

Woodlands Parochial Church Council
Annual Report for the year 2020

The Church of the Ascension, the Green, Woodlands

Rector: The Reverend Robert Simpson (Chairman of the Council)

Elected members of the Council

Anne Micklefield (Churchwarden – up to October 22nd 2020)

Geoffrey Simm (Churchwarden & Vice Chairman – up to March 22nd 2020)

Linda Stocks (Treasurer)

Linda Gates

Judy Kimber

Alison O'Toole

Pam Summers (up to 31st December 2020)

Evelyn Summers (up to 31st December 2020) (Electoral Roll Officer)

Standing Committee

The Rector (Chairman), Pam Summers and Anne Micklefield

Deanery Synod Representative

Alison O'Toole

Quintet Council Representatives

Anne Micklefield, Geoffrey Simm, Pam Summers, Evelyn Summers.

BACKGROUND

Woodlands is a member of the Quintet United Benefice which was formed in 1980 by an Order in Council. It comprises the parishes of Cranborne with Boveridge, Edmondsham, Wimborne St Giles and Woodlands and has one Rector.

The Quintet Council makes decisions on all subjects involving the Quintet Group as a whole, such as Synod, Deanery, Archdeaconry and Diocese matters, initiatives for Mission, Outreach, the pattern of worship, and the Christian principles on which the Group is run.

Each PCC controls its own finances but income arising from planned giving and donations to the Quintet Group is allocated and paid over in equal shares to each parish. Common expenses, such as the share of the Diocesan Quota, are paid from the central Quintet account and each PCC pays an agreed proportion. The Woodlands proportion is 15% of the total.

The terms of reference of the Council are to ensure a regular pattern of services, the pastoral care of those living in the parish, the upkeep of the Church, financial planning, the maintenance of links with the other churches within the Quintet Group and links with the Methodist Church in Woodlands.

Woodlands PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

The running costs of the Church are not covered by donations and the financial health of the PCC relies totally on the fundraising activities organised by Council members and friends. There are close links with the Woodlands Methodist Church and joint services are held once a month in alternate churches.

GENERAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2020

On 17th March 2020 the Archbishops of Canterbury and York issued a notice for the suspension of public worship in the Church of England due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 coronavirus. This notice was upheld in our diocese by the Bishop of Salisbury. This suspension lasted until 4th July. Until the second Sunday of Easter (19th April) the churches were required to be kept locked with no access permitted even for the clergy.

Obviously this had a dramatic impact on our usual activities for worship, mission and outreach. It is pleasing to report that apart from Mothering Sunday we have been able to offer a service of some sort every Sunday. Initially this was achieved by the Rector filming services at the Rectory (including through all of Holy Week and Easter) which were then posted on to a specially created Quintet Group of Parishes Facebook page. From the 19th April until the 4th July the Rector and organist were able to re-enter the church buildings and so began a pattern of recording a Sunday service of either ante-communion or full Holy Communion around the 4 churches in turn which was posted on the Facebook page. Our first Sunday again as a physically gathered congregation was the 5th July. Detailed risk assessments were carried out and the decision taken by the Rector and churchwardens to alternate a 9.30am Parish Communion between the churches at Cranborne and Wimborne St Giles, these being the only churches big enough to contain a sizeable congregation allowing for safe distancing between worshippers of 2 metres. Given that a number of our regular congregation still found it necessary, for health reasons, to keep themselves isolated at home we continued (and still continue) to record a service and broadcast it each week.

Further suspensions of worship took place during government lockdowns in November 2020 and from 17th January 2021 to 14th March 2021. Recorded services have been filmed regularly at Woodlands during this time and it was possible in the lead up to Christmas to resume a fortnightly Wednesday communion at Woodlands which also re-started on 24th March.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting [Annual General Meeting]

Due to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions the meeting was not held until the 22nd October 2020 (by permission of the Bishop of Salisbury). Officers were elected and the Report and the Accounts for the year 2019 were approved. At the APCM Anne Micklefield stepped down as warden after many years of service for which the PCC is profoundly grateful and she also stepped down from the PCC. In March 2020, Geoffrey Simm moved away from Dorset and resigned as warden and from the PCC. The PCC is very grateful to Geoffrey for all his work as warden.

Currently there are no wardens at Woodlands and no PCC Secretary. In March 2021 Linda Stocks relinquished her role as Treasurer after long service for which we express our thanks. The post of Treasurer is currently vacant.

Council Members

Council members were elected at the October APCM.

Electoral Roll and Attendance at Services

There are 15 on the electoral roll.

Deanery Synod and Quintet Council

The PCC were represented at meetings of the above during the year which were mostly 'virtual' meetings by internet Zoom link.

Church and Churchyard Maintenance

The interior of the Church was cleaned regularly by volunteers.

The churchyard grass was cut during the growing season on a professional basis. A contribution towards the maintenance of the churchyard was received from Knowlton Parish Council.

Financial Review

Church accounts for 2020 are attached and form part of this Report. The financial statements are receipt and payment accounts which show the transactions that took place during the calendar year.

The majority of the church expenditure went on the provision of the Christian ministry including supporting the Quintet group of parishes and the diocesan parish share. The church insurance also absorbs a substantial part of church funds. The lack of fundraising opportunities due to the pandemic restrictions was responsible for a reduction in income.

Safeguarding Policy

During the year the Quintet Safeguarding policy was reviewed. The Safeguarding Officer is the Quintet Safeguarding Officer, Mrs Ann Cullen. The PCC has complied with its duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016.

Robert Simpson
Chairman

Approved at a PCC meeting on 11th April 2021