

**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 31st December 2024**

Aim and purposes

St. Peter and St. Paul, Cudham, is part of a United Benefice with St. Mary, Downe. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Incumbent, who up until his resignation and last service on 21st July was the Reverend John Musson, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

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 PCC consists of ex officio members i.e. the incumbent, 2 churchwardens and a Deanery Synod Representative, and up to 9 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 2024 the PCC met during January (Joint with Downe PCC), February, May (including the Annual Parochial Church Meeting), June, September (Joint with Downe PCC, attended by Archdeacon Allie Kerr), October (Joint with Downe PCC) and November (Joint with Downe PCC). During these meetings a variety of issues of concern and importance connected with the life of the Church/es - 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.
- Parish Hall reports.
- Churchyard maintenance and Churchyard Fund - work has been ongoing to clear the “wild area” of the churchyard.
- From September, the process of seeking a new vicar.

Review of the Church year and calendar

In June Rev John Musson announced he was resigning from his role as Vicar of Cudham and Downe; he led his last service on 21st July when he was presented with a gift from the Church congregations.

The PCC was notified by the Diocese that the Patron's Right of Presentation had been suspended for a period of up to three years, while consideration is given to the replacement of the parsonage house and possible pastoral reorganisation. Archdeacon Allie Kerr attended the Joint PCC on 23rd September to discuss the process of seeking a new incumbent; She indicated that the Diocese would look to appoint a Priest in Charge in the first instance. The PCCs continued to work towards preparing the Parish Profile and discussed the appointment of the Parish Reps for submission as soon as possible in 2025.

The Bishop of Tonbridge led a Baptism and Confirmation service on 22nd September, with candidates from across the Orpington deanery.

An All Soulstide Service was held in the evening of Sunday 3rd November, where names of loved ones no longer with us were read out and candles lit in their memories.

A Remembrance Sunday service was held on 12th November starting in the churchyard with a short act of worship and followed by a service in the church, including the singing of the National Anthem.

The congregation have enjoyed services led by visiting clergy and lay ministers.

Homegroups, Messy Church and other Church events throughout 2024 –

- Homegroups continued throughout the year with meetings being held both in person and by Zoom.
- A Taize Service was held in the church on 3rd March, and was well attended both by regular congregation members and others who are not regular attendees at church.
- Easter Activities Palm Sunday was marked with an all-age service in St Mary, Downe, following a walk with donkeys from Christmas Tree Farm. A Service of the Lords Supper was held on Maundy Thursday with a sunrise service on Easter Sunday.
- St Francis of Assisi Service A service was held at Christmas Tree Farm on Sunday 6th October
- 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 2024, welcoming invited guests from the community. Fayre Do's catering continued to donate several of the lunches.
- Christmas in Cudham - for Advent and December Cudham Church organised several events which were appreciated by the local community –
 - A Christmas Tree of Remembrance was erected outside the church inviting people to tie a ribbon/ bauble or leave a message for a loved one.
 - Carol singing was arranged on 23rd December around the Restavon area of the parish.
 - Children's Nativity service was held on 24th December.
 - The Carol Service was held on 22nd December. Sadly the numbers were well down from our usual time of holding this, on Christmas Eve.
- Candlemas/Christingle services were held twice in 2024, on 4th February for Christmas 2023 and 1st December for Christmas 2024.

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.

Prayers

Daily prayers were held by Zoom and in the church on a Wednesday morning, until the resignation of Rev Musson. Since then, a prayer meeting for the United Benefice has been on the first Tuesday of each month.

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. The Standing Committee met on 13th August.

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 2024 were 0 (United Service at Downe), 10, 9 and 14. The number of children who attended the same four Sunday services was 0, 5, 0 and 6. The School Harvest Festival service was attended by 55 children and 30 adults. On average around 19 adults and 5 children attend services 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, although live streaming of services ceased when Rev Musson left.

Occasional Offices

As well as our regular services we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of their journeys 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 2024 6 baptisms, 1 marriage, 2 funeral services and 5 committals or burial of ashes were held at St Peter & St Paul.

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*). Our Safeguarding Officer having resigned at the APCM, recruitment of a replacement Parish Safeguarding Officer is underway.

Cudham Church of England School Academy is part of the Aquinas Trust, with Lisa Askew as Headteacher from 1st January 2023. Rev John Musson served on the Advisory Council as its chair until resigning in June 2024; Mark Comley (parishioner and PCC member) also serves on the Council. The Easter and Christmas end of term services and Harvest Festival service were held in the church.

Weekly Collective Worship was supported by Rev Musson and Kim and John Curle, in conjunction with the school worship committee, have continued the practice. The school choir attended the Christmas Warm Welcome event held in Cudham Parish Hall on 13th December and performed for the guests.

Parish Hall - The PCC 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 25th May 2018, replacing the existing law on data protection (the Data Protection Act 1998). Mark Comley is the Data Controller; Barbara Sheret Data Protection Officer.

Membership - Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM). Since 2021 the total number of members elected to the PCC can be 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. In 2024 the following served on the PCC:

Ex-Officio Members :

Vicar:	The Rev John Musson	Chairperson until July 2024
Churchwardens:	Diane Kemp	
	Mike Manthorpe	Deputy Chairperson
Deanery Synod Rep:	Diane Kemp	

Elected Members:

Mrs Sue Everest	until APCM 2024	Did not stand for re-election
Mrs Sue Nettlefold	until APCM 2024	Did not stand for re-election
Mrs Denise Angell	until APCM 2025	
Mrs Kim Curle	until APCM 2025	
Mr Mark Comley	until APCM 2025	Secretary
Mrs Barbara Sheret	until APCM 2026	
Mrs Kate Brignall	until APCM 2026	
Mr John Curle	until APCM 2027	
Mr John Isbell	until APCM 2027	Treasurer

Kim Curle is Licensed as a Schools and Families Evangelist and she and John Curle are commissioned Anna Chaplains.

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, especially during this time of vacancy.