

Annual Report and Financial Statements

For the year ended 31st December 2018

The Parochial Church Council of Ashford Town

A Charity registered with The Charity Commission no 1171191



ASHFORD TOWN TEAM MINISTRY

comprised of the Churches of

St Mary the Virgin, Ashford

St Mary's, Kennington

St Mary the Virgin, Willesborough

St Mary's, Gt Chart

St Michael & all Angels, Kingsnorth

Christchurch, South Ashford

and the Chapels of Ease of

St Mary's Sevington

St Peter & St Paul, Shadoxhurst

St Francis, South Ashford



ASHFORD TOWN PCC

Team Rector

Rev'd John Mackenzie
7 Augustine Drive, Willesborough TN25 7GH

Team Vicars

Rev'd Canon Tim Wilson (until October 2018)
The Rectory, Gt Chart, Ashford, TN23 3AY
Rev'd Eve Lanchantin-Piggott
The Vicarage, 212 Faversham Road, Kennington, Ashford, TN24 9AF
Rev'd Caroline Mansley
The Rectory, Church Hill, Kingsnorth, Ashford, TN23 3EG

Priest to Ashford Town Church and Chaplain to Ashford School

Rev'd Richard Bellamy
The College, Church Yard, Ashford, TN23 1QC

Associate Priest

Rev'd Dawn Stamper

Assistant Curates

Rev'd Peter Newell (Until December 2018): Rev'd Cathie Aldis:
Rev'd Andrew Brown

Lay Staff

Mr N Wilson – Parish Missioner: Mr P Sibbald – Team Development Officer

Hon Treasurer: Mrs S E Leslie

76 Tritton Fields, Kennington, TN24 9HL

Hon Secretary: Mr P Sibbald

36 Tritton Fields, Kennington, Ashford, TN24 9HE

Independent Examiner: Mr S Whorlow FCA

Cassidy's Chartered Accountants

South Stour Offices, Roman Road, Mersham TN25 7HS

Bankers

Barclays Bank plc, 66 High Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8TL

Website

www.ashfordchurches.co.uk

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The Parish of Ashford Town

Annual Report 2018

Aim & Purpose

The Parochial Church Council (PCC), has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. When planning activities for the year, the PCC gave consideration to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion.

Mission

During 2018, the Ashford Town parish has continued to evolve and develop its strong focus on mission with a number of new initiatives being launched alongside those projects already under way. The most significant new project was Make Lunch which we pioneered at St Francis. This project provides hot meals in the school holidays for children who during term time enjoy free school meals: the children are accompanied by a parent or carer and during the 10 sessions which took place in the summer holiday, 107 unique children were served a total of 301 meals, and 113 meals were served to 40 parents. The project was widely supported across the whole parish by 38 unique volunteers giving a total of more than 350 hours of their time. In October one session provided meals for 41 children and at Christmas 55 children enjoyed lunch and each child left with a wrapped Christmas present. The project was supported financially by grants from the local parish council, the parent organisation (TLG), and parishioners' donations and in kind by local supermarkets and businesses. It has proved to be a highly successful operation with many families now coming along to other projects and services and closer links have been forged with the local community: baptisms, and an emerging parent & toddler group are further outcomes. Other events at St Francis church included a fireworks party attended by over 250 and carols around the Christmas tree complete with brass band attended by more than 100 people. A similar project to Make Lunch was trialled at Kennington in the October half term and there are plans to repeat this in 2019.

Pub Talk - an initiative for informal discussions at a local pub met on 7 occasions with an average attendance of 8 people and 40 enrolled for an Alpha course. A small team continued to attend and support pupils at The Towers School and our Missioner also leads assemblies there: a weekly chaplaincy has been established at the new Ashford College and at Norton Knatchbull School there is involvement in the weekly Christian Union meetings.

The Debt Centre under the banner of Christians Against Poverty has continued to operate offering advice and support to those burdened by debt: 4 new clients are seen each month. Thanks to donations from parishioners and support from CAP, 21 Christmas hampers were distributed to clients. Fresh Start, an initiative to support and advise those with any form of addiction is scheduled to commence in January 2019 and the Ignite project was already in preparation towards the end of 2018. Once again we will host the Winter Night Shelter - this year on two nights a week at Willesborough and at St Francis for a period of 13 weeks from 10th December 2018. These projects are supported by local Councillors, parishioners, the national church and Churches Together in Ashford.

At Christmas time many schools in the Ashford area ask for support from the local church and there are a large number of services in our churches or led by the team in schools at this time. The Chaplaincy project in Ashford College has started and we are in the college for roughly two hours every Tuesday lunchtime. We are currently getting to know the staff and students and are hoping to forge some valuable relationships.

