

St David's Ashprington

Annual Report 2019

Background.

St David's serves a population of over 400 adults from the village of Ashprington, the hamlet of Tuckenhay, and the settlements of Painsford, Yetson, Sharpham Barton and Sharpham House. 27 are on the Electoral Roll. It is uniquely positioned with distant and panoramic views across the South Hams. There is seating capacity for about 100-120 people. The fabric is in a sound state of repair, major refurbishment works having been done to the tower in 2009/10 and refurbishment of nine church windows completed during 2017 with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and other charitable trusts totalling £53,000.

Parishioners are very supportive of each other within their communities. The PCC is very grateful to Liz Chandler, the organist, whose contribution to the worship is very significant.

Our Objects

To provide a place of worship, pilgrimage and prayer which is open during daylight hours, seven days a week to anyone who wishes to attend the services or visit the building. In addition, the church is used for concerts and other cultural gatherings.

Our Vision

To keep St David's as a vibrant and living Church that shares the Gospel of Christ by virtue of its welcome, worship and fellowship. As part of this, the maintenance and ongoing restoration of the historic fabric and furniture, remains one priority. We recognise the role of the Totnes Mission Community as providing its congregations with a range of skills and gifts from both stipendiary and lay people for the greater glory of God.

Our Mission

To offer weekly worship and celebrate the major festivals of the Church. We see St David's as being inclusive and receptive to all parishioners and visitors and a great venue for concerts and other secular activities.

Objectives and Activities.

Church attendances average 14 (reported participation figure) on a normal Sunday - 4% of the Parish. There is no regular representation from younger people. There are a number of individuals who are on the Electoral Roll but do not attend church services on a regular basis but choose to serve the Church by undertaking many and varied tasks. We are very grateful to them all.

Safeguarding remains a priority for St David's Church. Laurence Green is the Safeguarding Officer.

Worship. The Rector, Rev Julian Ould announced that he would be retiring on the 28th February 2020. St David's and the rest of the Mission Community has been wonderfully served throughout 2019 by the Team - the Rev'd. Julian Ould, Team

Vicar Rev'd. Debbie Parsons, Team Curate Rev'd Jane Frost Rev'd Steve Jones (curate), and our licensed Readers, Liz Waterson and Tony Gregg together with the Rev'd. John Luscombe, who is a retired clergyman. Simon Boyes, Churchwarden, has led Village Worship services in the absence of the clergy. A mid week, 'said' Holy Communion service was held on the first and third Wednesday's at 9.30am attended by about five parishioners. We continue to enjoy joint services with our neighbouring parish of Cornworthy. During the year, there have been a number of additional services and events arranged, targeted at non-churchgoers and children.

- A Patronal Festival lunch was held after the service at the Durant Arms on the 3rd March 2019, which was well supported.
- A Christingle service was held on the 14th December 2019 and was very well attended by young families, many of whom never participate in any worship.
- 'Open the Book' Bible Society initiative and Roots & Fruits, led by Chris Grimshaw and Juliet Hancock, continues to flourish throughout the area and is well received in nine primary schools: Harbertonford, Bridgetown, Landscope, Stoke Gabriel, Berry Pomeroy and Dartington, and Diptford.
- 'Fruits and Roots' has also been introduced into certain primary schools by Chris and Juliet Hancock
- Kathi Green, Jill Davies and Claire Grimshaw have maintained the weekly coffee morning in the village hall; a church led initiative which raises money for local needs. It is supported by up to 20 villagers.
- The annual 'Carols by Candlelight' Service on the 19th December 2019 once again attracted a very large number of people from the parish and beyond. The service was supported by the Ashprington choir led by Liz Chandler. Some of the singers are not regular church-goers and their presence amongst the choir on other festival occasions is encouraged. This was a specific initiative, sponsored by the church, as part of its Mission outreach - 'Making New Disciples'.
- The Harvest Festival was celebrated at St David's Church on the 13th October 2019, followed by a meal in the Durant Arms. Enjoyed by all.

Fabric.

An electrical survey was carried out by Datel Electrical and certain faults addressed, which provided the church with a Certificate of Compliance.

There had been some discussions with a Mr Stewart Truss from South Hams Council in relation to the repair of the churchyard wall.

There had been ongoing discussions between Richard Soans and Bovey Builders in relation to the proposed installation of a toilet and servery.

Jill Davies had made enquiries with two contractors regarding the installation of a loop and amplification system for the church.

None of the above last three initiatives had been actioned in the 2019 year.

Finances.

At the 31st December 2019, the Treasurer, reported that the PCC Bank Accounts contained £33,908. There is also an additional trust investment of £13,258, being two legacies received by St David's many years ago (The latter funds are held by the Diocese in a CBF Investment Fund.) An additional sum of £400 is held in St David's Church Restoration Account.

Future plans.

The PCC agreed to invest in a dedicated website for the church, which Margaret Wilmshurst will action with support from others on the PCC. (This became live in May 2020).

A plaque will be erected by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission highlighting the gravestone of Leading Aircraftman Chope.

With the notice of the Rev Julian Ould's retirement in 2020, steps were taken within the Mission Community to ensure there was a minimum delay in the appointment of his replacement. The Rev. Jim Barlow was installed as the new Rector on the 8th July 2020. In the meantime, both Rev Jane Frost and Rev Steve Jones had taken up positions within other Mission Teams within the Diocese.

Laurence Green will produce a 'Guide to Monuments' in the church.

Overriding the future plans of the PCC, was the COVID 19 Pandemic which almost overnight curtailed almost all activity and plans from March 2020. At the time of writing, the virus continues to impact the normal initiatives.

Structure, Governance & Management

The PCC meets at least three times a year. It is responsible for all matters relating to the Church, under the overall leadership of the Team Rector and Team Vicar.

Reserves Policy

The Reserves Policy of the PCC is to hold a minimum of £12,000, which is the equivalent of one year's average expenditure.