

St Michael the Archangel Church, Trusham

Annual Report for the year 2021 for APCM 17th May 2022. 7pm

Mission Statement - To know Christ, and to make him known through prayer, witness and service

Parish Electoral roll: Electoral Roll membership was 18 at the end of 2021

PCC members who have served during 2021

Chairman	The Reverend Alex Sharp
Churchwarden(s)	Mr Daniel Metcalfe Mrs Angela Cameron
Deanery Synod representative	Mrs Helen Harding
Treasurer	Mrs Jane Brooks
Secretary (for minutes only)	Mrs Pat Smethurst
Other elected members	Mr David Smethurst Mr Andrew Thorpe

Duty Wardens

Jane Brooks and Mary Cook	Peter and Helen Harding
Andrew Thorpe	David and Pat Smethurst
Angela Cameron	Daniel and Julia Metcalfe

Safeguarding Officer: Helen Harding (though Andrew Thorpe has taken over during May 2022)

Electoral Roll Officer: Helen Harding

Health and Safety Officer: David Smethurst

Intercessors and Readers: Jane Brooks, Angela Cameron, Mary Cook, Helen Harding. Judith Rowland, David Smethurst, Daniel Metcalfe.

New Vicar

The PCC and community welcomed Rev. Alex Sharp, our new Vicar, who was licensed on Wednesday 8th September 2021 at a service at Chudleigh Church.

PCC meetings

There were four meetings of the PCC during the year attended by elected members. At each meeting the following reports are received and other topics often discussed:

Reports for each area of responsibility follow below.

- Progress on the Mission Action Plan
- Safeguarding
- Finance and accounts
- Health and Safety
- Services and other events which have taken place
- Plans made for future services
- Deanery Synod
- Links with Chudleigh CE VC Primary School

Report on Mission Action Plan

The production of a benefice-wide mission action plan (MAP) somewhat stalled during the covid pandemic. Trusham Church and the PCC have been continuing with our local MAP in order to direct service patterns and plan for future events. It is hoped that efforts can be made in coming months to finalise the benefice wide approach commenced at a meeting in June 2019 that will deliver more joined up thinking across Chudleigh, Chudleigh Knighton and Trusham Parish churches. A shortened Mission Action Plan was agreed by the PCC temporarily and to allow Alex to develop a rota that works with clergy and the needs of each of his churches. This plan is broadly as follows, and refers to the Diocese of Exeter's vision topics:

Growing in prayer. Trusham continues to develop its mindfulness group and to promote ties with the other churches in the benefice, and with the school through their prayer calendar. Churches in the benefice collectively share the same readings each week using part or all of a book from the Bible over a few weeks.

Making new disciples. Trusham has transitioned from online worship to church-based activities following the coronavirus pandemic. In 2021, we reinstated the Nativity Play, Carol Service, Evening service on Christmas Eve; all of which were joyful and well attended. It is hoped to expand upon face to face worship during 2022.

Serving the people of Devon with joy. With the re-emergence of face-to-face services, we have recently focused on offering regular communion and all age worship services with Trusham, as well as Iona healing services and other special services. Next year will see a fuller calendar of events.

The Safeguarding of Children and Vulnerable Adults (report by Helen Harding)

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding & Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The issue of safeguarding has been discussed at every PCC meeting with some specific issues being mentioned each time. Andrew Thorpe has been becoming more familiar with the Safeguarding in the parish prior to taking over as the Parish Safeguarding Representative in 2022.

During the year the safeguarding representatives within the Benefice continued to meet and work together, using each other's strengths to their best advantage. The Diocesan Parish Dashboards Scheme helps us to keep up to date with everything. The system of training has changed which means that our Churchwardens and PCC members will need to undertake the new training in 2022. No issues have been reported.

Finance and accounts (report by Jane Brooks)

Please refer to the accounts prepared by Clare Lillington and Jane Brooks as Treasurer. In the year to 2021 the church received £7683.88 in funds with £9034.09 of expenses, meaning there was a shortfall this year. The Parish Giving Scheme has helped us to keep our doors open. The church is struggling to get donations due to dwindling congregations. We had to withdraw £2000 from our deposit account, to pay for the annual insurance. Coffee mornings could be reinstated to help with fund raising. The recent Village Hall get-together for newcomers to the village was very popular and this might be a format we could adopt.