Ministry

Rev'd Tim Wilson, team vicar at Gt Chart, left the parish at the end of October. The Gt Chart post of Team Vicar is being relinquished and this area of the parish will be staffed in due course by a missioner based in the burgeoning Chilmington Green estate. In the meantime, Rev'd Cathie Aldis will continue in her post of Assistant Curate at Gt Chart with Rev'd Caroline Mansley as mentor.

Rev'd Peter Newell completed his training and will leave at the end of the year to take up a new post early in 2019.

Reverend Dawn Stamper was appointed Associate Priest and continues her role of ministry with particular responsibility for Christ Church.

Rev'd Andrew Brown joined the team in July as Assistant Curate at Willesborough.

Funds

Grants. Ashford Parochial Charities have continued to support the parish with an increased grant of £4,000 towards the costs of heating the church of St Mary's in the town centre and £10,000 towards the overall cost of Insurance. Local Councillors provided grants of £4000 towards the CAP Debt Centre project. Parish Councils at Gt Chart, Kingsnorth and Shadoxhurst provided contributions of £3,500, £1,000 and £500 respectively towards the cost of maintaining those churchyards. The only other 'open' churchyard is at Ball Lane, Kennington where no such support has existed historically but the community of St Mary's church there are optimistic as a new Parish Council comes into existence in 2019. The Pightland Trust has continued to support Kingsnorth by way of direct financial contribution of more than £30,000 as well as funding the costs of a replacement photocopier and the posts of office administrator and verger.

Income

Regrettably the proposed Stewardship Campaign did not come to fruition and Planned Giving was only marginally higher than in 2017. 320 members are committed to regular giving either by banker's standing order or through the Freewill Offering envelope scheme; of these 238 were able to take advantage of the government's Gift Aid scheme



which added over £46,000 to our income. Open plate collections fell slightly but again the government's Small Donations Scheme added further gift aid amounting to almost £12,000: grants were noticeably lower than the previous year. Donations and Legacies - although non-sustainable sources of income were nonetheless welcome and significantly higher: the total received in the year from Legacies was £59,020 of which £57,000 was without restriction. Overall, total income was just 2.5% higher at £638,749. However, Restricted income, over which we have less control, was down by 37% to £39,776 and General Fund income increased by £39,000 (7%).

Costs

We have once again managed very successfully to maintain tight control over church running costs with savings in printing and stationery and churchyard upkeep alongside increases in Parish Share and Insurance. Energy costs were understandably higher given the extreme weather of the early weeks of the year. Two of our church boilers failed at the onset of winter and had to be replaced at a cost of £6,200 each. Hall and cafe running costs were higher but these 'trading' activities each returned a worthy outcome with over 56% 'profit' from each:



Total costs for the year amounted to £650,239 which reflects a 2.5% reduction on last year but this is a result of a significant reduction in Capital Project costs.

General Fund Overall result

With the monthly management accounts indicating significant overspend through most of the year, it was with much relief that 3 unrestricted legacies totalling over £56,000 arrived in the closing weeks and turned the anticipated deficit to a net surplus of £5,021 before Stock Market revaluation adjustments.

Total Income and transfers £598,973; Expenditure £593,952; Surplus £5,021;
Revaluation & sale losses £5,641; Net reduction in funds £620; Unrestricted Fund remaining £159,709

Charitable Giving

Following the transition to reporting standard FRS102, mission spending now falls into two distinct categories, Mission and Charitable Giving and Mission & Evangelism being part of our primary cost of Mission & Ministry.

The PCC's policy of giving a percentage of its income from planned giving is therefore refined to supporting those home mission projects and organisations which operate in and around our local communities. We will continue to respond to appeals for international relief and development and for other charities as determined by the local church leadership teams, but any such donations will be funded from special collections or events.

Mission & Charitable Giving

Special collections and events during the year provided support for the following charities:

The Children's Society	Embrace ME	Porchlight	Royal British Legion	Madagascar
Kerala Flood Victims	Open Doors	Tear Fund	Ashford Food Bank	Pilgrim's Hospice

We also sent donations to Madagascar after the devastation wreaked by Cyclone Ava and to Indonesia for the relief operation following the Tsunamis there.

Mission & Evangelism

Much has already been written in this report about our mission initiatives: the financial cost of supporting CAP and Fresh Start amounted to £9,128, support for the work of Graham Nunn in and around the parish was £1,000 and we spent over £1,700 on children's ministry and £800 to top up the Parish Discretionary Fund for support of the homeless, destitute and needy.

The Make Lunch project attracted grants and donations of almost £2,000 and specific donations amounting to almost £1,700: costs included initial set up and essential premises improvement of £1,588 and provision of food and entertainment amounted to £1,008 leaving a healthy balance of around £1,000 for future provision.

