

## St Thomas of Canterbury Church, East Clandon

### Annual Report for 2019

#### STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

East Clandon P.C.C has the responsibility of assisting the incumbent, in promoting in the parish the mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has responsibility for developing and maintaining links with the Parish of West Clandon with whom we share an incumbent. The incumbent throughout the year has been the Rev. Barnaby Perkins.

The Parochial Church Council (P.C.C) is a Charity which is exempted from registration with the Charities Commission although the Charities Act 1993 regulates the way in which the P.C.C. must report to its congregation and the general public.

As required by law, the only Committee through which the P.C.C operates is the Standing Committee, which has the power to transact the business of the P.C.C between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council.

#### REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

##### Membership

Members of the P.C.C are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

During the year the following served as members of the P.C.C:

*Incumbent:* The Revd Barnaby Perkins (Chairman)

*Church wardens:* Mrs Jane Thorold  
Mr Bruce Tindale

*Representative on the  
Deanery Synod:* Mrs Gill Beaton

*Elected members:* Mr James Culmer  
Mr John Evans (deceased 22.5.2019)  
Mrs Louise Herbert (Hon. Secretary)  
Mr John Leader  
Mrs Carole Pullen  
Mrs Anne Randall (Verger)  
Dr Dermot McMullan (Hon. Treasurer)

*Co-opted members:* Mrs Sarah Dudgeon

It was with great sadness that a long time PCC member, former churchwarden, regular churchgoer and dear friend, John Evans, died on Friday the 22nd of May 2019. John was a tireless supporter of the church in East Clandon, willing to turn his hand to practically any task. Our congregation and village are deeply in John's debt for the way in which he continued to support the church, even as his health began to fail. He is greatly missed by all.

## **OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

The vision of the P.C.C is **“Inspired by God’s love for all, we seek to be a church which welcomes, nurtures, grows and cares”**. Services are held weekly on Sundays, starting at 9.15, except for the second and fourth Sundays of each month, where a 10.30 service is now held jointly with West Clandon. There are also special services (eg Time to Remember), and the monthly service of Prayer, Reflection and Communion.

## **ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

There are 24 parishioners on the 2019 Church Electoral Roll of whom 2 are not resident in the parish. The average weekly Sunday service attendance in 2019 was 14. This number was increased at the special services held during the year, notably at Mothering Sunday, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and the Carol Services for Cherry Trees and the village. The monthly service of Prayer, Reflection and Communion continues to be popular and has maintained a stable congregation size throughout the year.

### **Review of the Year**

The full P.C.C met 5 times during the year, with an average attendance level of 84%. The main items discussed were:

1. The progress of F.R.O.S.T. and the renewed/updated liaison with its trustees. Without the support of F.R.O.S.T. most of the improvements to the church fabric in the last 10 years would not have been possible.
2. No grants were made to overseas relief agencies or Secular societies. A grant was made to the Happy Child charity (£152). The absence of grants (£2,420 lower than the previous year) meant that 0.5% of total regular income was allocated in this way.
3. Following the September 2018 presentation to the Parish and the village about the need to increase funding from parishioners and the community towards the cost of Parish Share, donations via the new Parish Giving Scheme as well as the largely maintained Regular Donations increased overall by 20% to £17,936. This generosity enabled the Parish to meet the increased cost of the Parish Share

of £17,581. Further follow up messages from the Rector to inform parishioners of the success of the presentation are important to ensure that all possible donors are contacted and made aware of the importance of the role of the church in the community.

4. The Kneeler Project continues to be enthusiastically supported with further new kneelers now being seen in the Church. Work on more kneelers continues.
5. A bequest from the estate of Patricia Barnett in the total amount of £5,000 was received to support organ scholarships over the next 10 years, under the guidance of Professor Sebastian Forbes.
6. The P.C.C noted the importance of promoting a safe church for all the church community in support of the House of Bishops Safeguarding Policy. Members of the P.C.C have undertaken appropriate training, with further training modules to come. A Parish Safeguarding Policy has been written and signed by the Rector and good progress is being made to meet in full the 10 steps required under the Parish Safeguarding Audit.

### **Deanery Synod Reports**

Gill Beaton was thanked for her role as representative at Deanery Synod during the year.

### **Fabric and Furnishing Report**

Bruce Tindale has kept the P.C.C advised throughout the year on the programme of repairs and improvements to the fabric of the church, both in terms of annual maintenance as well as capital items. His active involvement has enabled the cost of ongoing repairs, with financial support from F.R.O.S.T, to be held within the financial resources of the Council - £5,835 (£1,218 last year).

### **FINANCIAL REVIEW**

There was an increase in receipts in 2019 of £7196 to £30,561 or 30% (just £299 increase in 2018) – net of the Barnett bequest. The Parish Giving Scheme, planned giving and collections increased as a whole by 26% as a result of the full year impact of the benefits arising from the 2018 presentation on the parish funding shortfall. The increased income also resulted in an increased Gift Aid recovery. Income from parochial fees was up in the year to a more normal level (£1,296). Payments rose by £7,660 or 24% (just £862 in 2018). This was due to an £1,621 (or 10%) increase in the contribution that East Clandon makes to the Parish Share paid to the Diocese and to a limited number of expensive but outstanding maintenance items (£4,617).

Overall, there was an excess of Receipts compared with Payments of £3,514 but net of the Barnett bequest, there was excess of Payments over Receipts of £1,051 (deficit) in the General Fund (£656 deficit in 2018). The Building Fund was closed during the year and consolidated in to the General Fund. The balance of the Kneeler Fund fell to £73 as a result of drawings made to support the completion of a further number of kneelers.

**Investments** are held by the P.C.C to generate income when necessary to cover operating costs. The P.C.C took the view in 2008 that long term funds should be held mainly in equities and corporate bonds in view of the very low income available on bank deposits. Income generated from investments was £1,782 (£1,779 in 2018). Through 2019 there was a general recovery in the financial markets which resulted in an unrealized gain of £5,012 (unrealized fall of £5,720 in 2018) on the investments.

**Net assets.** As a result of all of the above, the total value of the net assets managed by the Parochial Church Council at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019 had increased by £8,563 to £50,555. This compares with £41,991 on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018.

Signed

Date      June 2020