

PCC SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010-2011

The objective of the PCC

The aim of the PCC is 'to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical' [PCC(Powers) Measure 1956]

The organisation of the PCC

St John's Parochial Church Council met six times in 2010-2011 in May, July, September, November, January and March. Attendance at meetings was approximately 72% of the maximum possible number of 29.

Prior to each PCC meeting, a Standing Committee (comprised of the Vicar, Churchwardens, Deputy Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary) meets to draw up the agenda of items to be discussed. The minutes of this meeting are circulated to the PCC members together with the agenda, the minutes of the last PCC meeting and any briefing documents for items under discussion, at least two weeks prior to the next meeting.

The PCC is assisted in its work by a number of sub-committees, which bring proposals for action to the meetings; namely Fabric, Social, Stewardship, and the Finance Committee. There are regular detailed updates from these committees on the agenda of the PCC meetings, together with updates from the members of the Deanery and Diocesan Synods.

PCC Business

At the May meeting in 2010, Ian Richmond and Lesley Richardson were appointed as Deputy Wardens to assist Matt Barter and Margaret Creighton. Anthony Davis was re-appointed as Treasurer, and Liz Sergeant as Secretary. It was noted that John Jones had decided to stand down as Chairman of the Fabric Committee after 12 years of service. The PCC expressed its gratitude to John for all his hard work and dedication over this time, and welcomed Paul Jessop as the new chairman.

Charles Burch led a fruitful review and discussion of Lent 2010 at St John's, and suggestions and comments were made to be taken into consideration for next year.

At the July meeting, the church inventory, which had been reviewed by Matt Barter and Ian Richmond, was adopted by the PCC.

In September, Lauryn Awbrey facilitated a very productive discussion on the topic of Pastoral Care. The PCC considered what Pastoral Care means to us, and how and why we do it. The results of the discussion have subsequently led to the creation of a Pastoral Committee.

In November, the recipients of 20% of our Outside Giving for one year were selected by vote. Six organisations were nominated, and TALC (Teaching Aids at Low Cost) and CMS (Church Mission Society – Samaritan Appeal in Africa) were selected. The PCC also support WaterAid and Mercy Ships, who receive 30% of our giving over a period of 3 years.

On the recommendation of the Fabric committee, the PCC approved the appointment of APS to project manage the replacement of the church roof, scheduled for July 2011.

In January, the PCC reviewed the results of the survey completed by members of the congregation in January as part of the Bishop of St Alban's Mission Action Planning (MAP)

initiative. The results were generally positive, but the areas for improvement will be built into St John's MAP plan going forward.

Three members of the Stewardship committee attended a very informative Stewardship workshop by Geoff Fletcher (the Diocesan Stewardship Advisor) so the PCC spent time discussing financial giving at St John's and rising issues to include in an action plan with the aim of involving the congregation further in financial giving.

The PCC budget for 2011 was presented for approval by Anthony Davis in November, and the PCC Accounts for 2010 were presented to the meeting in March 2010. Financial Updates form a regular item on the agenda.

PCC Policies

- The Health and Safety policy is reviewed annually.
- Child Protection Policy is reviewed annually in July
The leaders of the Little Gems, Junior Church, Bedrock and the Youth Group are all aware of the requirements of the Diocese re: the protection of children and young people, as are the leaders of other youth organisations using the Church Hall.
The majority of parent helpers at Junior Church etc. now have CRB clearance and there is on-going monitoring to ensure that clearance is obtained or renewed as appropriate. Approximately 50 Church members have been cleared. Claire Robinson is our Child Protection Officer.
- Paul Bedding continues to assess our use and storage of data within the church, with regard to the Data Protection Act.

Average weekly numbers

There are three Holy Communion services at St John's on a weekly basis: - Sunday at 8.00am and 9.30am, and Wednesday at 9.30am. The average weekly attendance at St John's is approximately 205 across these three services, and the average number of communicants is approximately 155.

Festivals in 2010/2011

Easter Day was on April 4th 2010, and over the four Easter Day Services (8am, 9.30a.m., noon and 6.30p.m.) there were 302 communicants out of 399 attendees. This was considerably higher than last year (252 communicants, 300 attendees).

There were three Christmas Day services this year (Midnight, 8.00 a.m. 9.30 a.m.), with a total of 282 attendees, with 233 taking communion, which was slightly less than last year, probably due to the snow. The Nativity play took place during the Parish Communion service on Sunday 19th December, and was very popular, with 205 attendees and 125 communicants. The evening Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was also very well supported, with 205 attendees (up on last year), and the Christingle service on 12th December attracted 160 attendees, again up on last year. The two Crib Services continue to be popular, showing a similar trend to the last three years, with families with younger children attending the earlier one, and families with older children attending the second. Approximately 230 people attended these two services.