

SWINDON OLD TOWN PARTNERSHIP OF CHURCHES



CHRIST CHURCH WITH ST MARY'S
ANNUAL REPORT AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
for the year ended 31st December 2011

Administrative information:

Incumbent: Revd Simon M Stevenette
Christ Church Vicarage
26 Cricklade Street
Swindon
SN1 3HG

Lay chair: Lynda Fisher
65 Lansdown Road
Swindon
SN1 3NF

Christ Church with St Mary's, Old Town, Swindon:

- is a Church of England parish within the Swindon Deanery of the Diocese of Bristol
- serves a population of approximately 15,000
- the parish includes 4 primary schools, 2 secondary schools and many residential and nursing homes
- has a staff/ministerial team of 11 (of which 1 is stipendiary)
- is a member of the Swindon Old Town Partnership of Churches
- is in Cricklade Street, with St Mary's in Commonweal Road, both in the Old Town area of Swindon.
- has its Parish Office at 36 Cricklade Street, Swindon, SN1 3HB, telephone number 01793 522832, and email parishoffice@christchurchswindon.co.uk
- maintains the Christ Church website: www.christchurchswindon.co.uk.
- has its Vicarage at 26 Cricklade Street, Swindon, SN1 3HG, telephone and fax 01793 529166 and email simon.stevenette@gmail.com
- has a Mothers' Union group

PCC membership (at 31st December 2011) *Trustees

The PCC comprises the Vicar and curates, two churchwardens, four representatives on the Swindon Deanery Synod, and up to 15 other elected members. The members of the PCC are the trustees of Registered Charity number 1134032.

Ex officio members:

- *Revd Simon Stevenette - Vicar
- *Revd Norma McKemey - Curate
- *Revd Trudie Wigley - Curate
- *Pam Bridgeman - Churchwarden
- *Lynda Fisher - Churchwarden
- *Anne Macmillan - LLM
- *Margaret Williams - LLM and Deanery Synod member
- *Gareth Hutchinson - Deanery Synod member
- *Ivy Wilkins - Deanery Synod member
- *Peter Ford - PCC secretary
- *David Vowles - Deanery Synod member

Other office-holders:

Stephen Grosvenor - Gift Aid secretary

Ministerial staff team:

Vicar

Revd Simon Stevenette

Curates

Revd Norma McKemey

Revd Trudie Wigley

Retired priest

Revd John Stevenette

Carol Simmons - parish clerk

Elected members:

- *Jim D'Avila
- *Mike Palmer
- *John Plaister
- *Sue Rush
- *Cilla Slipper
- *Rosemary Williams

In addition the following served as members of the PCC during 2011:
Revd Jo Northey, *Maggie Bird.

Attendees:

Ailsa Palmer - parish administrator

Ian Walters - treasurer

Licensed Lay Ministers

Trevor Day

Daphne Hardwick

Anne Macmillan

Teresa Michaux

Ailsa Palmer

Carol Simmons

Genny Williams

Margaret Williams

Banks: Lloyds Bank plc,
5 High Street, Swindon, SN1 3EN

Barclays Bank plc,
10-14 High Street, Swindon, SN1 3ED

Auditor: Monahans, 38-42 Newport Street, Swindon, SN1 3DR

Structure, governance and management:

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England.

The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The PCC is a Registered Charity no. 1134032

The trustees:

The trustees of Christ Church are the PCC, which has the responsibility of co-operating with the Vicar in promoting the work of the Church in the parish.

The appointment of PCC members is governed by and set out in the Church Representation Rules. The PCC is responsible for a wide range of activities affecting the parish including, but not restricted to, compliance with statutes and legislation and the creation of suitable policies and procedures to protect those considered to be vulnerable. It is important that the PCC adopts and implements suitable training procedures to ensure that members are equipped to handle the challenges this represents. In addition to the dissemination of appropriate reading matter, the PCC actively encourages individuals to attend training courses arranged by the Diocese or Deanery and to report back to the PCC as a body.

