

St Bartholomew's Church, Yarnton

Annual Parish report 2019

Aims and purposes

St Bartholomew's, Yarnton Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Oliver Petter, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

Objectives and activities

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 Bartholomew's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish. The Parish profile published previously in April 2018 reflected an awareness of the "the need to contact and involve new residents of the parish." St Bartholomew's is one of "three churches [in the Benefice which] are physically located on the edge of the communities which they serve, so there is little visibility of the church structures for village residents."

The profile stated that "We provide the only physical Christian presence in our parishes and welcome all denominations to join our worship. Our tradition is simple, traditional worship, although we are open to change." The new vicar was keen to continue with the regular tradition during the first year of discernment.

Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

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.

In 2018 the PCC expressed a commitment to the Diocesan Vision, of which four points had great Resonance. This commitment continued to guide us in 2019.

- To make a bigger difference in the world and serve the poor.
- To share our faith with adults, children and young people and grow the church in every place; rural, urban and suburban.
- To serve every school in our community.
- To put the discipleship of all at the heart of our common life and set God's people free.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of St Bartholomew's church.

PCC members in 2019 were: : Rev. Oliver Petter-Incumbent, John Appleton—Churchwarden, Paul Tweddle—Churchwarden, Gary Brewerton—Treasurer, Marion Jones, Charlotte Rayner-Safeguarding officer, Ian Gill, Douglas Fairhurst, Neil Small, Penny Small—PCC Secretary and Deanery Synod representative.

Achievements and performance

Worship and Prayer

The principal pattern of worship in 2019 continued to be the Parish Eucharist at 11.00am on Sundays with refreshments and fellowship after the service. Holy Communion was also celebrated on Wednesday mornings and at 8.00am on Sundays.

Morning prayer was said in the church on weekdays and Evening prayer was said at Begbroke church, moving to St Bartholomew's in the latter part of the year.

Additional services were held during Holy week, and on other feast days and Holy days. Harvest and Remembrance were celebrated with specific services, as was Christmas.

An All Age breakfast service was held at 9.30am on the first Sunday on the month several times in the latter part of 2019.

St Bartholomew's participated in the national "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer initiative between Ascension Day and Pentecost which included a week of prayer when, in addition to the usual Morning and evening prayer, midday prayer and compline were also offered. There were prayer stations around the church as focuses for devotion and 10-12 people attended Compline on half the occasions.

Electoral Roll

In 2019 the church required us to prepare a new electoral roll. The total number of people on it was 48.

Deanery Synod

Penny Small was elected as Deanery Synod representative at the APCM in 2019. The Synod provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church

Safeguarding

The PCC adopted the new Safeguarding Policy in January. Members of the PCC completed online safeguarding training as required by the Diocese. Thank you to Charlotte Rayner for her work as Safeguarding Officer.

Pastoral Care

Visiting: Reverend Oliver Petter and Reverend Jim Turner visited all church members who requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. Rev'd Oliver Petter and Rev'd Jim Turner visited The Sanctuary care home regularly, with weekly visits from October 2019, and monthly services. There were also ad hoc pastoral visits to Erdington house.

Little Sheep: Charlotte Rayner continued to lead the weekly term time gathering in the Spencer Chapel, which is much appreciated by many families. Craft activities, songs, games are offered, as well as short time of prayer.

Mission and Evangelism

Café Create: Café Create continued on a monthly basis during 2019 in Yarnton Village Hall. This was offered as an all age event, offering craft activities and reflections to explore Christianity, with a café style setting. It was attended by a mixture of members of St Bartholomew's congregation and other families from the village.

Study Group: The Wednesday evening study group at the vicarage continued to meet through 2019 studying various material together including a new course on Holy Communion and materials produced by the Bishop of Oxford.

St Bartholomew's PCC continued to reflect on mission and evangelism when gathering for our Benefice Away Day at Ripon College Cuddesdon in March. Some of the conclusions drawn were to set up a pastoral team across the Benefice; to improve the notice sheets and noticeboards to aid ongoing reflection and prayer through the week; to increase opportunities to nurture faith; and to create a p/t Administrator post.

The Vicar attended the Diocesan Common Vision conference.

The church in the community

William Fletcher School: We have been thankful for our relationship with the school, and for the support of their headteacher, Mrs Deborah Nind. The school visited the church for Founders Day in January, Harvest Festival in September and Christmas in December. The vicar regularly visits the school and leads assembly for the school. St Bartholomew's ran a stall at the school summer fete. Rev'd Oliver Petter is now a school governor along with one member of our PCC who sits on the School Governing Body.

Christian Aid collection: The collection for Christian Aid during Christian Aid week once again raised a significant sum. This time we distributed envelopes but asked people to return them themselves either to the church or to designated collectors. Thanks are due to all involved.

Village News We continue to be grateful for our page in Yarnton Village News, and the possibilities of publicising church activities through it.

War Memorial and Remembrance Sunday: On Remembrance Sunday a large crowd gathered at the Yarnton war memorial at 11am for a service led by the Vicar and the traditional afternoon parade and service took place in St Bartholomew's.

Yarnton Apple orchard: The Parish Council invited the church to offer a blessing for the new Yarnton community orchard. Rev'd Oliver Petter designed a service with poems reflecting on the orchard, read by children from William Fletcher school and members of the church. It was well attended and a good community occasion.

Carol singing: Members of St Bartholomew's, along with others, went carol singing around the village and in the local Red Lion Pub just before Christmas.

Church Life

Open church: Keeping the church open is a valuable and cherished part of our ministry. Thank you to those who help to open and close the church.

Foodbank: The Foodbank collection point has continued to be well supported, and much needed.

Church cleaning: Thanks are due to those who clean St Bartholomew's church for their dedication and care in keeping the interior of the church so clean.

Bell ringers: We continue to be grateful to our band of bellringers for their superb ringing.

Tea & coffee: Thanks to all who served refreshments after Sunday services. This is much appreciated by regulars and visitors alike.

Flowers. The beautiful flower displays in church are warmly appreciated, and thanks to our excellent florists.

Fundraising: Various fundraising events for the church were held in 2019 including Magic at the Manor, A taste of China supper evening, a wine and cheese tasting event and a Christmas party. Many thanks to all involved, Ian Gill and Eden, Brad and Charlotte Rayner, and Hilary and Mary. Also thanks to Pauline who completed the annual Ride and Stride again raising money for St Bartholomew's and for the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust.