

**Parish Church of
St Edmund King & Martyr
Kingsdown with Mappiscombe**

**ANNUAL REPORT
and
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
of the
PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL
Year ending 31st December 2019**

INCUMBENT

The Rev'd Sarah Corry
The Rectory, School Lane
West Kingsdown, Kent
TN15 6JL

BANK

Barclays Bank
Lowfield Street
Dartford Kent DA1 1HD

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Martin Stoneham, 139 Hever Avenue
West Kingsdown, Kent.

*St Edmund's is a community of Christians, part of the wider community,
Growing together in faith and numbers.*

Background

The PCC works with the Rector in promoting within the parish the whole mission of the Church in terms of pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical care. This is promoted under the Vision Statement

“With God’s help and guidance, we will develop leadership and ministry throughout the Church”.

Membership

The following served as PCC members during the year under review

<i>Incumbent</i>	The Rev’d Sarah Corry	
<i>Assistant Curate</i>	The Rev’d Harriet Johnson from 1 st October 2017	
<i>Church Wardens</i>	Rosemary Gray	appointed in 2010
	Angela Beale	appointed in 2018
<i>Deanery Synod Reps</i>	Steve Gray	appointed in 2017
	Pauline Jenner	appointed in 2017
<i>Elected Members</i>	Kim Johnstone (<i>Treasurer</i>)	appointed in 2018
	Jon Battershill (<i>Secretary</i>)	appointed in 2017
	Janet Jones	appointed in 2019 (2 year term)
	David Mullen	appointed in 2017
	Geraldine Mullen	appointed in 2019
	Clive Yarnold	appointed in 2018
	Vacancy	post not taken up

During the year the PCC met on six occasions.

Committees

The PCC is augmented by several Committees which meet between full meetings of the PCC. These committees are subsequently responsible to the PCC. The committees recruit not only from the PCC but from the wider church family.

Fabric & Churchyard, Finance, Fun and Fundraising, Communications, Away-Giving, SEKAM

Church Attendance

There were 75 on the Electoral Roll at the APCM in April 2019. Generally, Sunday attendances at the services is around 45, however, congregations are larger for special services (thus at Easter church attendance is around 80 and for services held on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day is around 300). During the year several new members have joined our regular congregation, some committed Christians and some new to the faith.

Review of the Year

Worship

Sunday Worship

Our main pattern of Sunday worship continued as in previous years with an 8am Said and 10.30am Sung Eucharist. On the first Sunday of the month the 8am service followed the Book of Common Prayer and the 10.30 was orientated towards family worship. All other Eucharist services followed Common Worship. During Advent and Lent a Eucharist service was also celebrated on a Wednesday morning. Throughout the year all feast days and major festivals were celebrated with special services including Advent Sunday, Advent, Christingle, Christmas, Epiphany, Candlemas, Ash Wednesday, Holy week, Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Harvest, All Saints, All Souls Memorial Service and Remembrance Sunday, St Edmund's Day and Christ the King.

Daily Prayer

The Rector continues to say Morning Prayer, in church, each morning from Tuesday through to Saturday. She is often joined by members of the church community along with visitors.

Occasional Offices

Baptisms:

Baptism services were undertaken for eight infants (under 1y), nine children - (aged up to 10 years), two young persons, (aged 11-17) and two adults during the year. It has been wonderful to witness the wide age-range of people being baptised this year. These are joyous services attended by congregations from around 40 up to around 100 in size. Baptisms bring families together and parents and Godparents make public baptismal Christian promises setting the foundations upon which their children will be raised. St Edmunds runs a Baptism sponsor scheme whereby church members keep in contact with families by sending Christmas and Birthday cards. The PCC is very grateful for donations received to cover the purchase of the bibles.

Jon Battershill

Weddings:

Six weddings took place during 2019. Marriage Prep in a day, promoted and run by Marriage by design/Care for the family, had to be cancelled due to a heavy snowfall. All couples married at St. Edmunds receive a card on the day of their wedding and an anniversary card is sent on their 1st anniversary inviting them back to church.

Funerals:

During the year 19 funeral services were held in church and another 14 at various crematorium. All bereaved families are followed up approximately six weeks after the funeral with a card, phone call or visit. I am extremely grateful to Maureen Southgate for her unstinted help and dedication in the follow up. Each family we have been connected with are invited to a memorial and thanksgiving service held in church on All Souls Day.

Rev Sarah Corry

Quiet Time takes place in church on Tuesdays between 4:30 and 5:30 when anyone can drop in. There is quiet music but no talking, allowing space to read, pray or just sit in God's presence. Up to 10 people take part, including visitors who are not regular worshippers with us. Rev Harriet is grateful to Janet Jones who has been able to facilitate on the occasions when she has been away.

