The Parish of St Mary the Virgin

Silchester

(Part of the United Benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester, in the Diocese of Winchester)

ANNUAL REPORT for 2018

Develop in Faith Serve with Love

Presented at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting

28th April 2019

# Objectives and activities

Silchester PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Rector and Resident Priest in the promotion within the ecclesiastical parish of the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has maintenance responsibilities for St. Mary the Virgin Church and the Mission Church.

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**Secretary’s Report for 2018**

**Electoral Roll**: The Roll for 2018 contained 101 names, 44 of these people residing within the Silchester Parish.

**Proceedings of the Parochial Church Council**:

There were four full meetings of the PCC during 2018, in addition to meetings of the Standing Committee, the Finance and Stewardship Committee, and other Committees and Groups that are subordinate to the PCC itself. There was also a parish AwayDay attended by most of the PCC at which the Benefice Vision and its implications for the parish of St Mary the Virgin were considered in depth. In approximately chronological order, the main topics considered by the PCC were:

1. The appointment of governors for Silchester Church of England Primary School.
2. Preparations for the project to refurbish the church bells (expected to take place during 2019).
3. Progress with the refurbishment of the Parish Rooms. Although this project neared its planned completion by the end of the year, it became increasingly apparent that further work (e.g. redecoration, replacement heating) would not be justified unless it becomes clear that there is a real need for the Rooms to come into fuller use than at present (limited largely to production of the Parish Magazine).
4. Completion and closure of the project to replace the tiling of the south side of the church roof and to replace the cladding and roof of the bell tower. The opportunity was taken as well to replace and up-rate the lightning conduction, and to repaint the weather cock.
5. Submission of two candidates for receipt of the Bishop’s Commission for Mission (Worship) to provide ongoing approval for these two people to continue to conduct non-sacramental worship services at St Mary the Virgin.
6. Safeguarding (principally monitoring the training status of PCC members).
7. Arrangements for the Commonwealth War Grave Commission to position a sign next to the entrance of the graveyard to advertise the fact that there is a war grave within the churchyard.
8. A decision, late in the year, that the few remaining grave spaces in the churchyard will be made available strictly first-come, first-served, thus disallowing the possibility of any further grave space reservations by faculty.
9. The provision of a display screen for use within the church.
10. The introduction of the General Data Protection Regulations and its impact on the manner in which parishioner information should be collected, stored and used.
11. The conclusion of the “Who Cares?” Mission that had taken place principally in 2017.
12. The transfer of the parish bank account from a NatWest branch (which has closed) to Lloyds Bank in Tadley.
13. A decision to make gluten-free wafers and alcohol-free ‘wine’ available for use.
14. An AwayDay for PCC members in order to consider in detail the Benefice Vision and how aspects of that might be brought to life in the parish of Silchester. Following the AwayDay, a proposal that a Parish Mission Action Plan Group should be formed to decide and develop the way forward.
15. The summer Fête, which was very successful, but which was followed by decisions from a number of key players to scale down or withdraw from future participation, giving rise to concern about arrangements for the Fête in 2019.
16. The future ownership and care of a painting of the church of St Mary the Virgin by Sir John Niemann that had been presented to the parish around the end of the 19th century in memory of Revd the Hon WSTW Fiennes (Rector from 1865-1880). Restoration of the frame had been carried out by Mr D Jones. It was decided to retain the picture and to hang it in the vestry.
17. It had become clear that the ‘All Age’ format of the service held on the first Sunday of each month was no longer working as originally intended, to bring families and young children to church regularly. Rev Young proposed that the All Age service should be replaced by a “First Sunday” approach – a variety of content, sometimes partly experimental, aimed more squarely at those who do traditionally attend – and this was agreed by the PCC.
18. Throughout the year, as prompted by the admirably active Missions and Charities Committee, functions and fundraising directed toward sending useful donations to charities engaged where we perceive the greatest need (including, during 2018: Daisy’s Dream; Water Aid; Shelterbox; the Camrose Centre).
19. Proposals for musical events were made by the Musical Events Committee, approved by the PCC, and successfully implemented.
20. Information, consultations and proposals emerging from the Deanery Synod (see the Deanery Synod report featuring later in this document).
21. The start of preparation for a celebration of the 60th year of production of the Silchester Parish Magazine, with particular note of the 35 years of involvement of Nancy and Marsden Jones.

