

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, HEYBRIDGE
WITH ST GEORGE'S HEYBRIDGE BASIN**

**ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008**

Administrative information

The Parish of Heybridge is part of the Maldon and Dengie Deanery in the Diocese of Chelmsford within the Church of England.

Parish Church

St Andrew's, Heybridge
situated in The Street, Heybridge.



Churches:

Daughter Church

St George's, Heybridge Basin
situated in Basin Road, Heybridge Basin



Incumbent

The Revd Peter Low
Commenced July 2008
The Vicarage
1a Crescent Road
Heybridge
Maldon
CM9 4SJ.

Banks

Barclay's Bank PLC
Abbey
NS&I

Independent Examiner

Mr Robert Easby
Demark Forrester Ltd
1a High Street
Southminster
CM0 7AA

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) and St George's Church are charities excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

Objectives and activities

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. It has responsibility for the parish church (St Andrew), the daughter church (St George), the Waring Room and the Land behind Holloway Road and the overview of the Vicarage.

Who are the PCC?

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

Membership

Ex officio members are the Incumbent, Reader, two church wardens and two Deanery Synod members. Elected members number nine.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2008 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: The Revd Peter Low *Chairman (from 1st July 2008)*

Readers: Mrs Lynne Wood
Mrs Julia MacGregor *(from October 2008)*

Wardens: Mrs Tim Hawkins
Mr Peter Wood

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

(until APCM 2008) Mrs Lynne Wood
Mrs Rita Smith
(from APCM 2008) Miss Judith Manley *Secretary, Deputy Warden (St George's)*

Elected Members

Term ends APCM 2009:

Mr Nick Hillyard *Electoral Roll officer (resigned Sept 2008)*

Mrs Doreen Clarke

Mrs Veronica Miller

Term ends APCM 2010:

Mrs Linda Moore *Electoral Roll Officer*

Mrs Julia MacGregor

Miss Catherine MacGregor

Term ends APCM 2011:

Mrs Corinne Allerton *Hon. PCC Treasurer*

Mrs Freda Kelley-Squires

Mrs Joy Norman

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules.

All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Church attendance

There are 60 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 4 of whom are not resident within the parish. No names were added during the year and 2 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 30 Adults and 2 Children. At Christmas services there were a total of 110 of which 90 were communicants, at Easter the figures were 60 and 57.

Review of the year

The full PCC met six times during the year with an average level of attendance of 83%.

Regular Staff Meetings were held fortnightly by the Wardens, and Readers for the sharing of information and concerns during the vacancy, and continue on a monthly basis under the leadership of the Vicar. If need be, a Standing Committee comprising the Vicar, Readers, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary may meet between PCC meetings to progress items of business that are urgent.

The parish began the year still in a vacancy and we were very grateful for the ministry of our Reader Lynne Wood, and of the many visiting clergy who continued to support us. During February and March a Lent course was held in the parish. Our usual services were held during Holy Week and the United Benefice came together for a Passover Supper. Members of our congregations joined in the procession of witness in Maldon on Good Friday and some took part in the Sunrise Service on the Hythe. Easter was then joyfully celebrated in both churches.

We were saddened by the sudden death of John Thurston in April. He had been a good friend to so many of us, was a lay assistant of communion and had recently become involved in the revival of the Sunday School.

The usual elections took place at the Annual Meeting in April and at the Sunday Services following the APCM our Churchwarden's were at last able to announce that the arrival of a new vicar was in sight.

In June poor weather drove the Strawberry Fayre indoors at St George's but nevertheless a good number of friends and neighbours attended. Also in June history was made at St George's church when the marriage of Jo and Steve Lacey took place. As the church had never been licensed for marriages, and a licence could not be applied for during the vacancy, the marriage took place by Archbishop's licence. The sun shone on us, the church looked its best and 107 people attended, nearly all of whom found seats in the church.

The Diocese completed some refurbishment and, with Tim Hawkins' expertise and organisational skills, the parishes completed the redecoration of the vicarage. All was prepared and on Tuesday July 1st Reverend Peter Low was instituted by Bishop John.

On Reverend Peter's first weekend he was able to experience the Bradwell Pilgrimage with a group from the parish. The following week he led the Sea Sunday Service on the Lock Hill, where we earned a round of applause for our unaccompanied singing.

We are grateful to the McCready family for their generosity in allowing us to once again use the garden at Jacob's farm for our traditional Summer Fete, which was well attended by locals and holiday makers.

At the start of September both churches supported the Friends of Essex Churches Ride and Stride event. Cyclists and walkers were welcomed and money raised through sponsorship and donations.