Rev Harriet Johnson

Sunday Fun Club: This continues to run on the third Sunday of each month, excluding August. Numbers remain low and can fluctuate, sometimes as many as 9 and sometimes just 1. November is often a bumper session due to the Beavers and Cubs attending the St Edmund Day Service.

The themes are set for the whole year and activities are planned to match the themes used at the 10.30 am service. A big thank you to all our helpers and to Elizabeth for planning and leading some sessions.

Hilary Wilder

Mission and Outreach

The church is open on a daily basis with a rota of volunteers. In addition, we manned the church on about four Saturdays in the year. We have a steady flow of people visiting for different reasons for prayer or just to sit quietly. Refreshments are offered on these Saturdays which is well received.

Pilgrimage: In May 2019 the pilgrims from St. Martin in the Fields were welcomed with numbers growing to over one hundred. They enjoyed a rest and were fed and watered. A big thanks to all church volunteers.

Angela Beale

Toddler Church has been meeting on Thursday mornings during term time and has been well attended by children from under 1 to almost 4. We often have more than 20 children with their mothers or carers, and they all have a good time. We finish with singing in the church which the children seem to enjoy. Grateful thanks to Kerry Cheeseman for all her help.

Elizabeth Stoneham

5Ups After School Club: A club run on a weekly basis for Key Stage 1 children in our church school. Activities and games each week are based on a Christian theme. The club is popular with the children. Many thanks go to the group of volunteers who help with the club.

Rev Sarah Corry

West Kingsdown Church of England Primary School: Close links with the school continue. Throughout the year Rev Harriet and I have led weekly Acts of Worship. During the year each class attended a special service in church. Reception, years 1 and 2, attended a Christingle service, years 3 & 4 came to church on Ash Wednesday for a service of ashing, year 5 came to receive their Bibles and year 6 for a leavers service. We have continued to develop a close working relationship with staff and children alike, support RE lessons and have helped prepare the school for their next SIAMS inspection. Hilary Wilder on behalf of the PCC works with children as part of a 'Leading Lights Scheme' which encourages pupil leadership in collective worship. Several classes have visited church as part of their RE or Creative Curriculum lessons.

Rev Sarah Corry

Nursing Homes: There are two nursing homes in the parish; Abbey Court and Manordene. Both can accommodate 22 residents. Both are visited once a week and often twice a week. There are a number of residents in these nursing homes who have few and sometimes no other visitors. There are regular services each month in the nursing homes which are tailored to the liturgical seasons.

Jon Battershill

Pop-in: The Pop-in continues to grow in numbers of visitors. In May we introduced afternoon tea on the third Saturday of the month, and, of course, continued with the Full English breakfast on the first Saturday of the month. Our takings were greatly enhanced in September, when Welling United players and followers came in as visitors, and we understand that they are coming back in 2020. We catered for the Sponsored Walk, and also the Walk of Witness, and a special Christmas dinner, and a Big Christmas breakfast. Once we'd paid £808 in rent, £1,363 in expenses, our profit was £4,625.

Rosemary Gray

Coffee and Chat: Coffee and Chat has been held every Friday in various peoples' homes and is proving to be very popular with a wide range of the community.

Rosemary Gray

St Edmund's Lunch Group: The group meets regularly, each month, [on a Tuesday or Wednesday lunchtime] and although a small number of local pubs have stopped their special 'meal deals' we continue to find new eateries that are willing to accommodate us! We are always open to anyone who would like to join us for the company and good value food provided.

Don Corry

Away Giving: The small away giving team continue to meet regularly and this year have organised fund raising for the Church (cream teas and Easter raffle), for Whitechapel Mission in conjunction with the local primary school which was our harvest donation of nearly new clothing, toiletries and food goods. Again this was extremely well supported although we encountered difficulties in getting Whitechapel to collect these items. The Diocese Poverty and Hope benefited from

money raised at harvest from the sale of fresh produce. We also initiated the collection of empty crisp packets and bread wrappers for recycling with proceeds going to Kicks Count Charity and the collection of used postage stamps supporting the Guide Dogs for the Blind charity. Unfortunately, the Christmas shoe box appeal details were provided too late for us to organise this, although individuals did fill shoe boxes for the Baptist Church to send off and we did hold our usual Christingle Service with the collection being sent to the Children's Society (joint Christingle with Birtley House). Once again Mike Wesley has collected the Children's Society boxes which forms part of the regular away giving. At our next Away Giving meeting on 25th February we will be discussing the events and charities to support next year. We have continued to collect goods for the Salvation Army Foodbank in Dartford throughout the year.

We would like to thank everybody for their generosity once again this year in making our fundraising efforts for outside Charities and the Church so worthwhile.

Hilary Wilder

Fun and Fund Raising: This year we raised over £9,700 across a number of events including the Sponsored Walk, the Summer Fair, The Rectory Garden Fete and the Christmas Fair. [These are at present the four 'major' fundraising events of the year.] Although the main focus of these is on generating funds for the church we also hold in mind that they are an opportunity for people of the Parish, and beyond, to engage in activities that help bring the whole community together.