Restricted Funds

Long term projects at St Mary's Church Sevington and St Mary's Gt Chart are now under way but each in the very early stages with expenditure being mainly in respect of professional services from architects, and in the Gt Chart project, quantity surveyors and a firm of professional fund raisers. Major expenditure on halls has been funded at Kennington from a legacy received in 2017 and includes the provision of new hand-driers at each of the two halls (£3,228), new flooring (£6,350 at Rylands Road) and floor maintenance and redecoration (St Mary's Church Hall (£3,735) .

Total Restricted Income £39,776; Expenditure £56,287; Deficit £16,511
Revaluation losses £2,450; Net reduction in funds £18,961; Restricted Funds remaining £327,150

Endowment Funds

One small endowment fund remains – the Annie Marwick Trust - for the upkeep and maintenance of Shadoxhurst Churchyard; income of £371 received in the year was transferred to the General Fund. Revaluation losses reduced the remaining funds to £10,981

Administrative Information

The PCC is a body corporate under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and operates in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2011. It is a Charity registered with the Charity Commission number 1171191.

PCC members are ex officio, co-opted, or elected by the Annual Parochial Church meeting; a maximum of fifteen elected members are permitted by the Church Representation rules and members serve for a period of three years, retiring by rotation. Future Annual meetings will elect members to serve for the full three year period. Lay members of both the Deanery and Diocesan Synods are ex officio member of the PCC; it was agreed at the inaugural meeting that all existing Lay representatives of the former parishes should remain in office until the next triennium elections.

Membership

Clergy: Rev'd John Mackenzie – Chair of PCC.

Rev'd Canon Tim Wilson (until October 2018); Rev'd Caroline Mansley; Rev'd Eve Lanchantin-Piggott; Rev'd Richard Bellamy; Rev'd Dawn Stamper; Rev'd Peter Newell (until December 2018); Rev'd Cathie Aldis.

Lay Staff:

Mr Phil Sibbald; Mr Nathan Wilson

Church Wardens: Mr Phil Coles (until April 2018); Mr Jerry Fox; Mr Alan Stamp (from April 2018)

Lay Readers: Mr Martin Lees; Mr Derek Goodwin; Mrs Charlotte Coles; Mrs Alison Gunther; Mr James Beck.

Deanery Synod Representatives: (until April 2020) Mr Ian Rich; Mr Dick Houghton; Mrs Laura Lawrence; Mrs Jane Appleton; Mrs Judy Blount; Mrs Wendy Pryor

Diocesan Synod Representatives: (until May 2021)

Mrs Shirley Leslie; Mr Robert Sharp; Mrs Jill Humphreys; Mrs Charlotte Coles; Mr Nathan Wilson

Elected members:

Served until April 2018 – Mrs Jane Appleton; Mr Alan Stamp; Mr Julian Sheehan;

To serve until April 2019 – Mrs Libby Varley; Mrs Lorraine Andrews; Miss June Wenborn;

Mr Ken Blanshard;

To serve until April 2020; Mr John Donovan; Mr Derek Goodwin; Dr Arthur Waters; Mrs Sally Rickard; Mr Michael Piggott.

To serve until April 2021: Mrs Lesley Wraxall; Mr Peter Celi-Stamp; Ms Karen Hardie; Mrs Morag Sharp; Mr Paul Needham;

Mr P Sibbald continues to serve as Hon Secretary.

Mrs S Leslie continues to serve as Hon Treasurer, assisted by Mr John Small (Gift Aid Claims Manager), Mrs J Seggie, Mrs C Waters, Mr R & Mrs T Fincher, (Local Gift Aid administrators), Mrs A Sorrell, Mrs J Wenborn (Local Gift Aid and Local banking administrators) and Mrs L Varley, Mr J Donovan, Mrs H West, Mr R Seggie, Mrs K Small, Mrs J Appleton (Local Banking administrators).

The PCC meets six times a year; business matters are also considered as necessary by the Standing Committee. Each local church has a Local Leadership Team: these act as sub-committees of the PCC to deal with purely local matters of ministry and fabric.

Approved by the PCC on 28th March 2019 and
signed by the Rev'd John Mackenzie (PCC Chairman)

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of Ashford Town Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018, which are set out on pages 6 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of the PCC and the examiner

The Charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under Section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an Independent Examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- * examine the accounts under Section 145 of the 2011 Act
- * follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners in Section 145(5)(b) of the Act; and
- * state whether particular matters have come to my attention

Basis of Independent Examiner's Statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the management committee concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in a full audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the accounts.

Independent Examiner's Statement

In connection with my examination, no matters have come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with S130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with these accounting records have not been met; or
2. To which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to reach a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Stuart Whorlow FCA
Cassidys Chartered Accountants,

Date _____/_____/2019