

ST GILES CHURCH, LEIGH-ON-MENDIP & ALL SAINTS, DOWNHEAD

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year ending 31 December 2015

Administrative information

St Giles' Church is situated in Church Walk, Leigh Street, Leigh-on-Mendip. All Saints Church is situated in Park Lane, Downhead. The correspondence address for both churches is Ashville, Monger Lane, Midsomer Norton, Radstock BA3 2SP. The churches are part of the Frome Deanery, which is in the Diocese of Bath and Wells within the Church of England.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2015 until the date of this report was approved are:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Reverend Anthony Dickson	Chairman
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mr Stephen Britten Mr Alastair Weston	Vice Chairman
<i>Deanery Synod Representatives:</i>	Mrs Susan Rodford Mrs Freda Davis	also Safeguarding Officer (resigned on 16 April, 2015)
<i>Elected members:</i>	Mrs Anthea Brooks Mr Reginald Davis Mrs Margaret Loten Mrs Susan Rodford Mr Tom Rodford Ms Paula Freeland Mr Chris Ingrem Mr Dave Mattick	Secretary (until 2015 APCM) PCC Treasurer Safeguarding Officer (until 2015 APCM) from 2015 APCM from 2015 APCM from 2015 APCM

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.

Objectives and activities

The Leigh & Downhead Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting the ecclesiastical parish and the whole mission of the church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical. This includes the care of two church buildings.

Church Attendance and Membership

There were 55 parishioners on the Churches' Electoral Roll as at the end of 2015, 2 of whom are not resident within the parish. The Statistics for Mission count for 2015 gave a combined average weekly attendance on a normal Sunday of 16 for St Giles and 9 for All Saints. Church Membership figures from the 2015 Parish Survey form were 17 for St Giles' and 2 for All Saints. Both are reported as Socio-Economic Category E.

Review of the year

The PCC met 7 times during the year as a full committee with an average attendance of 95%. The Standing Committee, which consists of the officers and wardens and has the power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings, continues to meet with the Standing Committee of Stoke St Michael.

Discussions at PCC meetings included:

Pattern of Services – two meetings of the Worship Committee were held during the year at which representatives from the United Parish of Postlebury and the Benefice of Stoke St Michael and Leigh-on-Mendip with Downhead met to discuss allocation of services for such occasions as Easter, Harvest and Christmas. St Giles' continue to have a non-eucharistic All Age Service on the first Sunday of the month and a Holy Communion service on the last Sunday of the month. Downhead continue to hold their Evensong service on the third Sunday of the month. Grateful thanks are extended to the Rev Colin Horn for his continued work and support in the benefice and to the benefice choir who continue to support services during the year under the leadership of Simon Francis.

Parish Development – the PCC continue to discuss parish development and Rev Dickson attends Leigh-on-Mendip First School on a regular basis taking assembly at the school on Friday afternoons.

Community Appeal – A Community Appeal took place in Leigh-on-Mendip in early 2015 and following a public meeting held on 11 March 2015 a Friends of Leigh Church (FOLC) Group was formed which has been meeting regularly. A successful membership recruitment drive began in the autumn which continues. Work also began in the autumn on a bid for grant funding for the Chancel Roof to the Listed Places of Worship Roof Fund Grant Application and to the Heritage Lottery Fund Grant for Places of Worship Fund for money to tackle the Nave roof, parapets and ground gutters. Grateful thanks are extended to the FOLC Committee and in particular to Dave Mattick and Graham Harris.

Future Plans – the intention is to clear the base of the Tower and install an oak and glass screen to provide a Community Tower Room which it is hoped will be used for various community gatherings such as regular coffee mornings and children's activities. A kitchen area will be provided. Plans are also moving forward to provide and install a multi-function disabled accessible toilet at the west end of the north aisle with supporting services.

