

ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS of
the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL of the ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH of
ST MARK'S HIGHCLIFFE DIOCESE OF WINCHESTER

For the Year ended 31st December 2018

Priest-in-charge: The Reverend Gill Nobes

Independent Examiner:

Sue Wintle MFAAT

Solicitors:

Aldridge Brownlee Solicitors LLP, Highcliffe

Bankers:

HSBC Bank plc, Christchurch

Charity Number 1150249

St. Mark's Church - Annual Report for 2018

Aim and purposes

St. Mark's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Gillian Nobes, 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, the two churchyards, St. Mark's Hall and Library. A Parish Office is situated within the complex.

Objectives and Activities

St Mark's Church is here to serve God, each other and the community. Our Christian faith is at the heart of our mission in Highcliffe. We are a friendly, varied and supportive group of people who meet to worship and minister together to share our love of God in our community.

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at St Mark's Highcliffe. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live within our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the aims we set in our pMAP. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish community 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.
- Missionary and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Mark's and the Church Hall and Library.

Achievement and Performance

Worship and Outreach

The PCC is keen that we offer a range of services and events during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling.

During 2018 we celebrated

- our Taizé service which provides a quiet, intimate and reflective environment for worship, numbers attending this service are increasing.
- our informal prayer group continues to meet weekly and is enjoyed
- through our pMAP we researched forms of informal worship which might be offered at St. Mark's and this led to the launch of Breakfast@9 informal weekly worship in January 2018. This lay-led ministry is still in its infancy and has begun to attract families who are attending regularly. We need to ensure we celebrate the continuing success of this service.
- The Parish Act of Remembrance was held during the 10am service leading to the Act of Remembrance at the Memorial at 11am, bringing the whole community together with an Ecumenical service involving both Highcliffe Schools, the

Uniformed groups and members of the whole community many of whom stayed and enjoyed the refreshments provided.

- This year we were able to offer two Lent courses both of which were well supported by our own congregation and some from other local churches
- this year our Alpha Course was a smaller group but appreciated by those who attended. During 2019 we will also be holding an Alpha Course follow up, where a small group will meet fortnightly, using the Moving-On material from LYCIG.
- Quiet mornings continue to be well received and attendance is growing, members of other churches have also attended.
- all the activities and services for Advent and Christmas were well received and numbers attending were good, especially on Christmas Day when most of the people were visitors.
- Following training from Rev Phil Dykes we launched our Prayer Ministry which takes place during the 10am service and has been well received.
- Father Roy launched a weekly Bible Study group (read the bible in a year) which is well supported.
- Work in Highcliffe St Mark's Primary School continues to grow and develop, our teams are welcomed each week to lead
- Open the Book now reaching over 200 children each week
- The Awesome After School Club has grown and it now has 16 children attending weekly
- Church Club continues to be well supported
- Little Fishes continues to be well supported and valued by the community. The team is thanked for this valuable outreach.
- Stories and Songs has been revamped and renamed "Play and Praise" and meets monthly in Church.
- Revd Gill has worked hard to develop Ecumenical links in Highcliffe and has managed to arrange meetings and now Ecumenical partners meet regularly for lunch and discussions to bring us closer together. An ecumenical Palm Sunday Walk of Witness took place and will be repeated in 2019.
- Several Social Activities and Events have taken place which have included a BBQ and Harvest Lunch both events were much appreciated by those who attended. At the annual Rotary Fete, a group attend and distributed information about St Mark's. An Organ recital and Concert were held in church and we hope to repeat these events in 2019. Our Craft Fair was a success and raised valuable funds for Kinkiizi our Deanery link in Uganda.
- Our parish magazine "Parish News" editorial team continues to produce the magazine 11 times a year. The advertising revenue helps with running costs. Any surplus monies go to church funds. We thank everyone involved in all aspects of the production, collation, subscription collection and distribution of the magazine.
- Ladies' Group currently has 37 paid-up members and there has been a regular attendance of more than 24 members each month. They have continued to have a wide variety of interesting speakers covering a range of topics. "Outside" events have included an Annual Lunch at the Amberwood, a summer evening walk followed by supper at the Beach Hut Café and a Theatre Experience in our own Church Hall by the Milton Musical Society. They have served coffee after the 10.00am service in March, June, September and December.

