

St Marys Church, Downe
Archdeconry of Bromley & Bexley
Anglican Diocese of Rochester

Annual Report
Of the Parochial Church Council
For the year 1st January to 31st December 2022

Background – aim and purpose

The PCC of St Mary's Church has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelical, social and ecumenical.

St Mary's is part of a United Benefice with St Peter and St Paul, Cudham.

The Mission Statement

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."

The PCC is responsible for the care and upkeep of the Downe Cemetery churchyard extension in High Elms Road.

Structure, Governance and management

Rev Rach Archer continued as Curate in the Benefice but will be leaving the Benefice during January 2023 to take up the post of Rector of Mossley Hill Church in Liverpool.

PCC – the method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St Mary's, Downe the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwarden/s, treasurer, secretary, deanery synod representative and members elected by those who are on the electoral role 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.

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.

Membership – members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the APCM. Since 2004 the total number of members elected to the PCC is 6, or 1/10th 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 on 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
Curate	The Rev Rach Archer
Churchwarden	Mrs Chris Isbell

Caryn Newell assisting with churchyard and building matters
Deanery Synod Rep: Vacant
PCC Ex-Officio Members: Vicar, Curate, Churchwardens,
Deanery Synod Rep

PCC Elected Members.

Caryn Newell until APCM 2024
Zoe Knight until APCM 2025
Cornelia Parkin until APCM 2023
John Isbell until APCM 2023
Kevin Custis until APCM 2024

There are 2 spaces for co-option, but none were made

During 2022 the PCC met during March, May (for the joint APCM and AGM), July (joint with Cudham PCC) and November (joint with Cudham PCC)

During these meetings a variety of issues of concern and importance connected with the life of the church 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)
- Ongoing plans for building and maintenance matters, building reports and updates, improvements to church building
- Downe Cemetery churchyard maintenance
- Admittance of children to Communion

Review of the church year

The following are some of the services and special events held during 2022:

Beginning with prayers in St Mary's marking the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and a commemorative service held on Sunday 18th September

Jan 16 th	Service of Holy Communion admitting children to Communion
Jan 30 th	Candlemas – United Christingle Service
Feb 6 th	70th Anniversary of Accession of Queen Elizabeth II
Feb 20 th	Baptism of Zuri Marsden
March 1 st	Joint Pancake Party in Downe Village Hall
March 2 nd	Ash Wednesday Service in Cudham
March 6 th	1 st Sunday of Lent – Lent prayer bags given out
March 20 th	9.30am Prayer Healing Service
March 27 th	Mothering Sunday – posies given out
April 3 rd	6.30pm Choral Evensong
April 10 th	United Palm Sunday Service – Procession from Christmas Tree Farm with 2 donkeys to church

April 17 th	Easter Day All Age HC with Easter Egg Hunt
May 8 th	HC service including Lectio Divina
July 31 st	United Café Church in Downe Village Hall
August 28 th	United Songs of Praise Service at The Vicarage
Sept 25 th	Harvest Thanksgiving supporting Diocesan Poverty and Hope Appeal
Oct 3 rd	United Pet Blessing at Christmas Tree Farm
Oct 30 th	All Souls Service at 4pm
Nov 13 th	Remembrance Sunday Service outside the Church
Dec 1 st	Launch of Downe Advent Windows
Dec 4 th	Baptism of Fynn Shippey Christmas Craft and Candle lighting in church 4-6pm village Christmas lights switch on
Dec 18 th	6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
Dec 20 th	Carol singing around Downe
Dec 21 st	Downe School Service
Dec 25 th	Christmas Day All Age Holy Communion

- St Mary's continues to be open daily for individual prayer between 9am and 4pm
- Homegroups continued throughout the year with meetings being held both in person and on Zoom. The focus during Lent was on prayer using sessions from Pete Greig's 24/7 prayer course
- Christian Meditation continued to meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursday mornings of the month at 10am
- Messy church continued at various times of the year providing outreach and opportunities for families to receive the Christian message through crafts, singing,

reading and hearing God's Word both in Cudham church and here in Downe.

Church Attendance

There were 47 names on the Electoral Roll at the 2023 APCM

Attendance at worship on Sundays during October 2022

Adults : 9,7,9,11

Children: 5,2,0,2

In addition the Church of England requested figures for our worshipping community, both those who attended in person and on line:

Adults : 25

Children : 3

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 2022 the parish church and its ministry celebrated 2 baptisms, 4 funeral services and 1 wedding.

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). Denise Angell stood down as Benefice Safeguarding Officer, and recruitment of a replacement is underway.

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). Rev John Musson is the Data Protection Controller. Barbara Sheret Data Protection Officer.

Pastoral Visiting Team

The Pastoral Visiting Team continues with contact and visits within the parish.

Prayers

Daily prayers were held by zoom and in church on a Wednesday morning.

The PCC extends sincere and grateful thanks to all church members 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.