The PCC actively encourages members of its congregation to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC has a:

Standing Committee - contact - PCC Secretary

and 7 subcommittees that report back to the PCC:

Building and Development - contact Stephen Grosvenor/Ailsa Palmer

Mission and Evangelism - contact Revd Simon Stevenette

Pastoral Care - contact Pam Bridgeman

Finance and Stewardship - contact Ian Walters

Children and Youth - contact Janice Titcombe

Worship and Prayer - contact the staff team

Development & Renewal - contact Stephen Grosvenor

The PCC has delegated authority to the Standing Committee to make day-to-day decisions when it is not practicable in terms of timescale to wait for the full PCC to convene and decide. This delegation may be withdrawn by the PCC at any time, and any decisions made by the Standing Committee under this authority must be approved by the PCC at the next suitable opportunity.

In addition, the PCC has similarly delegated authority to the Development & Renewal Committee to make decisions to commit monies available in the Development & Renewal (Re-ordering) Fund as it sees fit. This authority extends only to a maximum of £5,000 for any single transaction. Any decisions made by the Development & Renewal Committee under this authority must be approved by the PCC at the next suitable opportunity.

Christ Church buildings and grounds:

The rose garden continues to benefit from the considerable care and hard work of our volunteer gardener. We thank the community service volunteers for their work in our churchyard and burial ground.

The PCC has responsibility for the maintenance of the two Church buildings, the parish office, church hall (known as the Church Centre) and three residential properties.

The Building and Development subcommittee of the PCC continued its care for the buildings owned by the PCC. This work included overseeing the installation of a handrail from the car park to the west door of Christ Church (paid for by the Friends of Christ Church); overseeing the renovation of the sign/name board near the roadside (paid for by an anonymous donation); providing and installing a new kitchen at 31 Cricklade Street; repairs as a result of the annual inspection of our properties; repairs as a result of the Quinquennial Inspection of St Mary's; lighting repairs in Christ Church; and assessing provision for storage on the Christ Church site.

Objectives and activities - How we addressed our aims in 2011

- 1) Spiritual growth was encouraged in a variety of ways through our ministry in Old Town. We were pleased to see more people coming to housegroups and a number of people taking up new Christian ministries in the church and the community. Regular mention was made of our Bible verse for the year, 2 Corinthians 9 v 8: 'God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.' We thank God for the ways he led us in 2011.

- 2) Significant progress was made in the development and renewal of the Christ Church site and of us as a sustainable Christian community, putting into practice the aims and objectives of our development plan. As a result of an approach from our local Swindon Borough councillors, we are working on a partnership for a new community centre on the Christ Church site. A presentation has been made to the Council, and we are waiting for the results of this and for detailed plans from our architect. We celebrated our 160th birthday with a wonderful weekend including a "golden plate" supper and a celebration service when the preacher was our previous vicar, Revd Canon Owen Barraclough. We also had a "Carols and Canapés" evening in December, and have been selling place mats made from slates previously removed from the roof of Christ Church.
- 3) The Vicar, Revd Simon Stevenette, became Area Dean of Swindon on 1st June 2011. We were delighted to receive an unexpected gift in the arrival - as a self-supporting curate - of Revd Trudie Wigley, following her ordination on 2nd July 2011 at Bristol Cathedral. We were very disappointed that our application for Trudie to become a stipendiary curate in 2012 was turned down by the Diocese. The PCC has committed to paying Trudie a half-time stipend for three years from her ordination as a priest on 1st July 2012. The Revd Norma McKemey was ordained priest on 3rd July 2011 and we have been blessed by her priestly ministry amongst us.
- 4) We have seen some progress in prayer and healing ministry becoming more part of the everyday life of our parish. This has been achieved by encouraging openness to God and his presence in our lives. Many people received anointing with oil at our anniversary service.
- 5) Using the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible we hosted three workshops at Christ Church and took a full part in the "Bible Fresh" diocesan event. We had only limited success in encouraging people to buy Bible reading notes.
- 6) The PCC worked very well as trustees and sought to communicate clearly the Christian gospel through supporting ministry in a variety of ways. Our website was re-launched and we have tried to be professional and spiritual in the way we steward our God given assets and resources. We are very grateful to God and for the support of our congregation in helping us grow and achieve many of our plans.

7) We undertook to modernise St Mary's and its common room. In the common room, new curtains were donated, the walls painted by volunteers, and the kitchen and lighting updated. More space has been created in the church by removing some of the chairs.