Unfortunately, they couldn't help at the Rotary Club Fete in July 2018 because the cooking appliance used to produce Welsh cakes did not pass Health and Safety Regulations. Unless Rotary Club can help by providing a suitable gas stove they will be unable to help the Friends of St. Mark's with their fund-raising. The continuing success of this friendly, Church out-reaching group depends upon their strong, reliable Committee.

- The Mothers Union continues to meet regularly. Members attend the Deanery Services and some of the Bring and Share Prayer lunches held at branches throughout the Deanery, the Diocesan Festival Service and at Mary Sumner Day. Members help in all capacities in the life of St. Mark's Church, supporting at Baptisms and a member sends a card on the anniversary of the event for the first five years and members have sponsored prayer books or bibles given to the children. Another member sends cards to those who are ill or if there is a special birthday or anniversary. They are still run by Committee and thanks go to all for the hard work and commitment shown.

In 2018, PCC were happy to support the training and commissioning of one member of our congregation as a BCM (Bishops Commission for Mission) Worship Leader, three members as BCM Pastoral leaders and one member has been licensed as a Licensed Lay Worker.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. At present there are 189 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 33 of whom are not resident within the parish. 7 names were added during the year and 8 were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October, was 114, but this number increased 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. We have celebrated 15 baptisms and 1 wedding and held 26 funerals in our church this year.

Christchurch Deanery Synod

Three members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church. There were 3 meetings of Synod during 2018.

At the first meeting in March, the final draft of the Deanery Mission Action Plan was formally adopted by Synod. Another important topic at the meeting was Pastoral Reorganisation. Synod was advised that it was proposed to go down the route of church planting sourced from St Swithun's, Bournemouth, and aimed at the 97% of New Milton population not currently at churches. The subsequent Q&A session drew a vigorous response from Synod members. Also, at the meeting, Gill Tybjerg reported that nearly £15,000 had been raised for Kinkiizi in 2017, twice as much as the previous year. Projects have included the MU Bakery, the Health Centre Staff House and Female Hygiene Packs.

In May, Synod held its annual Excite event, open to everyone in the Deanery. The speaker this year was Canon Paul Harris, who talked on the Holy Spirit – Truth, Dare, Promise, and the Revd Nigel Lacey led a reflection on prayer.

The second meeting of Synod was in June and provided updates on various ongoing activities. The dMAP was now moving into the Act and the review process for updating pMAPs would begin in the

autumn for completion next July. Under Pastoral Reorganisation, it was reported that the church plant in New Milton had been delayed and this drew a reaction of significant frustration from Synod members. It was also reported that the “Benefice of the Future” project was now underway, and Avon Valley Partnership in the Deanery was one of the 3 rural benefices that were taking part. On a pleasing note, Gill Tybjerg told the meeting that a Lent appeal for Bwanja Primary School had been very successful, raising almost £4500 within the Deanery.

The final Synod of the year was the Saturday Synod open meeting in September at Highcliffe. At this meeting, Gordon Randall led a workshop on ‘Living Generously’ and Jen Sissons talked about Ministry to new housing areas. The Meeting was framed by Communion, and there was a good attendance from across the Deanery.

Pastoral Support

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. Revd Gill has when possible visited church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital.

We continue to support those unable to attend church due to ill health in their own homes as well as in nursing homes both in and out of our parish. This outreach is greatly appreciated, and the Home Communion team feel very privileged to support our church family by undertaking this task.

Our Parish Visitors Team meets regularly to arrange visits to people in the parish who are housebound, who may have some difficulties in getting out and about or feel lonely without family support and therefore welcome a home call from time to time. In general, they work within the parish but always pass on useful contact numbers to people who make enquiries from further away.

This year we have developed a ‘Welcome Pack’ for delivery to all new homes in the parish (major housing developments are on-going) and to all houses changing hands. Members of the congregation are encouraged to deliver these packs and welcome those moving to and within the Parish.

Three members attended Diocesan Bereavement visiting training and have developed a “Bereavement Befriender” team and when requested will be visiting those recently bereaved.

Charitable Support

The Charitable support Ministry Group has three functions to ensure a broad level of contact is maintained with mission partners adopted by the Parish and with relevant mission agencies.

