

**St. Peter & St. Paul, Cudham  
Archdeaconry of Bromley and Bexley  
Anglican Diocese of Rochester**

**Annual Report  
of the Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023**

**Aim and purposes**

St Peter and St Paul Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, the Reverend John Musson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. St. Peter and St. Paul is part of a United Benefice with St. Mary, Downe.

The **Mission Statement** of the Church agreed by the PCC is:

***“We exist for three main purposes: Worship, Witness and Welcome:”***

- To worship the living God through the Lord Jesus Christ;
- To witness to the love of Christ shown supremely in his life, death and resurrection; and
- To welcome all people into our fellowship with the love of Christ.

**Structure, governance and management**

PCC - the method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Peter and St Paul, Cudham the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwarden/s, treasurer, secretary, reader, deanery synod representative and members elected by those who are on the electoral roll of the church. All those who attend our services / members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

During 2023 the PCC met during January (Joint with Downe PCC), February, twice in May (once for the APCM and AGM), July (Joint with Downe PCC), September and November. During these meetings a variety of issues of concern and importance connected with the life of the church: worship and services, missional, spiritual, financial, practical and social, along with plans for the re-ordering of the church building were discussed,

Regular PCC agenda items included –

- Sunday Clubs, Messy Church and children’s work.
- Pastoral care in the parish and the ongoing work of the Pastoral Visiting Team.
- Outreach, mission and community engagement initiatives.
- Safeguarding
- Financial statements and reports, budgets and parish pledges.
- General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).
- On-going plans for building and maintenance matters involving the church, building reports and updates, improvements to church building. Plans are now at an advanced stage, and during 2024 will be taken forwards to the Archdeacon.
- Parish Hall reports.
- Churchyard maintenance and Churchyard Fund - work has been ongoing to clear the “wild area” of the churchyard.

## Review of the church year and calendar

In May The Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla was marked with a weekend of celebration in collaboration with other village organisations.

The Bishop of Rochester joined a United Benefice Café Church on 2<sup>nd</sup> July; in attendance were the Mayor of Bromley and Councillor Jonathan Andrews.

An All Soulside Service was held in the evening of Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> October, where names of loved ones no longer with us were read out.

Remembrance Sunday service was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November in Cudham Churchyard for an act of worship including the singing of the National Anthem.

## Homegroups, Messy Church and other church events throughout 2023 –

- Homegroups continued throughout the year with meetings being held both in person and by Zoom.
- Taize Service A Taize service was held in church on 12<sup>th</sup> November, and was well attended both by regular congregation members as well as local people who are not regular attendees at church.
- Lent – During Lent, the homegroup focused on the Lent book ‘Failure’.
- Easter Activities Palm Sunday was marked with a joint Benefice procession from Christmas Tree Farm to St Mary Downe. In addition to the Easter services in church, the Easter Fire and Paschal candle were lit on Easter Eve in the churchyard at Cudham.
- St Francis of Assisi Service A service was held at Christmas Tree Farm on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October
- Worship Together Services Informal, family friendly themed services were held on the first Sundays of November and December.
- Messy Church continued at various times of the year, providing an opportunity and outreach for families to receive the Christian message through artwork, singing, reading and hearing God’s word.
- Warm Welcome Events continued through 2023, welcoming invited guests from the community. Lunches were generously donated by Fayre Do’s catering.
- Christmas in Cudham - for Advent and December Cudham church organised several events which were appreciated by the local community –
  - Christmas Tree of Remembrance outside Cudham Church inviting people to tie a ribbon/ bauble or leave a message for a loved one.
  - Carol singing was arranged on 21<sup>st</sup> December around the Hazelwood area of the parish.
  - Childrens Nativity play held on 4pm in Cudham Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.
  - Christmas Carol Service – Held at 4pm on Christmas Eve.
- Candlemas/Christingle A Candlemas/Christingle United Café Church service was held on 29<sup>th</sup> January.

### Pastoral Visiting Team:

The Pastoral Visiting team continues with contact and visits within the parish. Easter and Christmas gift bags were delivered to those on the regular visiting list.

### Anna Chaplains:

Kim and John Curle were commissioned as Anna Chaplains by Jonathan, Bishop of Rochester on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Anna Chaplaincy aims to equip churches to better support older people in their congregations and communities and to ensure their spiritual and pastoral needs are met.

## **Prayers**

Daily prayers were held by Zoom and in Church on a Wednesday morning.

## **Committees**

PCC and the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee can meet between full meetings of the PCC and consists of the Incumbent, Churchwardens, Treasurer and Secretary and two other members of the PCC. It has power to transact any urgent business of the PCC, subject to any directions given by the Council.

## **Church Attendance**

The Electoral Roll stood at 52 at the date of the APCM.

Figures for the church attendance of adults at worship on the four Sundays in October 2023 were 0 (United Service at Downe), 15, 17 and 12. The number of children who attended the same four Sunday services was 0, 5, 5 and 0. On average around 15 adults and 4 children attend church each Sunday, although in line with many churches, there is a larger pool of people who attend from time to time.

In addition there were around 14 who watched our online services each week.

## **Occasional Offices**

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping.

In 2023 the parish church and its ministry celebrated 1 marriage, 1 baptism, 7 funeral services and 3 committals or burial of ashes.

## **Safeguarding**

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (*duty to have due regard to House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults*). Recruitment of a replacement Diocesan Safeguarding Officer is underway.

**Cudham Church of England School Academy** is part of the Aquinas Trust, with Lisa Askew as Headteacher at Cudham School from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023. Rev John Musson served on the Advisory Council as its chair. The end of term Easter service was held in church on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March. The Harvest Festival service was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October in church, with donations of food from the school community taken to the Bromley Foodbank. The School Christmas service was held in Church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

Regular school worship is supported by Rev Musson, and Kim and John Curle, in conjunction with the school worship committee. The school choir attended the Christmas Warm Welcome event held in Cudham Parish Hall on 8<sup>th</sup> December and performed for the guests.

**Parish Hall** - The PCC also has trustee oversight for the Parish Hall, Cudham Lane South, Cudham, with the day to day running in the hands of the Cudham Community Centre Trust. The PCC receives regular reports from the Trust.

**General Data Protection Regulations** - the PCC has acted in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which took effect in the UK from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018, replacing the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998). Rev John Musson is the Data Controller; Barbara Sheret Data Protection Officer.

**Membership** - Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Since 2021 the total number of members elected to the PCC is 9, or 1/10 of the Electoral Roll, whichever is the larger number. A further 2 people may be co-opted for a year. One third of those elected to the Council retire from office each year and are eligible for re-election. The following served on the PCC:

|                    |                               |             |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Vicar:             | The Rev John Musson           | Chairperson |
| Churchwardens:     | Diane Kemp and Mike Manthorpe |             |
| Deanery Synod Rep: | Diane Kemp                    |             |

Elected Members:

|                    |                 |           |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------|
| Mrs Denise Angell  | until APCM 2025 |           |
| Mrs Sue Nettlefold | until APCM 2026 |           |
| Mrs Sue Everest    | until APCM 2024 |           |
| Mrs Barbara Sheret | until APCM 2026 |           |
| Mrs Kate Brignall  | until APCM 2026 |           |
| Mr Mark Comley     | until APCM 2025 | Secretary |
| Mr John Isbell     | until APCM 2024 | Treasurer |
| Mr John Curle      | until APCM 2024 |           |
| Mrs Kim Curle      | until APCM 2025 |           |

The PCC extends sincere and grateful thanks to all the Church membership who work so hard to make our Church the worshipping, witnessing and welcoming community it is, and for their help and support in so many ways throughout the year.