The Revd Simon Stevenette (February 2012)

Our vision:

Connecting The Community With Christ

We Are Committed To:

1. Jesus And His Teaching;
2. Caring For God's World;
3. Respecting And Helping Each Other.

**Trusts related to the PCC:- Swindon United Charities, Christ Church Burial Board,
The Friends of Christ Church**

Risk assessment:

The PCC has encouraged members of the congregation to abide by the lone working policy.

The PCC has agreed a policy on vulnerable adults.

The PCC endeavours to undertake risk assessments for events it manages.

The PCC has a child protection policy

Achievements and performance:

Church attendance

- ❖ At our APCM last year our electoral roll stood at 274.
- ❖ Our average weekly attendance at Christ Church with St Mary's, including both adults and children, is 238.
- ❖ Our average Sunday attendance is 194. Over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, 1088 people attended.
- ❖ 42 babies and children were baptised, 16 couples were married, 11 people from our Partnership were confirmed and our staff team took 110 funeral services.

Charitable activities:

In line with the continuation of policies established in 2004, our mission giving was again restricted to that actually collected. Our total mission-giving contribution was £4,863, which was sent to support the work of Tearfund, CMS, Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Bible Society, The Willows and Swindon Youth for Christ.

There continued to be many activities during the year where our 'charity' was reflected more by time and resources rather than pure financial commitment.

Fund-raising

The PCC quite rightly planned its fund-raising activities around the challenging Development & Renewal plans it had endorsed. Concerted focus continued to be applied to further developing 'user-friendly' methods of giving such as the Just Giving website and other online payment channels.

However, the PCC could not take its eye off the fund-raising ball in respect of its day-to-day activities. Another very successful Christmas Market (organised by the Friends of Christ Church) was held, while the reintroduction of the Autumn Fayre both endorsed the desire to raise funds and to build contacts and fellowship for our ongoing mission work out into the Old Town community.

These events assisted greatly the Development & Renewal activities with the formal launch towards the end of the year. This is an ambitious and daunting challenge which will take the Church forward in ways that many would have considered little more than a vision a very short time ago. The commitment and enthusiasm of the small group of people set up specifically for the purpose of coordinating the project has laid sound foundations that will enable this to happen.

The financial impact is huge and as the project reaches each of its carefully planned stages fundraising will become more & more important. The size of the planned stages will mean that Development & Renewal will have increasingly significant impact on our Accounts in future years.

Since the original formation of the group a total of £35,327 has been either donated or raised, and £22,004 spent, including some expenditure borne by PCC from general funds. During 2011 income was £21,927 and expenditure £9,462. Monies raised/donated are retained in separate bank accounts with Barclays (current value £21,345) and their use is shown as Restricted, with PCC controlling the nature and extent of the restriction

Funds are raised against a backdrop of considerable hard work and commitment, and we would like to thank all those involved, including the Friends of Christ Church.

Investments

A much reduced increase of £1,378 in the total value of our investments occurred, reflecting the continuing uncertain times the fund managers have to operate in.

A further £1,709 of interest on the original £210,825 residual net proceeds from the sale of the former Church Hall in Devizes Road was received. A very welcome increase of £481 compared to last year - a possible sign that the difficult economic times might be changing. Now that we have concrete plans in place for the re-ordering of the Church and the replacement of the Church Centre, it is crucial that the value of this capital sum is not eroded and remains enough to keep the value of the Church Hall sale fund in line with spiralling costs.

This investment now totals £245,484 and the accumulated interest of £34,659 is not restricted as to its use (unlike the capital). Whilst in previous years there has been no intention to use any of these monies, this will obviously change to fund the plans mentioned above, probably in the near future.

Whilst growth has been seen in some of our investments, the need to be continually vigilant in our monitoring and evaluation of their appropriateness, not being afraid to make bold and necessary decisions at the relevant times if we have to, still remains.

Financial review:

The PCC continued its prudent financial planning and had to carefully consider all factors before committing to any ongoing financial commitment. Agreement only to some smaller necessary projects going ahead was given during the year.

We were again able to pay the Parish Share in full. The 'off balance sheet' contingent liability of £13,462 for the outstanding amount of Parish Share not paid in 2008 remains. The PCC does however continue to commit to extinguish this liability as soon as possible when new funds are available to enable us to do so.

In summary, the attached financial statements show:

income from day-to-day activities for the year of £226,719,

expenditure on day-to-day activities for the year of £202,510.

