

Annual report and financial statements

All Saints Biddenden Parochial Church Council 2010.

Aim and purpose

All Saints Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Alexander Bienfait, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of All Saints Church, Biddenden.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our church and to become part of our parish community at All Saints, Biddenden. The PCC maintains an overview of worship. Our services and worship put faith into practice, through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, the incumbent and the PCC have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and in particular, the specific guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular we try to enable people to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer.
- Learning about the gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in Biddenden.
- Mission and outreach work.

The PCC sought to express these aims with the following values.

- creating a "church without walls"
- creating a church which is "warm and nurturing"

PCC Membership:

Incumbent:	Rev'd Alex Bienfait
Assistant Curate:	Judy Darkins
Churchwarden:	Julie Lupton
Lay Reps to Deanery Synod:	Sophie Williams
	Kate Whapham (to end October 2010)

PCC Members:	Barbara Bridgeman
	Ann Courtness
	Zena Grant
	Paul Majendie
	Jeannette Oatway

At the PCC meeting following the 2010 APCM Mark Clixby was elected PCC Treasurer. Since the APCM 2010, the PCC has met on 9 occasions, and twice in conjunction with Smarden PCC. Percentage attendance was 75%.

PCC business - main topics covered:

Combined PCCs:

- Children & Vulnerable Adult Protection
- Mission Plan Review
- Charitable Giving
- Tenterden Deanery and 4 Dens Cluster
- Joint Account
- Human Sexuality

Biddenden PCC:

- Maintenance of the church fabric, particularly the North window.
- Improvement to lighting.
- Churchyard, particularly grave space and introduction of kerbs
- Mission Plan.
- Worship Plans and service times
- Choir
- John Mayne School
- Intercession training and guidelines
- Sidespersons guidelines
- Tenterden Deanery re-organisation and 4 Dens Cluster
- Pastoral Care
- Children and young people – youth services
- Appointment of Youth Support Worker at Homewood School
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.
- Charitable Giving.
- Legacy and donations policy
- Flower Festival
- Church Fete
- Fundraising and social events
- Gift Stall
- Burial Register
- Finance and Budgets

Achievement and Performance 2010

Mission Plan

The current mission plan was adopted by the PCC in 2008. Groups or teams reporting to the PCC, were created under the following headings: Worship, Learning, Children and Young People, Earth, and Pastoral.

Worship Team

We aim to offer a range of styles of worship to suit different ages and preferences for worship. Sunday morning services are mainly Eucharistic using Common Worship (CW). There are services using the traditional Book of Common Prayer (BCP), including a twice monthly 8am Holy Communion, and monthly Evensong. We also have occasional reflective services using the music of Taize. We have experimented with youth service which has become known as COSMIC Y. This has been made possible working in collaboration with churches in our local cluster (ie High Halden, Bethersden and Smarden)

A retreat day in January 2010 was organised at St. Andrew's convent Edenbridge, to give the experience of different ways of praying.

Judy Darkins (Assistant Curate) was ordained Deacon in July 2010 by the Archbishop Rowan Williams, at Canterbury Cathedral. Judy has been supported in her training by a local support group drawn from members of both parishes of the Benefice who have met for the past 3 years.

Learning Team

This team has focused on the launch of a Christian enquiry course, Christianity Explored, which took place in January and February 2011. During 2010 a Lent study course was run in Biddenden.

Children & Young People

A small Sunday school has run successfully on a fortnightly basis at All Saints through the year with an average number of 5 children.

For young people 11 upwards, a new monthly youth service was started in January 2010 which became known as COSMIC Y. This was organised collaboratively with the other parishes in the Four Dens, Smarden, High Halden and Bethersden. Numbers have fluctuated from 10 to 16.

Schools work: The close relationship between the church and John Mayne Primary school continues to be much valued. Alex Bienfait and Judy Darkins share taking weekly assemblies in the school. We are delighted that the school come into church for services once a term, and the PCC is delighted to make available the use of the school for end of year productions and concerts. Members of the church serve on the school's governing body, including Judy Darkins, and Alex Bienfait, with Ian Rickwood as chair of Governors. Judy also works at the school as a learning support assistant.

