teachers) to be available to schools

As noted before, we would welcome opportunities to work with others, in the first instance with our neighbouring parish of Plympton St. Maurice.

Needs

We consider that we would need the following staffing levels in order to implement and maintain this Mission Action Plan:

2 Stipendiary full-time clergy

A training post

Non-stipendiary priest(s)

15 hours a week administration

A part-time youth worker - possibly shared with other parishes in the Deanery of Moorside

Reader(s)

We have already begun to implement some of these recommendations. Two people trained as Lay Pastoral Assistants (Lynn Foster and Keith Escott) and were commissioned by the Bishop of Plymouth in December 2007. An Emmaus Course was planned to encourage exploration of the Christian faith. This started early in 2008, with a course for adults and one for young people. The Harvest services at St. Mary's on 30th September were designated 'Back to Church Sunday'. This weekend was a very special time for Chaddlewood United Church celebrating its 20th anniversary. It was an occasion for rejoicing, shared by many friends. The service on Sunday 30th September was conducted by The Revd. Prebendary John Richards, the previous incumbent who had been instrumental in the establishment of the Community Centre at Chaddlewood and the church there.

The Church School: St Mary's V.A. Infants' School

Headmistress: Mrs. Mary Wild gives regular reports to the PCC. The incumbent and PCC are committed to promoting good relations between school and church. The Vicar is an ex-officio School Governor and with other members of the clergy enjoys weekly visits to take school assembly. At least once a term the school comes to church for a service. At the end of the summer term this includes the presentation of Children's Bibles to all the children who are leaving. This gift is made by the PCC and St. Mary's Mothers' Union.

Pre-School, Parent and Toddlers, Stork Club

These organisations maintain important links with the Church and Church School as they work with families with very young children. The Vicar served as Chairman of the Pre-School Committee until October, when The Revd. Harvey Barnes was elected as chairman.

Other Organisations

There are many groups and organizations within the life of the church that provide activities and support for a wide range of people. These include the Monday Bereavement Group, Anchor Club, BUDS, Melting Pot. Groups and organisations have, as usual, been invited to send in their own reports, for distribution at the annual meeting. These groups can only function as a result of committed voluntary help, and this is gratefully acknowledged.

The Church Family

Worship is at the centre of our common life. Attendance at the Sunday services maintains a steady average of 150 + each week. It is encouraging to have some young families regularly present at the Parish Eucharist, and we appreciate the work that Sunday Club leaders do in planning interesting projects for the children who meet during the 9.30 service. They join the rest of the congregation at the Peace, and report on their activities at the end of the service. On some Sundays in the year everyone comes together for 'all age' worship. It is hoped to develop this aspect of the church's worship.

At the end of 2007 Mrs. Lyudmila Grimes was appointed as Director of Music, to take up her duties in February 2008. Particular thanks are due to Mrs. Pauline Nicholls and Mr. Lionel Footer for all that they have done in leading the music during the time we have been without a Director. We are grateful to all the members of the choir for their contribution to the musical life of the church.

We were pleased to welcome a member of the Franciscan Order to lead devotions at St. Mary's during Holy Week. This proved to be a great help to many. Sr. Hilary stayed from Palm Sunday until Easter Day. It was a good experience, adding to our appreciation of this holy season.

Sadly a joint Confirmation Service, planned to take place in Plympton St. Maurice had to be cancelled because of insufficient candidates. Candidates from the parish of Plympton St. Mary were confirmed by The Bishop of Exeter at St. Mary's, Tamerton Foliot. In July the Revd. Roger Beck celebrated the Silver Jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood. This was marked with a Eucharist followed by refreshments in the parish hall and presentations. It was a good opportunity for us to express the high regard in which he is held.

There are daily services at St. Mary's Church, supported by a small and faithful group of people. Holy Communion is taken regularly to the nursing and residential homes of the parish, and to individuals unable to attend church. The Mothers' Union have a monthly Corporate Communion and a quarterly service in church. A 'Julian' Group meets monthly for contemplative prayer in St. Mary's. House groups meet through the year to encourage Bible study and a deeper understanding of Christian faith. In November, the Revd. Prebendary Philip Luff led a parish Quiet Day at Buckfast Abbey. This is the second time that this has been held, and it is planned to make it an annual event. The spiritual life of the parish is therefore encouraged in a variety of ways.

Many people contribute to the life and worship of the church in all sorts of practical ways, among them those who work in the sacristy, ensuring that everything is ready for the services, and all the fair linen and altar requisites are in good order. Others who serve the church faithfully include the bell ringers led by The Tower Captain, Mrs. Mary Nicholls, the church cleaners, church 'cashiers', the parish office staff, servers, chalice

assistants, readers and sidesmen. Flower arrangers and brass cleaners similarly give tremendous service. Mark Chanter has been employed as grounds man in the churchyard. A committed group of volunteers has worked hard too, and as a result the Churchyard has been maintained in excellent order. During 2007 the electoral roll was revised, and particular thanks are due to Mrs. Rosemary Crawford for all her work as Electoral Roll Officer.

The occasional offices – Baptism, Marriage and Funerals

The parish church continues to play a significant part in the lives of a number of people in Plympton St. Mary. During the past year we have welcomed many to church for the occasional offices. The clergy appreciate all the help they receive, including that from David Nicholls as vergers and Bob Dyer as sexton. Memorial services are held twice yearly for the families of the recently bereaved. Deborah Tozer deals with all the administration associated with baptism most efficiently, and gives a great deal of pastoral support to the families. But more help and a real sense of lay support for the church's Baptism policy are still urgently needed. The Baptism preparation session was re-vamped with this in mind, moving it from Sunday afternoon to a Saturday morning, once every two months. The clergy very much appreciate the support that 'Baptism Friends' from St. Mary's and Chaddlewood United Church have given, but we hope that more people will become involved both at Baptism services and the preparation sessions. Marriage preparation is now well established and appreciated by the couples who take part. More lay people are helping with the course now, and thanks are due to them and to Lucy Skinner and the catering team for all their help. An evening of wedding music has been held again for engaged couples and their families.

Chaddlewood United Church (meeting at Chaddlewood Farm Community Centre)

St. Mary's has agreed to be responsible for three Sundays a month following the Methodist decision to reduce its commitment. A lay team continues to lead a Family Service four times a year. There is also a range of activities through the week, including a Parent & Toddler Group. There is a real commitment to the area of Chaddlewood. Judith Goodridge and Mavis Buttle continue to provide invaluable support and encouragement to CUC.

Outreach:

Local schools have visited the church for a number of educational visits and for carol services. The 'Church Watch' scheme means that the church can be open on some weekdays in the summer months. Thanks are due to the team of volunteers. We seek to support the work of local and other charities, including the Shekinah Mission. The Vicar is serving as Chaplain to the current Lord Mayor of Plymouth. The worship of the church reaches out to the wider community in a special way at particular times of the year: the Carol Service is very much a community occasion. The uniformed organisations attend in great numbers on Remembrance Sunday. Unfortunately inclement weather prevented the annual social event and service with Plympton Civic Society on the site of Plympton Priory in June. An annual Christingle service attracts a large congregation early in December, similarly the Crib Service on Christmas Eve.

The Vicar wishes to thank her clergy colleagues and all who covered for her during her sabbatical leave in the Autumn, and everyone, especially the Churchwardens and members of the PCC for all that they do to serve God here in Plympton St. Mary.