- Update the congregation, build networks of support in prayer and other ways
- Recommend and advise PCC on use of the “special festival collections”
- The group particularly seeks NOT to undermine the valuable activities of other similarly engaged Church groups; rather where appropriate support them.

An early decision was made to focus on a smaller number of projects and where possible to increase the congregations understanding of their needs and issues.

The group agreed that if a member of the congregation wishes, with PCC approval, to start a new project the group cannot “run it for them” but will assist with support for them or the project leader. To be a success each project must have a clear lead person.

Currently there are two main sections to the group.

International **Helping the Deanery Kinkiizi connection.** Build residential facilities at the Health Centre and the new Bwanja Primary School and most importantly the ongoing **Eve Project**.

Christian Aid is seeking new collectors. St Marks is the only Church in Highcliffe regularly collecting for this charity.

Christmas Boxes this year were run through Highcliffe Rotary.

We have agreed on a **“Toilet Twinning Project”** and will recommend to the PCC that Christmas 2019 collections are spread between three charities the Children’s Society, Christian Aid and the **“Twinning of St Mark’s three toilets”**. We need someone who will develop and publicise within the Church this important project.

Local St Marks Church continues great generosity to the **Christchurch Foodbank**

At Harvest 2019 it will again be recommend to the PCC that donations go to the **Women’s Refuge**. Also recommended is that a second collection is donated early in the New Year 2020!

New Members The group would welcome new members to help us. ONLY three possibly two, one hour, meetings a year is not too onerous. As mentioned, we particularly need someone to run the Toilet Twinning Project and someone to provide connections with Highcliffe Rotary and Greystones charities.

Not only has Voluntary work been proved by repeated research to improve the volunteer’s own health; there are few better ways of demonstrating God’s love for His world and our prayerful gratitude to Him.

Church Fabric

We want our church to be open to our community for private prayer. Unfortunately, since unwelcome incidents last year we felt unable to leave the entire church open for private worship. We are however pleased that by fixing bolts to the inner doors we have made the body of church secure and are now able to open the foyer area and make better use of this space. The AV system has been updated during 2018. We have begun the process to get permission to install a new heating system. The lights have been replaced with LED lights which will last longer and use less electricity.

The condition of and maintenance of the churchyards and Church Avenue continue to be a challenge. Tony Renyard (main churchyard) and the Hampshire Community Group (new churchyard) try to keep on top of the routine mowing and strimming but additional issues are more difficult to resolve. Disposal of old floral tributes creates problems because they are a mix of compostable, recyclable and non-recyclable materials. This is currently being done with volunteer help and additional help would be welcomed.

Dorset County Council agreed to sell the PCC a strip of land for £1000 but it may not be possible to achieve this purchase in the time scale imposed by local government reorganisation and we may need to renegotiate with the BCP authority. Further negotiations are required with Brentland regarding the other pieces of land following the valuations received.

Plans are in hand to improve the areas set aside for the burial of cremated remains through the levelling of all the memorial stones by the addition of topsoil. This will both improve the look of the areas and assist maintenance.

Plans to provide an all-weather path in the new Churchyard are on hold until funding for the church heating has been sourced.

Financial Review

We have been very privileged this year to receive legacies from the estates of David Cundy and Paddy Wickens. The £3000 from the latter has been assigned to the purchase of electric blinds for the high windows in the Hall. We have yet to decide on something to commemorate David. In the meantime, some of his £81000 has allowed us to remain solvent.

We continue to be grateful for the funds from those who give regularly – in December we had 43 donors using the Parish Giving Scheme; this is our preferred method, as it saves administration and is easy for donors. In total giving and gift aid received, £77000, was less than last year £82000. However, our stewardship special appeal resulted in gifts worth £5000 including gift aid. This is included in the donations amount.

During the year there were other fundraising ideas – a “Sing Messiah”, an organ concert, a craft fair. Particularly unexpected was £1000 from our insurer, Ecclesiastical, who randomly selected 130 from nominated charities to celebrate their 130th year by giving them £1000 each.

Our largest expenditure is the Common Mission Fund. We paid our allocated share in full. However, this was an agreed reduced amount (£80000), a reduction which may not be repeated. Despite this, the difference between normal income and normal expenditure still shows a loss of £22000, slightly worse than in 2017.