Pastoral Team

The Pastoral team meets every 6 – 8 weeks to co-ordinate visiting of members of the church, as well as providing support and training for members of the team. The team organised an open meeting in September, inviting people generally in the village and in the wider Deanery, on the subject of information about the care people can expect to receive as they become less able.

The Four Dens

The Churches of High Halden, Bethersden, Biddenden and Smarden are in an informal grouping known as The Four Dens. We are expected by the Diocese to seek ways to work more closely

together. The parishes meet for Sunday worship on or around the 5th Sundays, and we also work collaboratively on marriage preparation and youth ministry. A Rogation walk in May from High Halden to Biddenden took place visiting farms and interviewing farmers along the way. The Four Dens also met to discuss our respective Diocesan quotas.

Re'vd Simon Foulkes, Vicar of St. Margaret Bethersden, and St. Mary High Halden, announced in October that will be leaving.

Statistics	2010	2009
Baptisms	9	17
Weddings& Blessings	9	6
Funerals	7	10
Estimated Usual Sunday Attendance	38	38
Electoral roll	94	82

Ecumenical relationships: Few opportunities, but warm links with Zion chapel, Smarden. Zion Chapel joined Smarden and Biddenden Churches for Palm Sunday procession in Smarden, the Maundy Thursday supper, and most recently helped organise the house to house carol singing in Smarden at Christmas.

Fabric Report:

In view of the fact that there has been no fabric team and no second churchwarden for the last year, all fabric issues have, initially, been dealt with by the churchwarden. So the first matter is to thank everyone who has given their willing support in matters relating to the church fabric.

My thanks go to Chris Cox for all the work he has done in the churchyard; to Martin Giles for work on the clock; to John Grey for taking over responsibility for the heating; to Brian Watson for support with matters relating to lighting; to Peter Whapham and to Tony Webb for their help with repairs. Marcus Palmer in Smarden has also given help and advice.

The major issues with the fabric relate to on-going work following investigations into the cracks in the Tylden-Pattenson chapel. Ecclesiastical Insurance have undertaken to put right drainage problems on the north side of the church and to monitor movement of the north wall once these repairs are complete. If, once the drains are repaired, the wall is found to move, then we are not covered under the terms of our insurance and any further repairs will be at our own expense. However, the investigations have been done by experts in subsidence and so we can be more confident in how we tackle any further cracking.

The re-wiring and lighting scheme is progressing. The PCC gave its approval to proceed with the scheme and Diocesan approval and a Faculty have been granted. At the beginning of March 11 negotiations with a preferred bidder are underway and by this time next year we will all be enjoying a safe, user-friendly and sensitively-lit church. A small team of PCC members have been working on applying for grants to various charities in order to get funding to help with paying for this essential work. We have also appealed to the wider community for support in this project.

The churchyard: concern has once more been raised in relation to the poor state of some tombstones, in particular the Table tombs on the south side. Advice has been sought from the Diocesan Conservator and a report with guidelines and suggestions for funding is awaited.

The churchyard is open. This large area is maintained by a team of volunteers. The illegal introduction of kerbs is still a problem and we are seeking legal advice from the Diocese.

The brasses: no work has been done on these in the past year and a report on maintenance is awaited. We are also expecting advice from the Diocesan Monumental advisor on how to fill in cracks in the church floor and surrounding the brasses.

Routine and minor works carried out:

Electrical:

- faulty light switches and timer clocks for the external floodlighting have been repaired.
- **Annual checks** have been done on the fire extinguishers and all portable electrical appliances

Plumbing

- A leaky tap has been replaced
- no further work has been carried out investigating unpleasant smells.

Clock

- Now serviced on an annual maintenance programme, due in May. There have been some technical problems with the clock over the past year. John Grey has helped with an electrical fault and Smith of Derby are supportive over the telephone for clockwork issues
- The poor state of the clock face has been pointed out and Smith of Derby will be asked to quote for the repair and repainting of this in May 2011.

