

St Giles' Church, Wimborne St Giles – Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the Year Ended 31 December 2020

Administrative information

St Giles' Church is situated on The Green, Wimborne St Giles. It is part of the United Benefice of Cranborne-with-Boveridge, Edmondsham, Wimborne St Giles & Woodlands (known as The Quintet Group of Parishes) in the Diocese of Salisbury within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5PX

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

PCC members who have served from 1 January 2020 until 31 December 2020 are:

Rector:	The Rev Robert Simpson	Chairman
Wardens:	Mr Martyn Cubitt Mrs Caroline Barnes	Vice-Chairman
Elected Members:	Mr John Adlem Mrs Averil Cubitt Mrs Ann Cullen Mr Martin Instone Mr Jerry Laker Mr John Radford Mr Geoffrey Simm	From: 22 nd October 2020 (Secretary) To: 20 July 2020 To 23 March 2020: Treasurer to 19 th February 2020
Co-opted Members:	Mrs Averil Cubitt	To: 22 nd October (Secretary)
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:	Mrs Jenifer Simm to 23 March 2020 Mr John Radford from 22 nd October 2020	
Treasurer		Mr Philip Rymer appointed from 19 th February 2020

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

St Giles' PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Rector in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Achievements and performance:

At the close of 2020 the numbers on the Electoral Roll were 42 (23 resident/19 non resident). The Electoral Roll was completely revised in 2019 and the next complete revision will be in 2025.

As a result of Government restrictions to deal with the Coronavirus pandemic, the church was completely closed from 19th March 2020. We were able to open for private prayer from 24th June, and we opened for 2 hours on a Sunday and a Wednesday, with a track and trace system and stewards in attendance. There was little take-up and we stopped this on 30th September. Instead it was agreed to open the church for private prayer on request (by arrangement with a Churchwarden). In the meantime, from July public worship was allowed subject to risk assessment, track and trace and suitable social distancing measures. St Giles held a service of Parish Communion on Sunday 12th July and thereafter on alternate Sundays (alternating with services at Cranborne) until the church was again closed in November. In addition, from the date when the Rector and officials were allowed back into church, a weekly service was recorded for transmission on the Dorset Quintet website and facebook page for those unable to attend church. Once a month this was recorded in

St Giles church with readings by parishioners where possible – either recorded in church or from home.

From 1 January 2020 to 19 March 2020 the average weekly attendance at services was:
8am Holy Communion: 5[6]; 9.30am Parish Communion: 25 [36]; 11.00am High Mass: 29 [35];
6.00pm Evensong (including a Lent Evensong with Bishop Karen): 17 [14]. **From 12th July** the average attendance at Parish Communion was 37.

Other services held: Christmas by Candlelight: 33; 9.30am Christmas morning: 38 (including 8 children - 12 Communicants); outdoor Act of Remembrance: approx 24; and Outdoor Carols round the Christmas Tree - a well spread out crowd from the village.

Review of the Year:

The full PCC met five times during the year. Two of the meetings were held in church, and three by Zoom, with a telephone connection to one member. The average level of attendance was 91%. Because of the restrictions arising from the Coronavirus pandemic the PCC were unable to hold any fund raising events during 2020.

Other services included: 1 wedding and 1 burial of ashes in the churchyard.

Financial Review:

It was with regret that in March we said goodbye to Geoffrey Simm who had been PCC Treasurer since 1993 but we wish him and Jenifer every happiness in their new home in Wales and warmly thank him for all of his hard work and sound advice over the years. In his place we welcome Philip Rymer as Treasurer.

The church accounts, detailed in the financial statements, are receipt and payment accounts, which show the transactions that took place during the calendar year.

In 2020 the Coronavirus pandemic, with the subsequent shutting of churches for periods of time and the banning of community events, had a major impact on sources of income. Planned giving, and open collections (when church services were able to go ahead), were the main sources of income – plus grateful thanks to one church member who has sold home-made jam and marmalade for church funds. During the year we maintained our commitments to providing Christian ministry from St Giles Church including supporting the Quintet Group of Parishes and the diocesan parish share and paying regular bills such as insurance, utilities, where necessary drawing from our deposit account.

Grant funding was sought towards the planned toilet building (work completed in 2020), and for necessary roof works identified in the Quinquennial report (planned for 2021) - the following grants were awarded:

For the toilet building:

Knowlton Community Fund	£10,000
Talbot Village Trust	£15,000
Garfield Weston	£5,000
Erskine Muton Trust	£2,000

For the roof works:

Dorset Historic Churches Trust	£6,000
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We acknowledge our grateful thanks to all of the above for their generous support.

Giving Achievements

In light of the uncertainty around opportunities for fundraising during the pandemic, a decision to fund a project to replace our support for student training for a Clinical Officer for the Good Samaritan clinic in Nzara, South Sudan, completed in 2019, was put on hold until more was known.

Patterns of Worship and Outreach:

Breakfast Church

The quarterly "Breakfast Church" as a Quintet Group activity started with St Giles hosting one of these occasional services on 23rd February. The attendance was disappointing but it is considered important to persevere with these occasional services. It was good to see the children present. This service, like other "occasional" events, requires positive advertising and information, and of course support from parishioners and PCC members, to achieve its objectives. There were no more Breakfast Church services because of the COVID emergency

Open The Book

This programme designed to deliver the "Open The Book" bible stories as part of morning assemblies started successfully in the Spring Term but was curtailed after three sessions. Members of the St Giles congregation taking part were Averil and Martyn Cubitt, Caroline Barnes and Mary Williams.

Fabric of the Building Review:

During the year a project was started to renew the South Side of the main Nave roof where several slates had either broken or slipped. A Faculty was applied for and DAC approval was obtained. Tenders were sought and a preferred contractor selected. The project is ongoing with Spring 2021 being the target date for the work to be done.

In June work started on the Church Toilet and Store extension to Church Lodge. The supervising Architect was Mr Richard Ashton and the Prime Contractor was Maxwell S Manston Construction of Three Legged Cross. The work was completed in December 2020 and the building has come up to expectations.

Inside the church one of the high level Halogen up-lights was replaced by a twin up and down LED cluster as an experiment. This was considered successful.

A new and more modern time clock for the heating system was fitted.

Churchyards and Cemetery:

One of the external oak and wrought iron gates to the cemetery deteriorated to such an extent that it could not be opened safely and was removed. We are in possession of a pair of second hand steel gates and posts and these are now to be installed as outer gates during 2021

A very keen volunteer, Mr Peter Chant, approached the church with a proposal to take the churchyard at All Hallows in hand and cut back the growth. The church agreed to this and the work went ahead with remarkable results. Mr Chant also obtained the help of volunteers from the Dorset Society of Antiquaries who completed a full geophysical survey and some archeological excavations. As a result some lost burials were relocated and the complete outline and location of the old church established. They will return in the Spring of 2021 to complete their work. The All Hallows Churchyard is in a very neat condition at time of writing and the snowdrops are flourishing. The work of all concerned in all this is much appreciated.

The assistance of Mr Nigel Barnes once again in supporting DIY maintenance activities, including clearing drains and soakaways and of Mr Alan Riggs in giving professional advice is recorded with much appreciation.