Colin Hunt

(Honorary Secretary)

**Benefice Annual Report 2018**

The benefice of Tadley with Pamber Heath and Silchester consists of 3 parishes covering an area where 15,500 people live. Our combined worshipping community, defined as those who attend a service once a month, is 194 and is rising each year. We have one full time, stipendiary Rector, 1 Associate Priest (House for duty), 1 Curate and 2 very active clergy, who serve voluntarily. Our churches are run by the loving gift of the time of many people, especially those who hold positions of great responsibility: 2 Licensed Lay Ministers, 6 Churchwardens, 3 Treasurers, 3 PCC secretaries, 3 organists, 3 Safeguarding administrators, 4 Lay worship leaders with Bishop's Certificate, and numerous children's and youth workers.

We own 5 church buildings, 3 church halls/parish rooms. We have active links with 5 Primary schools, including 1 Church Aided school. We conduct approx 50 funerals per year, 10 weddings and 40 baptisms. We run cafe drop-ins, coffee mornings, Sunday schools, Messy Church, Lent lunches, youth groups and a Parent and Toddler group. Our members are involved in numerous local charities and caring organisations. We share with CTAT (Churches Together) in holiday clubs for children, Unity services and this year we have started new projects in response to Who cares, a listening mission: The Happiness Lab, a bereavement cafe, an ecumenical Alpha course, with a money advice course in development.

Our annual income across all 3 parishes is approx £210,000; we have been asked to contribute £98,450 (last year it was £94,998) to the Diocesan Common Mission Fund in 2019. CMF pays for clergy, clergy training and housing and the mission and administration of the Diocese of Winchester. We raised and gave to external charities something in excess of £5000. St Mary the Virgin, St Mary's (Tadley) and St Peter's churches all made significant and costly improvements to their buildings to ensure that worship and mission can take place here for decades to come.

During 2018, we welcomed Rev Gill Sakakini to the benefice. Although she is legally defined as a curate, we have expected her to take on all the demands and responsibilities of leading the ministry and mission of St Mary's, Tadley, and she is locally known as minister of St Mary's. Her husband, Steve, was licensed as LLM soon after they moved here, and both Gill and Steve are making a big difference in the benefice. Rev Cathy Pynn, Rev Pat Brown and Charles Lewis (LLM) continue to serve with huge devotion and giftedness. We also appreciate the ministry of Rev David Barlow in the benefice.

It is a privilege to serve God and this community alongside such a varied, loyal and generous group of followers of Jesus. I thank you for allowing me to work here.

Rev Canon Richard Harlow,

Rector, The Rectory, The Green, Tadley.

**Churchwardens’ Report**

**Fabric of the Parish Church:**

The interior and exterior of the parish church, together with all goods and ornaments therein, are in good order.

An Archdeacons Visitation took place in November when an audit of the church records took place. The Churchwardens were congratulated on having everything in very good order. Special thanks for this must be given to Mike Cole.

**Bells**

Preparations for refurbishment of the bells continued throughout the year. By the end of 2018 almost all funding for the project had been secured, a contractor had been engaged, and an application for the faculty required before physical work starts was close to submission. It is hoped that work will be completed during 2019.

**Churchyard**

An external contractor continues to maintain the grass and hedges well.

Last year it was reported that the Millennium Yew Tree had died. Happily, this turned out not to be the case, and there was a vigorous renewal of growth during 2018.

**Burial Spaces**

In view of the limited number of unused burial spaces that remain, the Parochial Church Council has decided it can no longer accept requests for reserved plots.

Ultimately, it is a Parish Council responsibility to ensure provision of burial spaces for parishioners. However, although there have been meetings with the Parish Council, an alternative burial site has yet to be identified.

**Management:**

Active safeguarding policies for the Parish were maintained through the Parish Secretary as Safeguarding Administrator, with Anita Withers as Child Protection Officer and Richard Fletcher as Vulnerable Adults Officer.

All major events are subject to very careful risk management assessments. The Treasurer reviews the Parish insurances with the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office appropriately. All funds are protected by the Government's compensation scheme. Safety and security features are managed by the Fabric manager.

**Other**

The Missions & Charities and The Musical Events Committees have continued their good work, enabling St. Mary’s to continue to donate money to charitable causes as shown in the accounts.