A new venture was to split the Christmas Bazaar into two events which could be held in the Waring Room. In September a Bric a brac & books Sale was held followed in November by a Christmas Market of crafts and produce.

October Readers' Day in the Cathedral saw the licensing of Julia MacGregor as Reader and she now joins our ministry team. On the 6th of October St Andrew's was closed for redecoration. Mid week services were held at St George's and Sunday services in the Waring Room. The work was successfully completed in time to return to St Andrew's for the patronal festival on 30th November.

Christmas services followed our usual format except for the Blessing of the Crib which this year was combined with a Christingle Service. All services were well attended.

Fundraising events throughout the year consisted of monthly coffee mornings in both churches and regular jumble sales in the Waring Room. Sunday School continues to meet on the first and third Sundays and Edward Bear Club for carers and pre school children meets on Friday afternoons during term time. Craft Club for teenagers and adults continues to meet twice a month. The Parish is a part of Churches Together in Maldon, sending representatives to CTiM meetings and making a financial contribution towards the work of the Maldon Schools' Worker.

Before the end of the year we had confirmation that St George's is now licensed for marriages to take to place. An ad hoc committee of Vicar, deputy churchwarden and members of St George's congregation has been investigating the possibility of providing improved facilities for worship and for community activities. On the recommendation of the Archdeacon our new Vicar instigated a working party in the new year to clear saplings and undergrowth in the west end of St Andrew's churchyard, opening up the view of the church which has been welcomed by many members of the community.

Towards the end of 2008 the Vicar sought the views of church members, via a questionnaire, with regard to mission and worship. Lent 2009 saw a resulting change in the pattern of services.

St Andrew's Financial Report 2008

Planned tax-efficient giving in 2008 was £9,093 compared with £9,805 in 2007, a decrease of £712 or approximately 7%. The tax recovered showed a decrease of £164 or about 5.5%.

Donations show an increase on last years figure, rising from £5186 to £5742, an increase of £556 or nearly 10%. This is partly due to an increase in the amount received from St. Georges and also due to there being more donations coming in via funerals and weddings

than last year. Overall incoming resources from donors rose by £372 approximately 2% on last year's figure.

Income from investments is showing a very small increase of £8 being due to an increase in interest received from investments despite there being a decrease on interest received from the NSB Investment Account.

Activities for generating funds have fallen from last years figure by £1419 or approximately 15%. This is due in part to the Waring Room having decrease in revenue with the amount brought in from Fees falling by £332 or almost 21%.

Overall receipts excluding non-recurring income were down by £1047, approximately 3%. The amount contributed to the Parish Share was £22353, £523 less than 2007 and short by £1500 of the amended target, at approximately 94%, as the original target figure was reduced by £6228 due to the prolonged vacancy.

There have been donations made to The Children's Society, Water Aid, Essex Air Ambulance, the Essex Clergy Charity and other charities totalling approximately £1351 during the year as well as a £700 contribution paid towards the expenses of the CTIM Youth Worker.

The cost of Church Running Expenses has increased by £264, approximately 9%, due to an increase in the amount paid in insurance and also owing to two years of both RSCM and CCLI subscriptions being included in this years figure. The Waring Room has produced a deficit this year this is due to some revenue not being received in 2008 from hall users. This should mean therefore an increase in revenue showing in next years figure.

Due to continued support from Church members and also by the wider community in response to the Church Restoration fund there has been further income of £3212 towards the work during the year, plus a further £1538 reclaimed via Gift Aid and also a VAT refund of £1565. With £13500 of grants received from Friends of Essex Churches and an interest free loan from a parishioner it has been possible to pay for the internal decoration of the church with new carpets being laid in 2009. The fund will increase over the next year due to Planned Giving, along with tax refunded on Gift Aided monies. There has been £32230 paid out for the decoration in the church.

St George's Financial Report 2008

Total receipts were £6183 and are detailed in the Financial Statement. This represented a 6.5% increase over 2007. However a larger proportion than previously of these receipts came from one off donations. Income from fund raising events fell by 49% and planned giving and church collections fell by 17%. Payments of £6043 were made to provide the Christian ministry from St George's Church, an increase of 3.7% over 2007. This included a £4000 contribution to the diocesan parish share, which largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. £448 was spent on Locum fees and expenses as a result of the vacancy, which was offset by locum fee refunds from the Diocese of £408. Church running costs of £985 represented an 8.4% increase on 2007. The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £140. After adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December was £2732.51 which equates to between approximately 6 months payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time.

Approved by the PCC on 31st March 2009 and signed on their behalf by Revd Peter Low (PCC chairman)

