

**ST MARK'S CHURCH, ENGLEFIELD**  
**in the Deanery of Bradfield**

**ANNUAL REPORT of ENGLEFIELD PCC**  
**October 2020 - April 2021**

## ORGANISATION

### Benefice of Englefield

<i>Rector</i>	<i>The Revd Nicholas Wynne-Jones, Chairman of PCC</i>
<i>Parish Office</i>	<i>St Mark's House, Englefield, RG7 5EP</i>
<i>Bank</i>	<i>Lloyds TSB, 1-2 Market Place, Reading, RG1 2BQ</i>
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	<i>Mr F W Wells FCA</i>

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

<i>Wardens</i>	<i>Dr Carolyn Boulter</i> <i>Mr Torquil Montague-Johnstone</i>	
<i>Representatives on Deanery Synod</i>	<i>Mrs Paula Fenwick</i> <i>Mr Torquil Montague-Johnstone</i> <i>Mr Ron Marillier (Treasurer)</i>	<i>from APCM 2020</i> <i>from APCM 2020</i> <i>from APCM 2020</i>
<i>Elected Members</i>	<i>Mrs Gill Barton</i> <i>Mrs Penny Savage (Secretary)</i> <i>Mrs Liz Marillier</i> <i>Mrs Daphne Boddy</i> <i>Mr Peter Hollands</i> <i>Lady Elizabeth Benyon</i> <i>Lord Richard Benyon</i> <i>Mrs Victoria Fishburn (until March 2021)</i> <i>Dr Aldo Guiducci, (Vice-Chairman)</i> <i>Mrs Catherine Haig</i> <i>Mrs Melanie Townsend</i>	<i>from APCM 2019</i> <i>from APCM 2019</i> <i>from APCM 2020</i> <i>from APCM 2020</i> <i>from APCM 2020</i> <i>until APCM 2021</i> <i>until APCM 2021</i> <i>until APCM 2021</i> <i>until APCM 2021</i> <i>until APCM 2021</i> <i>until APCM 2021</i>

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted annually or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The Council aims to maintain 12 elected lay representatives having declined to accept the default laid out in the Synodical Government (Amendment) Measure 2003. Eleven elected members served in the year.

The PCC has met three times via video conference call (Zoom) during the year with an average attendance of 98%. The Covid-19 pandemic restrictions did not allow small meetings during this period. Members of the Standing Committee consist of the Rector, Churchwardens, Vice-Chairman, Lady Benyon, Treasurer and Secretary.

The 2020 APCM was held on 12 October 2020 under Covid guidelines from the Diocese. This PCC report covers October 2020 to April 2021. Statistics for Mission and attendance are reported for the calendar year 2020.

## **ATTENDANCE** *(Last year's figures are shown in brackets):*

The electoral roll has been revised as required in accordance with Church Representation Rules and stands at **92** (94), **72** (73) of whom are not resident within the parish and **20** (21) of whom are resident. The average 'normal' Sunday attendance in church is usually reported here but attendance in person only took place on 7 Sundays in October and December 2020.

Since October the few services in church were 'streamed' live via a private YouTube link to the St Mark's community. A shorter form of Common Worship has been used via the video conference platform, Zoom. The "at home" services on Zoom have had 42 connections on average each Sunday, equating to 50-60 worshippers, and feedback has been good.

From Easter Day Sunday worship in person was reinstated, adhering to government and Diocesan guidelines. Online Sunday morning worship is also available.

The "Statistics for Mission January to December 2020" reported the following data:-

Baptisms, Blessings or Thanksgivings 2 (2)	Marriages 2 (7)	Funerals 3 (2)
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The Eucharistic Prayer B of Common Worship and the Book of Common Prayer (1st Sunday in the month) are used for Sunday services in normal circumstances. To comply with Canon Law the PCC unanimously passed a resolution in January "dispensing with the reading of Morning and Evening Prayer as required by Canon B 11 and the celebration of the Holy Communion as required by Canon B 14 until further notice".

The Council ensures that Bible reflections and studies have been widely advertised. The church was unlocked regularly during lockdown for private prayer, always in accordance with Covid regulations.

The Child Protection policy is reviewed annually and PCC members are encouraged to use the on-line Basic Awareness (formerly C0) training module. The Council is grateful to the Sunday Club leaders, the Child Protection officer and Parish Verifier for their support of this important ministry.

Health & Safety is reported at each PCC meeting.

The Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), the electronic 'tap to donate' terminal and the *Just Giving* page (via the church website) have benefitted income without regular services in church.

## **FABRIC**

The Council aims to keep the church in good repair and to monitor the upkeep and appearance of the graveyard in accordance with the latest Diocesan and parish regulations.

As most services and events have taken place online the PCC is extremely grateful to the two technical experts from the congregation who have ensured weekly services are available to all. Some expenditure has been necessary to upgrade the audio system in church: a wireless antenna, a 4G connection to the internet, microphones, audio mixer and a storage facility.

## **PCC and PARISH**

The coronavirus continuity plan from the first lockdown in 2020 remained in place during this time and has been appreciated by the village and church community.

Communication remains vital in these extraordinary times and using the Parish News, the church website and the weekly bulletins the PCC is confident the community is kept fully informed of church services, the school news and what is happening within the different groups/organisations in the village and surrounding area.

Our giving supported the Mama Bahati Foundation in Tanzania, as well as Ride & Stride locally. At Harvest we supported the Churches in Reading Drop In Centre (CIRDIC) with food items, in conjunction with Holy Trinity Theale.



The Council aims to provide 10% of its unrestricted income, averaged over any three year period, to specific outreach appeals. Good stewardship of St Mark's is encouraged amongst the congregation and parish community.

At Christmas, a nativity tableau on a trailer planned to bring carols from the church around the village on the Sunday beforehand had to be cancelled due to tighter government restrictions. However, a variety of measures ensured the Christmas message was brought to as wide an audience as possible including:

- a Tree of Hope with messages from the Primary School
- the Sunday Club children lighting the Advent candles each week, recorded from the church for the Zoom service
- the St Mark's 'post box' at the Village Stores and delivery of Christmas cards
- floral arrangements in church
- the audio recording 'loop' of carols, readings and prayer running in the church throughout Christmas week
- Christmas morning worship on Zoom

Even though Sunday Club activities and Sunday worship have been held online for most of this reporting period, other opportunities have included:

- Remembrance Sunday address by Major General Roddy Porter of the Royal Welsh regiment and President of the Armed Forces Christian Union
- Christmas shoebox appeal for Operation Christmas Child
- Let's Talk Theology meetings
- World Day of Prayer
- The Lent Encounter daily Bible reflections

Music has largely been provided by recordings from St Martin's Voices choir and other permitted sources for on line services. The return of live music in church from our rota of organists will be welcome once church services resume, particularly the singing of hymns by the congregation.

The bell ringers have been absent for more than a year. It is hoped that when restrictions are finally lifted the bells will be heard regularly once again.

The Deanery Spiritual Development Group (SDG) has recently been reformed with online speakers lined up and plans for normal gatherings later in the coming year.

Signed .....  ..... Date ..... 10 May 2021 .....