On the face of it, there appears to have been an increase of £24,209 in our net worth, while after taking into account the changed values of our investments, net worth appears to have increased by £23,939 to £776,459.

In addition, Development & Renewal activities generated a surplus for the year of £11,833, further increasing the net worth to £788,292. The Development & Renewal balances in the Barclays Bank accounts total £21,345.

It must continue to be borne in mind that these figures include the market value of the parish office (£128,000) and the value of the Church Hall investment (£245,484).

It is inappropriate to carry out our usual activity of 'stripping-out' exceptional items from the accounts, as this year the numbers are generally driven purely by our day-to-day activities. When looking at the healthy surplus, it must be remembered that this is due to several reasons, which may or may not be repeated in future years, specifically:-

1. Being able to submit a Gift Aid claim of £10,286, bringing every eligible donation right up to date, and again including all of the reclaimed tax in the correct year's accounts,
2. Receiving £4,500 from legacies,
3. The Building Committee committing only to minimal spend, using just £6,775 of the total £10,200 budget available to it,

The rental income stream of £4,717 from letting 58 Upham Road commercially for the latter part of the year,

4. Receiving £8,000 of rental income from 121 Victoria Road despite the previous tenant ceasing to trade.

These and other factors made achieving, and indeed comfortably exceeding, the break-even budget we had set for 2011 much easier. Without continuing generous giving our accounts would show a much worse picture - so thank you again.

It still remains true that we continue to rely upon exceptional income streams to balance our books, but with the tight controls we have in place and exercise, we ensure expenditure is kept to a bare minimum and money is not spent unnecessarily. This is how we have returned the accounts to surplus this year, so we must now, even more so than in the past, focus our attention on increasing our income, especially planned giving. Those who already give by giving proportionately more and making sure their giving is by the most efficient means, and by encouraging those who do not give to begin to do so.

Reserves policy:

It is PCC policy to maintain (whenever possible) sufficient unrestricted funds, equating to approximately four months of 'normal' turnover (£75,573), in order to cover unplanned situations that may occur from time to time.

For the majority of this year this ratio could not be met without recourse to our short-term investments. However, at year end, with bank balances (excluding Development & Renewal) totalling £75,689, this criterion is just met for the first time in some considerable while. Including our short-term investments of £28,798, we have a liquid 'margin of safety' of £28,914, which after deducting our normal creditors at £9,500 reduces this margin to £19,414, an overall reduction year on year of £1,803.

The PCC continues to endorse a policy whereby we reduce the level of our restricted funds wherever possible to create a 'free' reserve of unrestricted funds. This will allow us prudently to retain flexibility in the event of necessary 'emergency' expenditure.

It is our policy to invest surplus funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund.

Plans for 2012 and beyond

1. To continue encouraging spiritual growth and Christian maturity through our ministry in Old Town, Swindon starting from our parish Bible verse for 2012 - *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.* Ephesians 3.20-21. From this foundation we trust God to guide us forward, and we expect to grow in partnership, influence, commitment and numbers with the support of our ecumenical partners, the Swindon Deanery and the Diocese of Bristol.
2. To make further progress with the development and renewal of the Christ Church site and of us as a sustainable Christian community. Plans are underway to have our new community centre built in 2013. We will continue to consult with all stakeholders on the potential for the church building. We will need to hold together our vision for connecting the community with Christ alongside our available financial resources. We will continue actively to seek financial support to resource the whole Development & Renewal project.
3. The PCC will fully support the ministerial staff team wholeheartedly by prayer, encouragement and practical action. At the beginning of July 2012, following their

ordinations, Trevor Day and Teresa Michaux, both experienced lay ministers, will take up self-supporting ministerial positions elsewhere in the Swindon Deanery. Daphne Hardwick will remain at Christ Church as an Ordained Local Minister. Trudie Wigley will begin her stipendiary ministry with our financial support. Simon's ministry as Area Dean takes him away from the parish for two days a week. We will continue to encourage lay ministry, for example, through participation in the Exploring Christianity Course and the Voyage leadership programme.

4. To make prayer and the healing ministry more central in our life and culture as a parish.
5. We will continue the refurbishment of St Mary's with a commitment to make this valuable facility more available throughout the week.