Flagpole:

- this has had some maintenance work done on it to ensure the flag can be raised and the star can be safely hoisted aloft.

Piano and Organ

have been tuned and serviced regularly.

The Quinquennial Inspection:

- this is due in 2011 .
- George Denny, our church architect, is happy to do this.

Deanery Synod Report

The Tenterden Deanery Synod met three times over the last year; in Rolvenden Church, at John Mayne School and at Homewood School. At each meeting, after general business had been dealt with, we had an interesting subject presented to us:

Very much at the last minute, Charles Hill stood in for the planned speaker at Rolvenden and talked to us about his work with Kent Churches together and ecumenicalism which was most enlightening.

At John Mayne School the Diocesan Director of Ordinands, Revd Clive Todd came to speak to us about the work he does with the selection and training of ordinands throughout the diocese, which

he marries with his work as parish priest of Thannington. At the time of the talk there were 40 candidates going through the system, supported by Clive and 6 assistant DDOs. There are several changes taking place within the system at present, with the training of OLMs stopping and the training of NSMs being broadened and made more flexible, a move which Bishop Trevor is Keen to support.

At Homewood School, we discussed the possibility of the Deanery and other local churches funding the placement of a Christian Schools Worker at the school. The Head Teacher, Sally Lees talked to us about her vision of what such a worker would do at the school and the roles that s/he would play in the lives of the pupils. This idea has been greeted with general approval, and work is beginning on drawing up a job specification for the post and getting funds in place for the project.

There have been several changes within the Deanery in the last year; the Southern Cluster has been formalised as the two benefices of Rolvenden and Newenden and Benenden and Sandhurst; Tenterden has been reorganised as a single benefice; High Halden and Bethersden will soon be joined by Woodchurch as a new Group Ministry. There is also talk of the Tenterden Deanery being joined with Romney Deanery, thus giving us greater financial and ministry flexibility and a wider network of support for clergy. This last idea has been met with a mixed reaction from some current members.

There is a vacancy for at least one Deanery Synod member from this parish, and the Lay Chair position is still vacant.

Magazine:

The PCC publishes a monthly Parish Magazine, circulated to over 500 homes in the parish. The magazine includes community news, and Parish council business. The cost is 50 pence. Once a quarter the magazine is distributed to every home in the parish, with support from a grant from the Parish Council.

Website:

The church maintains a website, updated weekly, with up to date information on services and events. A copy of entries from the burial register for burials from 1877 – 1992 is available for inspection online.

Church opening:

From Easter to October, with a rota of Church Welcomers, the PCC is able to keep the church open to visitors from 10:30am to 4pm. Last year the church had over 3000 visitors. The PCC are unable to leave the church open unattended due risk of theft.

Financial report

Income compared to previous years is down, but this is mainly due to the fact that the church has not received any monies through legacies. Collections at services are similar to 2009, but both these years are lower than the previous two years. Fundraising and Events are similar to previous years and are an area that the PCC agree needs to be bolstered in the future. Insurance claims and energy refunds are reduced from the previous year as the PCC has amended the way it makes claims to the insurance company.

Expenditure compared to the previous two years is also down and this is largely down to the fact that no Major works have taken place during 2010. The PCC has made a huge effort during 2010 to control expenditure and this will continue into the future. We have moved energy suppliers and it is hoped that this will reduce our costs during the next few years.

Overall, the **accounts show expenditure over income during 2010 of £3841.77** and this is an area that must be looked at during 2011. Otherwise we run the risk of eating into our reserves. We must continue to find ways of increasing our income, whilst at the same time reducing our expenditure. The Treasurer would like to take the opportunity to thank all parishioners who give to the church during the year, both in financial terms and by giving up their time.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

This includes cash at the bank and 5 outstanding cheques to be paid from December 2010. The PCC maintains a **Restricted Funds** account and this currently (as at Feb 2011) contains £294 to be used for Flower Festival, annual charity and church flowers. There is also a **Designated Funds** account that contains £3165.30 and is monies designated by the PCC for church fabric, tower / bells and benefice / choir. Both funds form part of the church's general/reserve account.