This year we have had several large unusual expenditure items. As well as capital additions of £12000 (sound system, screen and heating project), we have invested £18000 in refurbishing the Hall, and £8000 on the church, including upgrading the church lighting to LED. We think the latter will save 20% of lighting cost in future. (We were let down by our new electricity supplier, SSE, who was unable to provide a meter reading for eight months which has clouded this issue.)

Such expenditure shows the importance of legacies, mentioned above, and the continuing support of the Friends of St Marks who gave £27000, compared to £4000 in 2017 and 2016.

In summary, our accounts are as follows:

	£'000s	
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Normal income	99	107
Normal expenditure	<u>121</u>	<u>127</u>
Loss before unusual items	<u>22</u>	<u>20</u>
Unusual income	119	24
Unusual expenditure	<u>33</u>	<u>13</u>
Gain from unusual	<u>86</u>	<u>11</u>
Overall - gain	<u>64</u>	-
- loss	-	<u>9</u>

Our restricted reserves have reduced from £22000 to £12000.

Thanks to the Cundy legacy, unrestricted reserves have gone up from £26000 to £101000.

Thank you

The PCC would like to particularly thank the retired Clergy who give so much support to us, especially when Revd Gill is required to fulfil her duties as Assistant Area Dean. We are grateful to the Reverends Angela, Darrol, Roy and Terry for everything they do for us.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the friendly, family community it is. We want to thank those who lead worship, the choir for the music that adds so much to our worship and the musicians for both their playing and direction of the choir. We also thank our dedicated team of flower arrangers and our brass cleaner who ensure our church looks beautiful for all services. A big thank you to all those who work tirelessly and quietly to support the work and smooth running of our church this includes our sacristans, chalice assistants, sides people, lesson readers, refreshments teams and church openers and lockers.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Mark's the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, the Licensed Lay Ministers and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services and members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and 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 five times during the year with an average level of attendance of 80%. The PCC operates through the *Standing Committee*: This is the only committee required by law. It has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. It consists of the Priest-in-charge, the Churchwardens and Treasurer.

Administrative information

St. Marks's Church is situated in Hinton Wood Avenue, Highcliffe. It is part of the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England.

Our **Parish Administrator**, Lorna Prout, is usually in the office on Thursdays, but monitors emails and telephone messages from home at other times. Much of her work is linked to arrangements for baptisms, weddings and funerals. Lorna also manages bookings for the Hall and Library. All correspondence should be posted to:

The Parish Administrator, St. Mark's Church, Hinton Wood Avenue, Highcliffe, Christchurch, BH23 5AA.

Or by email to: parishoffice@stmarkshighcliffe.org.uk

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

Registration as a Charity. The PCC is registered with the Charity Commission.

Membership of the PCC: Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the PCC

Priest in Charge	The Reverend Gill Nobes	Chairman
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr John Heighes Mr Colin Chatten	
Churchwardens (elected annually)	Mrs Susan Lyonette Mrs Ann Nash	Deanery Synod Safeguarding Officer Vice-Chairman
Representatives of the Deanery Synod		
(elected every 3 years for a 3-year period)	Mr Michael Goodman Mr Anthony Parkinson	
Elected Members	Mr Francis Bray	Treasurer
(elected every 3 years)	Mr David Cannings	Health and Safety Officer
	Mrs Annette Cheeseman	Secretary
	Mrs Diana Faunce	
	Dr Bob Gilbertson	
	Mrs Susie Goodman	
	Mrs Mary Matthews	
	Mrs Elizabeth Morton	
	Mr Paul Oastler	
	Mrs Jaqueline Peterson	
	Miss Maureen Stringer	LLW
	Vacancy	
	Prof Mark Hadfield (co-opted May 2018)	Legacy Officer
	Mr Michael Williamson (co-opted May 2018)	Data Protection Officer

Trustees' Duties: The Trustees have complied with the duty imposed by section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the guidance published by the Charity Commission in respect of public benefit.

Approved by the Parochial Church Council at their meeting on 18th March 2019 and signed on its behalf by

Susan Margaret Lyonette

Ann Nash

Churchwardens