

**ST. MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH WEST KINGTON**  
**Annual Report for 2014-2015**

**Background**

St Mary the Virgin Parochial Church Council has the responsibility of co-operating with the other parishes in the By Brook Benefice Team, and with the Priest in Charge, the Reverend Jonathan Philpott, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of West Kington, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical. The PCC also has the responsibility for the maintenance of the fabric of the church building and churchyard and to carry out the repairs specified in the last Quinquennial report of 2010.

**Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the last year the following have served as members of the PCC:

Priest in Charge	The Reverend Jonathan Philpott		
Churchwarden	Dido Lamb	-	Lay Chairman
Elected Members:	Caroline Carrington		Joint Secretary
	Joyce Hewitt		Joint Secretary
	Mark Webb	-	Treasurer
	David Akerman		Anne Barnitt
	Daphne Smith		Emma Sims-Hilditch
	Arthur Weeks		Tony Holmes
	Tessa Clarke		

**Benefice News**

Rev. Sarah Evans continues as our Team Vicar and Rev. Velma Oxley and Rev. Gillian Parkin as Assistant Curates. Gillian Parkin was ordained as a priest on 29 June 2014. Alison Flint, Diane Ross-Smith, Len Scott, Margaret Greening, Mike King, Mary Pope, Tim Woodward and Pam Tayler are all Licenced Lay Ministers. Kington St Michael joined the Bybrook Benefice 27 April 2014. Rev. Jonathan Philpott was on sick leave for several months of 2014, and on his return to work in the early autumn, the Ministry Team and Team Council met to discuss the future for the Benefice, and how it could run in a sustainable and fulfilling way. This process is documented in the Priest-in-Charge's report as attached in the Minutes.

**Church Attendance and Electoral Roll**

There are currently 12 names on the Electoral Roll. St Mary's continued to hold a Holy Communion service at 9.30am on the first Sunday of the month, with a 6pm Village Celebration on the third Sunday. The Communion Service and Village Celebration service have been taken by a variety of vicars. Our Communion service usually attracts 7-8 communicants, but the Village

Celebration attendance dwindled over the year, particularly during the summer months and one or two of the colder winter months. At the end of 2014, following the restructuring of the Benefice and the new 'Cluster' arrangement (as detailed in the Priest-in-Charge report), the PCC decided to reduce the number of third Sunday services in the year, to five. The hope is that when we do have one of these services, they will be well attended. The other change to our services as from 1 January 2015, is that Graham Seaman is our permanent organist for all our services.

The Carol and Christmas Day services were well attended, 110 for the Carol Service and 75 on Christmas Day. The Carol service was organised again by some of the younger families, and was a happy and lively occasion. It was great to have their involvement. Our Benefice service was in September and we had a good Harvest Festival gathering, followed by the harvest supper. Many thanks to Daphne for producing this. Easter Day service was attended by approximately 30 people. We have had 2 funerals, for Arthur Weeks and David King, from Nettleton.

As well as services in our own church, the Benefice is well served with regular services, Lent groups, prayer groups, etc. in other parishes.

### **Review of the Year**

Since the last APCM, the full PCC has met three times. West Kington services continued as normal, although the Ministry Team were under a great deal of pressure. At the end of the year, the clustering system was introduced with Rev. Gillian Parkin as our leader. There was a tree dedication to Peter Barnitt on 2<sup>nd</sup> October in the churchyard, following the service that day. The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rev. Justin Welby officiated at Bristol Cathedral on 14 September, and some PCC members attended.

### **The Building and Churchyard**

Repairs and restoration work are detailed in Tony Holmes' report. The up to date map of the churchyard has been put to good use. The churchyard was successfully managed by Caroline who employed Cam to do the regular mowing around the graves and paths through the nature reserve. There was a reasonable village turnout of helpers to do the Autumn clear up.

### **Fundraising**

There has been no fundraising this year. Lunch was served in the church for the Easter Monday walk. Many thanks to Daphne, as always.

I have completed my fifth year as Churchwarden, and would like to thank everyone on the PCC who has helped me this year. I am extremely grateful for their support. Thank you to everyone who helps in running and maintaining this special church.