

ST JAMES'S CHURCH, BEERCROCOMBE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2017

Administrative Information

St James's Church is situated in Beercrocombe, Somerset. It is part of the Seven Sowers Benefice in the Ilminster Deanery and the Diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a corporate body established by the Church of England. It operates under the PCC Powers Measure and is a charity exempted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC Members who have served during the year are:

Incumbent: Rev Paul Reynolds, Chairman

Warden: Mark Humble, Vice-Chairman

Elected Members:

Phil Albrow

Liz Davies (part year)

Maureen Longstaff

Margaret McEvansoneya

Grace Warfield

Lindsay Welfare - Secretary

Treasurer: David Ramsbotham

Liz Davies resigned from the PCC during the year as she has moved out of the Parish. Phil Albrow and Maureen Longstaff both stood down as Wardens but remained on the PCC. Mark Humble was elected as Warden.

The method of appointment of PCC Members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All habitual church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The primary objective of the PCC is to promote the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrine and practice of the Church of England. The PCC consults with the Rector on matters of general concern and importance to the Parish and co-operates with the Rector and the rest of the Ministry Team in promoting in the Parish and the wider Benefice the whole mission of the church - pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The ancient church of St James's remains the hub of this small, rural community especially as we have no pub, shop or village hall. We have welcomed several newcomers to the village over the past year but encouraging church attendance remains a challenge. However we are fortunate that villagers are often willing to help out in various ways in spite of not being regular church-goers.

There are 18 parishioners on the Electoral Roll. No names were added during the year and two were removed either through death or because they moved away from the parish. A completely new roll is due to be prepared in 2019.

The regular service pattern remained unchanged during the year with BCP Holy Communion at 08h30 on the third Sunday of the month and Parish Communion at 10h00 on the fourth Sunday of the month. In addition, in months with a 5th Sunday, St James's hosts a Benefice Communion alternately with St Michael's, Orchard Portman. We would welcome more monthly services, from both a spiritual and a financial viewpoint. Attendees from both Beercrocombe itself and the neighbouring villages appreciate regular communion services, both BCP and Common Worship Liturgies, but we understand the constraints of the Ministry Team. The Beercrocombe Home Group also meets on alternate Monday mornings.

We are fortunate to continue to have Kate Walden to play the organ at our 10h00 services and at our Christmas Services and hope that this will continue. We also enjoy hearing the bells ringing at least once a month as we make our way to church. We give thanks to Kate and the bell-ringing team.

The interior of the church is always kept clean and tidy and we thank all those involved, particularly the ladies (and yes, they are all ladies) who provide such beautiful flowers each month. We now have fewer people who are willing to act as Sidesmen but we continue to cover all services and we hope that we can persuade more people to volunteer over the coming year.

The average weekly attendance at services in October was 9 and for the year as a whole 16. The four best attended services were the Christmas Carol Service (45), the

Christmas Eve Benefice Communion (34), the April Benefice Communion (33) and the Harvest Festival Communion (32).

The annual plant sale was held on Saturday 29th April 2017 and in spite of a cool and grey day we raised over £700, which is more than we have managed for the last couple of years.

Kate Walden helped to organise an Italian Favourites and Old Time Musical Concert at the church on Saturday 3rd June which was well attended with more than 70 tickets sold. The net profit was £670 which was split equally between St James's Church and St Margaret's Hospice.

The church building and surrounds appear to be in generally good condition. A couple of roof tiles needed to be repaired / replaced. The next Quinquennial Report is due in 2018 which will give a snapshot of the repair needs of the building and will list any repairs needed according to their priority.

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE PCC

Signed: Rev P Reynolds Date

Signed: M Humble Date