

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH, BURWASH, EAST SUSSEX

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

1.REVIEW

1.1 ACTIVITIES

In common with all other parishes the activities of St. Bartholomew's have been severely curtailed by the Covid 19 pandemic. In particular, fund raising has been put on hold and the pattern of services significantly disrupted with a material impact on income. In September the Reverend Sally Epps retired after a distinguished and hugely valued ministry in the Parish and wider Benefice. St. Bartholomew's has been without a Rector since then. The Churchwardens, supported by the PCC, have implemented a policy, when legal and prudent, to open the Church for Sunday services and for private prayer on at least one weekday.

In the united Benefice of St. Bartholomew's, St. Philip's Burwash Weald and St. Nicholas Etchingham, work has continued to bring the three parishes into a coherent whole. Quarterly joint services are planned; however, because of restrictions on Church opening during the year, these have not always taken place. Close relationships are maintained with the two primary schools (Burwash and Etchingham); several Trustees serve as Governors at Burwash.

The Church continues to be maintained through the commitment of volunteers giving freely of their time and talents.

Extensive work has been carried out in the Churchyard and on routine repairs to the fabric of the Church. Additionally, a major project was commenced and completed during the year to re-tile the Nave and the roofs of the North and South aisles. Competitive tenders were obtained and the work was carried out during the Autumn. Upon payment of the final 'retention' monies this will have cost just under £100,000, Significant donations were made towards the costs and in addition, a successful Appeal for funds was led by the Friends of St. Bartholomew's.

PUBLIC BENEFIT AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.1.1** In accordance with Section 4(6) of the Charities Act 2006 and the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 the Trustees confirm that they have given due regard to the guidance on public benefit issued by the Charity Commission when exercising their powers and duties during the period.
- 1.1.2** St. Bartholomew's Church is an inclusive and welcoming community; it exists through the generosity of benefactors of an earlier age and continues under the supervision of the PCC, Churchwardens and the Rector. With the continued generosity of local people, it provides Church of England Christian worship for the parish of Burwash and a place of quiet reflection and solace for all.

Individual members of the congregation make donations to charity through specific collections both within and outside the Church. In addition, donations are made to charities directly by the PCC and also from collections at informal fund raising events. Collections are normally taken in Church for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal on Remembrance

Sunday and have been taken for The Children's Society following the Christingle Service. A food Bank continues to operate for the benefit of the Diocesan Association for Family Support Work. Christmas collections were given equally to Emmaus and the Children's Society.

- 1.1.3** One objective of St. Bartholomew's is to be a focal point of the village; the Burwash Village magazine, which is currently published 'online' has now completed its second full year and plays a significant part in this objective. A number of activities designed to provide outreach to the wider community have, sadly, been severely curtailed; notable among these are:
- 'Tuesday Drop In' – providing an informal social occasion for all, but particularly for parents and carers bringing children to school;
 - weekly '3 C's Coffee cake and chat mornings; a popular free event valued especially by those living alone;
 - the 'Children's Corner usually open during the day, enabling children to play with toys in a quiet dry and warm atmosphere;
 - Quarterly Coffee Mornings and second hand book sales;
 - 'Saints & Sausages'
 - Christmas Tree Festival and the School's PTFA Christmas Fair;
 - Remembrance Day 'Act of Remembrance'
 - School Services. Although no formal School services took place in Church due to Covid restrictions, the School did come into Church in their 'bubbles' to lay poppies on the altar for Remembrance Day. Also, some key stage two pupils came in their 'bubbles' to record some of their Carol Service for streaming to parents. Food items were collected from the School for Harvest.
- 1.1.4** The Church is normally open during daylight hours and is visited by many people seeking tranquillity or records of their forebears. Church opening during the year has, however, been severely restricted in accordance with Government guidelines. Many messages of appreciation have been received, in particular that we have continued with services and private prayer when permitted. The following is a small selection of these messages:
- a lifeline in these difficult times
 - a beautiful church and beautifully kept churchyard, full of quiet reverence
 - lovely church, really lovely feeling of peace and joy
 - very welcoming, lovely service, kind and welcoming congregation
 - thank you for leaving your church open. As Roman Catholics we prayed that we all be one
 - thank you for continuing the Food Bank collections

1.2 FINANCE

The General Fund shows an excess of receipts over payments of £904; additional costs amounting in total to £7316, which related to the routine maintenance of the fabric of the Church and to the Churchyard, were paid from the Curteis and Morris Funds, respectively. Due to Covid Planned Giving and collections in Church have declined by about 10% from 2019 levels. The Parish Giving Scheme continues to operate efficiently supported by 30 members; it is a pity however that more members of the congregations do not take advantage of the benefits of the Scheme. For similar reasons Fund raising income, day to day donations and sundry receipts have decreased significantly.