Leigh Remembers – a series of short services of commemoration have been established as Leigh-on-Mendip remembers the fallen of the First World War on the 100th anniversaries of their deaths. The first such service was held on 6 December 2015 and commemorated the life of Albert Ashman who at 25 years of age was killed on the Somme. The service took the form of a poem, citation and prayers and thanks are extended to those who took part and particularly to Graham Harris for setting up the display of information about Albert Ashman and for writing and reading the citation. The next such service will take place in November 2016.

Fund Raising – Events this year included Harvest Suppers and Auctions for both churches and we are grateful to the auctioneer, Michael Joyce of Cooper & Tanner, for his faithful support. The PCC ran the skittles at the Leigh on Mendip Village Fair in June and although the weather was not particularly welcoming a successful day was had.

The Flower Festival Group had a break in 2015 but will be back with renewed vigour in 2016 with a Nursery Rhyme theme.

On Saturday 29 August a very successful Recital of 18th Century Music took place at St Giles', including rarely heard versions of Handel's Rinaldo and Fireworks Music published for playing in the home. Thanks are extended to Thomas Breeze and Nicola Loten for playing in and organising the concert and bringing with them Tabitha Roadway who sang and played the recorder. The concert was followed by light refreshments.

A successful Christmas Fair was held in December in the Memorial Hall, Leigh on Mendip on 5 December. As their first individual fund raising venture FOLC organised a Christmas Tree Festival at St Giles' during the same weekend as the Christmas Fair and the Christingle Service (4/5/6 December). This was widely enjoyed and was a great success. It is hoped to run another Festival in 2016.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

St Giles' Church:

Total receipts of ordinary unrestricted funds were £12158, of which £5566 was from unrestricted planned voluntary donations and a further £1628 was reclaimed from HMRC Charities as Gift Aid. Restricted grants and donations of £2123 were also received towards the upkeep of the building.

Planned giving through cheques and standing orders decreased by 2% due partly to the discontinuation of the envelope scheme and at the end of the year there were 23 people giving regularly to support the work of the church, despite our best efforts to persuade more of our regular worshippers to use either of these methods of payment.

£9336 was spent on our regular outgoings from unrestricted funds, including the diocesan parish share of £6401, which was paid in full and largely provides the stipends and housing for the clergy. The sum that the churches have to find is allocated according to a formula that is based mainly on the number of regular worshippers and in 2015 the amount paid to the Diocese amounted to £433 per church member. (This will increase to £440 per member in 2016, partly due to a general decline in membership throughout the Diocese).

The net result for the year was an excess of receipts over payments of £2822 in unrestricted funds which, together with other unrestricted reserves, will allow us to pay our 2016 Parish Share in one amount at a discount of 1.5%. The balances carried forward at 31 December for unrestricted funds totalled £13580.

There are also restricted funds totalling £5521 to be used for the upkeep of the church, including specific amounts donated for the Flower Fund and the final payment for the new Altar frontal.

All Saints Church:

Total receipts of ordinary unrestricted funds were £847, of which £127 was reclaimed from HMRC Charities as Gift Aid on small donations in church collections from April 2013 to December 2014. Restricted grants and donations of £1700 were also received towards the upkeep of the building and churchyard.

Planned giving by cheque or standing order was unchanged and at the end of the year there were still only 2 people giving regularly to support the work of the church.

£1511 was spent on our regular outgoings from unrestricted funds, including the diocesan parish share, which was paid in full in January at a discount of 1.5%.

The net result for the year was a deficit of receipts over payments of £664 in unrestricted funds. The balances carried forward at 31 December for unrestricted funds totalled £7798.

There are also restricted funds totalling £7633 to be used for the upkeep of the church.

Reserves Policy

It is the PCC policy to maintain a balance of free reserves which equates to at least three months' unrestricted payments to smooth out fluctuation in cash flow and to meet emergencies.

For St Giles' church this amounts to £2334 and for All Saints £378 and the unrestricted funds carried forward to next year for both accounts are well in excess of these figures.

It is our policy to invest the short-term investment fund balances with the CCLA Church of England Deposit Fund.

Approved by the PCC on _____ 2016 and signed on their behalf
by:

_____ (PCC Chairman)