Veronica Picton and Sandra Speight (Churchwardens)

**Basingstoke Deanery Synod Report**

Clergy and Laity members from 16 parishes in and around Basingstoke met four times during the year, each meeting directed towards one of the four main areas of our Mission Action Plans:-

**Mission** – Across the Deanery we reach out in mission by providing Marriage and Parenting courses, Financial advice and support, Open the Book and Messy Church, The Happiness Lab, the Night Shelter and Camrose Centre supporting the homeless, Divorce Recovery Workshops and Bereavement and companionship support. Assistance and donations are given to Basingstoke Foodbank.

Please pray for all those who provide and use these services, volunteers are always needed.

**Youth Discipleship** - Speakers at our February meeting included Paul Smith the Diocesan Youth Advisor. There is a need across the deanery for those who, with training, could volunteer as mentors in schools and further education centres to offer support to our young people.

**Spirituality** – We always seek to keep our priorities right with prayer and teaching. In September we heard from those who attend Greenbelt, the Keswick Convention, Youth Camps, New Wine and Spring Harvest. We also heard about ‘Healing on the Streets’ in Basingstoke.

**Major Development Areas** - At our November meeting we heard from those parishes where major housing developments are taking place and how the churches are seeking to support all those involved.

Deanery members are very grateful to Richard for his hard work for the whole Deanery. Your local representatives are Brian Worth and George Duckett.

**Treasurer’s Report**

**for the year ending December 2018**

As ever I begin by offering my sincere gratitude to: Sue Willmott for her diligent recording of cash receipts which of course helps us to maintain accurate records of the levels of designated funds held; Sheila and Richard Fletcher for their tireless administration of the Gift Aid claims and the stewardship of the Parish Giving Scheme; and to the Finance and Stewardship Committee for its continued encouragement and support.

The 2018 year end accounts presented in the following pages once again show a healthy position, but challenges exist for 2019 and beyond. 2019 should see the start of the renovation of the bells at St. Mary’s and whilst the appointed contractor regards this as relatively straightforward, we do not know what surprises the fabric of the church may have in store. Furthermore, the volunteer base which hitherto has shown remarkable strength and depth is uncertain and means that village fundraising events that have in recent years, contributed significantly to the PCC finances (e.g. the Fête) are likely to be slimmed down or possibly not take place at all. That the overall fabric of the church remains in such excellent order is one fortunate element that should not cause us major concern any time soon.

In addition to supporting the Ministry of Canon Richard and Reverend Rob in 2018, the church managed to support external charities with donations in excess of £2,000.

Overall, Silchester PCC remains in a fortunate position. We have cash reserves in order to support the church fabric and ministry and have depth of resources to draw upon in our church family. 2019 poses new challenges, some of which are set out above, but overall the PCC, the village and all who attend or are involved can take pride in their church and church family.

Richard Eldridge

Honorary Treasurer



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**Parochial Church Council of St Mary the Virgin, Silchester**

**Independent Examiner’s Report**

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2018, which are set out on pages 1 to 5.

**Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed. The charity is preparing accrued accounts and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants.

It is my responsibility to:

• examine the accounts under section 145 of the Charities Act 2011;

• to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and

to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

**Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

• to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and

• to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Scott Broadhead (FCCA)

Manor Beeches Cottage

Maids Moreton

Buckingham

MK18 1QA

THE PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING &**

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

AGENDA FOR THE MEETINGS AT ST MARY THE VIRGIN, SILCHESTER, ON

SUNDAY APRIL 28th 2018 (following the 10 am Service)

**ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING**

1. Opening Prayers
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of the previous meeting on 22nd April 2018
4. Election of Churchwardens for 2019/20

**ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING**

1. Welcome – The Rector
2. Presentation of the Church Electoral Roll
3. Approval of minutes from last APCM of 22nd April 2018
4. Presentation of Annual Report containing:
* Secretary’s Report of proceedings of the PCC and the activities of the Parish generally (including report of the Local Ministry Team)
* Rector’s Report
* Churchwardens’ Report (including Fabric, Goods and Ornaments)
* Deanery Synod Report
* Treasurer’s Report and presentation of 2018 accounts
* Independent Examiner’s Report on the accounts
1. Election of Officers
* Deanery Synod representative (1 required)
* Members of the PCC for 2019/20

4 required (1 for 1 year, 3 for 3 years)

* Sidesmen for 2018/9
1. Appointment of Independent Examiner
2. Closing Prayers