The level of reserves in the General Fund (£5421) is not considered to be adequate. This determination is made by judging the reasonable likelihood of sufficient income being received to meet liabilities as they arise.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

2.1 PCC MEMBERS AT DELAYED APCM 2 SEPTEMBER 2020

EX OFFICIO (6)

Reverend Sally Epps – Rector (Retired 13 September 2020)

Charles Merchant- Vice Chairman & Deanery Synod

Celia Merchant – Deanery Synod

Vicky Patterson – Churchwarden

Richard Harden - Churchwarden

Sara Stonor – Diocesan & Deanery Synod

ELECTED (11)

Joanne Brown ****

Gary Churchill**

David Dunham *****

Maureen Jenner ***

Richard Maude-Roxby *

Paul McColl*

Hilary Stewart ***

Andrew Schofield*****

Rachel Thomson ****

Shirley Viney **

Lesley Woodburn *

*Elected 2015 and re-elected 2018

** Elected 2016 and re-elected 2019

*** Elected 2017 and re-elected 2020

**** Elected 2018

***** Elected 2019

***** Elected 2020

Period of office is 3 years

CO-OPTED (2)

Mary Westhead – Safeguarding Officer

Christopher Woodburn – Honorary Treasurer

2.2 PCC GOVERNANCE

Charity Registration: 1 December 2009

Charity Number: 0113028

Governing Document: Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956

Address: c/o St. Bartholomew's Church, High Street, Burwash, East Sussex, TN19 7EH

Committees

Standing Committee; Worship Group; Young People's Group; Communications Group; Fund Raising Committee

Induction & Training

All members of the PCC have their duties and responsibilities explained to them, including their duty of care and the implications of the Charities Act 2006 and Statement of Recommended Practice 2005. They are updated on regulatory and legislative changes as these arise. In addition, all PCC members undertake Safeguarding Training.

Risk Analysis

The PCC has put in place appropriate controls to minimise the likelihood of, or opportunity for, fraud or other malpractice. These are reviewed by the PCC from time to time. They include the requirement for two trustees to sign cheques or other instructions to the PCC's bankers. In addition, a financial statement and report is presented for review to each PCC meeting.

Meeting Attendance in 2020

March	13
June	16
October	17
December	16

2.3 CHURCH ATTENDANCE AND ELECTORAL ROLL

Electoral roll 107 at APCM

Normal Sunday attendance 28 (Average overall 29)

Easter Day 1

Christmas Eve/Day 58

School Services 0 (refer to paragraph 1.1.3)

Approved by the Trustees on 1 March 2021

V.Patterson
Churchwarden

R.C.Harden
Churchwarden

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF ST.BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH BURWASH
Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31 December 2020

	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Fund	All Funds 2020	All Funds 2019
	General	Designated			
Monetary Assets					
Bank Current Account	9760	0	164	9924	3938
CBF Deposit Account	5421	21176	15704	42301	76268
Other Assets					
Investments (at Market Value)	2035	323727	0	325762	363412
Glebe Field (at cost)	<u>26584</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>26584</u>	<u>26584</u>
Total Assets	<u>43800</u>	<u>344903</u>	<u>15868</u>	<u>404571</u>	<u>470202</u>

Notes

1. The Financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 and the Church Accounting Regulations 2006, using the Receipts and Payments accounting convention.

2. No payments were made to PCC members or connected persons other than reimbursement of expenditure incurred on behalf of the PCC, amounting to £ to £1141 to 1 individual in relation to [a] Church running expenses and [b] travel, telephone and other administrative expenses incurred by the Rector.
 Payments made to third parties on behalf of the Rector in respect of General and Water Rates and, following her departure, for utilities amounted to £3832

3. The cost of investments was £221616.

Approved by the PCC on 1 March 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

V.Patterson
Churchwarden

R.C.Harden
Churchwarden

C.H.Woodburn
Treasurer

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL OF THE ECCLESIASTICAL PARISH OF ST BARTHOLOMEW'S, BURWASH

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Bartholomew's Church Burwash (the Trust) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Responsibilities and basis of report

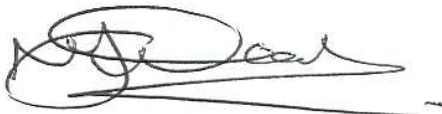
As the charity trustees of the Trust you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- a) accounting records were not kept in respect of the Trust as required by section 130 of the Act; or
- b) the accounts do not accord with those records

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



NICK WADE, ACA

14 February 2021

Nick Wade ACA
The Presbytery, Spring Lane, Burwash, East Sussex, TN19 7JA