I would like to thank all those involved in the organization and running of these events. Thank you also to those who helped in any way with the 3rd Annual Christmas Tree Festival and the associated concert; to the ladies who ran the 'Cream Teas' and to any others involved in any fund raising not specifically mentioned here.

I would also like to, once again, thank Elizabeth Stoneham for her secretarial duties and excellent minutes.

We continue to look at new ventures for fund raising, but also to events that help promote 'fun and friendship', so any ideas would be welcome.

Don Corry

Communications Committee continues to oversee the church's website and Facebook page. The latter has just over 200 followers. The reports and information we put out about events involving young people, especially from our Primary School, continue to be very popular, as was information about our Christmas services. The Committee has also worked to update the contact details we hold on church members which are gathered and maintained in line with the most recent guidance on Data Protection.

Rev Harriet Johnson

SEKAM: We continue to produce 10 copies of SEKAM during the year which are distributed to households in the village by a team of volunteers. The cost of printing is usually covered by the advertising, but we are sadly short of advertisers at present. Grateful thanks go to committee members Rev Sarah, Pat Bosley and Roger Mayne who looks after the advertising, and to our distributors and all our deliverers, without whom we could not continue.

Elizabeth & Martin Stoneham

Church Wood Management: Climate change and an increasing population of ageing trees resulted in extensive storm damage in Church Wood, with consequently more safety work required. A £2000 contribution was made to KCC towards the cost of restoration of the footpath at the back of houses on Church Road, which was destroyed by flooding. The result of an application for a grant under the Woodland Grant Scheme is still awaited. Work parties continue to meet each Tuesday, though calls for more volunteers have been fruitless.

Roger Beale

Fabric & Churchyard:

During 2019 works undertaken include:

- a) Pruning of Horse Chestnut Tree adjacent to the Lych gate
- b) New heating system in the church completed
- c) Decoration of north wall where damp areas dried out
- d) Decoration of the Millennium Room and thanks is expressed to FOSE for meeting the costs.

Thanks is expressed to all who have helped with the churchyard maintenance mornings,

leaf clearing and the annual Church Spring Clean. A note of thanks to all serving on the Fabric & Churchyard committee and last, but by no means least, to Don Corry for all his work in keeping the churchyard looking well cared for.

Pat Bosley

Safeguarding: The Safeguarding policies have been reviewed this year and the annual safeguarding audit completed and returned. Safeguarding has featured on the PCC agendas as required by the policy. Our procedures are all compliant with the Diocese recommendations and there have been no safeguarding incidences reported to me this year. All Safeguarding courses are up to date for the Revs Sarah and Harriet, Church Wardens and me as safeguarding officer.

At the time of writing, all PCC members and volunteers hold current DBS certificates.

Hilary Wilder

A note of thanks

The PCC expresses thanks and appreciation to our hard-working Rector who leads our church community by showing that no task is beyond her and that with her ministry the church continues to grow.

The PCC expresses thanks and appreciation to Rev Harriet, who with the Rector is leading the church community and is a great asset to our church.

The PCC wishes to thank all who have helped in St Edmund's during the year in whatever capacity. We are privileged to have many who support the church – the flower team, weekly cleaners, bell ringer, refreshment rota – to mention but a few. Again, this has been an extremely busy twelve months in maintaining good support and work in the development of our Church.

Looking Forward

We look forward to our next year with Rev Sarah and Rev Harriet, the new challenges ahead and pray for leadership and participation in the Called to Grow initiative. During 2020, Rev Harriet will finish her three-year curacy. We pray for God's guidance as she discerns her future calling.

Jon Battershill (PCC Secretary)

REPORT ON CHURCH FABRIC AND CHURCHYARD FOR YEAR FROM JANUARY 2019 TO 2020 INCL. FOR APCM 2020.

One of the gates to the churchyard has been repaired by David Diboll, and he is waiting for the correct wood to mend the other one.

A new heating system with a new boiler has been installed and proved efficient.

The Millennium Room has been repainted, and our thanks go to FOSE for covering the cost. Also, the north wall has been repainted.

The crack in the corridor is still being monitored and so far there has been no more movement.

The horse chestnut tree by the lychgate had to be pruned following a large branch falling off due to strong winds.

Churchyard maintenance has continued during the year, under the direction of Don Corry, and our thanks go to him for his continuing care, and also to the helpers who turn up for maintenance days. Also our thanks go to the uniformed organisations who help with spring cleaning, and leaf clearance in the autumn.

We would also like to thank the church cleaners and flower arrangers for their continuing work, which make the church look so well cared for and special.

The church had it's annual inspection by Rev Tim Hatwell, the Rural Dean. At his behest, the bell tower is kept locked but with the key removed.

Angela Beale & Rosemary Gray (Churchwardens)