Health and Safety [Report by David Smethurst]

There have been no concerns regarding Health and Safety during the year. The COVID safety measures stayed in place throughout the year. The boiler was serviced when church re-opened for services.

Deanery Synod Report (report by Helen Harding)

Report prepared by Clare Lillington (the Synod Secretary) for Chudleigh Church APCM and submitted by Helen Harding.

In April Jon Curtis, the Diocesan Lay Discipleship Advisor, gave details about his job and explained that one of the primary aims of his role is to make the local church fit to flourish in its own environment and give learning opportunities to lay people to support this.

In July the Synod met for the first time in person since the start of the Covid pandemic. The café style meeting format enabled people to share their positive and negative views about the last two years.

In September, James Greer the Diocesan Mission Enabler gave a very encouraging talk on 'How to move forward as we come out of the pandemic'.

Deanery Synod is a good forum for churches to share the highs and lows of church life and to give encouragement to each other.

Church attendance

- Easter Day 2021 service - 18
- Christmas 2021 – a Christmas Eve Communion service took place with 16 communicants present. The Nativity Play and Carols at The Cridford returned with high attendance.
- Sunday services returned to a more regular pattern following Alex's appointment.
- Funerals services – 1
- Marriages -0
- Baptisms – 1 (Gigi Budd)

Chudleigh CE Community Primary School (Report by Pat Smethurst)

A place for all to grow and flourish

Vision statement: Our Christian school will provide a safe and nurturing environment in which every child's gifts are celebrated so that they can flourish and achieve. Our school family will reach outwards to our community and the wider world in exploration, love and friendship.

During 2021 and the first term of 2022, school life was overshadowed by the Coronavirus pandemic, with increased absences from school because of illness and the need to have some home learning. However, much of school life is returning to near normal, following difficulties caused during the pandemic. Residential visits for years 4 and 6 and sports days are taking place. All pupils in Years 3 to 5 took part in a musical production. Statutory tests are taking place again, the first time since 2019. Two whole school visits to church have been made. A wide range of school clubs offer pupils the opportunity to engage in a range of extra-curricular activities, including a British Sign Language Club, the members of which took an assembly in school.

Our church continues to use the weekly prayer themes used by the school in our intercessions.

Alex has become an ex-officio member of the Governing Board. Pat continues to be Chair of the Board. The Board continues with its strategic role, members making visits to school and meeting with staff and pupils.

Fabric of the Church (Report by Dan Metcalfe and Angela Cameron)

An inspection undertaken in December 2019 remains current and identified a number of areas of work to be carried out with urgency. These include repairs to the tower, aisle cross and rainwater goods. A faculty approval has been achieved and church wardens are now looking into contractors to carry out the work. The lych gate will also require some attention over coming months as hinges and fixings are failing. Church wardens are investigating options for the replacement of certain ceiling lights due to the expensive nature of the fittings which are increasingly needing to be replaced 6 years on from the re-ordering. Otherwise, the building and church yard are in good order.

Church yard

The church yard is maintained regularly by Phil Brooks and the PCC thanks him for his efforts. In recent years (during the pandemic in particular) a decision was taken to omit the mowing of some areas to allow wildflowers to grow in the church yard in an effort to 're-wild' and provide a haven for nature. Several rare species were noted and interpretation boards erected to explain this. A view will be taken by the PCC on the continuing use of this policy on a year-by-year basis.

Church cleaning and flowers

Willing helpers keep the church clean and decorated with flowers. Grateful thanks to those who have offered to return to the flower rota duties to keep the church looking beautiful now it is once again open to the public.

Bell ringing (report Angela Cameron, Bell Tower Captain)

practices, alternating between Trusham and Doddiscombesleigh Churches, fortnightly, on Wednesday evening 7.30pm -9pm. Unfortunately the number of ringers is very small and we therefore fail to raise enough ringers for Sunday services, although we will keep trying.

Charities

The PCC continues to help charities by donating part of its annual income. It has been agreed that the PCC continue with the retroactive method of giving, based upon the previous year's church income, rather than assigning an estimated amount for the coming year based on last year's income. It is hoped that this will provide a more realistic reflection of the amounts available for gifting and will allow the PCC to better manage the slim financial resources we have.

The Trusham Causley Fund

Trustees: Dan Metcalfe, Angela Cameron, David Smethurst, with Paul Wimsett

Accounts for the Year ending 30th June 2021

Income received (interest): £1,720

Payments made during the year: £1,823

Year end funds to 30th June: £150,507