Charitable Giving

This year the church opted to raise funds for the Christian Aid Haiti Appeal and raised £716.09; the Pakistan Flood Appeal and raised £174.20 and gave Christian Aid £23.15 as a 50% share from the music concert from June 2010. Moneys were also raised for the Royal British Legion and The Children's Society.

Swarden and Biddenden Joint Account.

The monthly contributions remain at £450. It is likely we will revisit the contribution to the Joint Account during 2011 as this account is now in a very healthy situation. We will be seeking a reduction in this monthly payment.

Flower Account

As usual this account has been run most efficiently by Peter and Vera Jones. They have received funds from Gift Aid refunds, and also donations.

Investments

The church's investments have continued to do well during 2010. The most notable of these being the CCLA General Investment Fund that improved by over £5k during 2010. The other investment account that did moderately well was the CCLA Memorial Fund. The PCC must continue to monitor all these investments as the market changes on a regular basis. Both dividend based investments continued to support the general account and between them brought in £2361. It is important to remember that all these are long term investment accounts and although the interest may be lower than other accounts providers, the CCLA is a very safe place for the church's money.

Reserves Policy

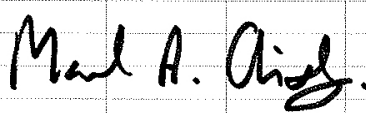

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted funds (if possible), which equates to approximately twelve months' unrestricted payments, to cover emergency situations that may arise from time to time. This equates to approximately £60,000 and is only possible by having the investment accounts.

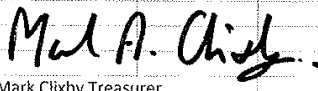
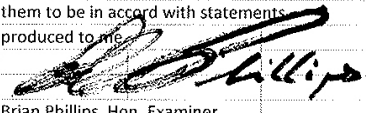
Looking Ahead to 2011

There are a number of items that will change for 2011. The quota that the PCC pays to Canterbury has increased again and for 2011 will be just over £31k. The PCC are working very hard to find new ways of increasing the income to the church, mainly through events and this will be fundamental to trying to remove the predicted budget loss for 2011. The final areas that we are trying to improve for 2011 are the budgets. To aid accountability, make the budgets more transparent and allow for better financial control we have agreed a new set of account headings. These are likely to help both myself and the PCC keep better control on both income and expenditure

Thank you. Finally, the treasurer would like to thank Brian Bennewith, Julie Lupton and the PCC for their support during 2010. Also to Brian Phillips for his help with the auditing of the annual church accounts.

The treasurer shall be pleased to answer any questions that anyone has on the accounts.

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - BIDDENDEN KENT				
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2010				
GENERAL ACCOUNT		2010	2009	2008
		£	£	£
INCOME				
	COVENANTS & GIFT AID	12,289.39	9552.00	20273.35
	INCOME TAX RECOVERED	3,749.83	10136.19	3044.29
	UNCOVENANTED PLANNED GIVING	3,540.43	7293.46	1671.70
	COLLECTIONS AT SERVICES	4,068.06	3932.14	5126.52
		23,647.71	30913.79	30115.86
	DONATIONS	3,066.28	2840.29	3131.00
	FUND RAISING & PARISH EVENTS	8,570.62	6419.11	8346.81
	DIVIDENDS & INTEREST	2,851.59	2775.39	3221.47
	CHARITABLE & ANCILLIARY TRADING	14,252.71	14552.54	12681.75
	NON CHARITABLE TRADING	0.00	0.00	0.00
	INSURANCE CLAIMS & BRIT/GAS REFUNDS	328.87	10452.89	692.94
	RESTRICTED INCOME (ANNUAL)	3,715.15	4160.60	1619.19
TOTAL INCOME(BEFORE EXCEPTIONAL)		56,432.93	72114.61	59809.02
EXPENDITURE				
	GRANTS/CHARITABLE DONATIONS	0.00	1489.49	2345.59
	DIOCESAN QUOTAS & DEANERY EXPENSES	28,968.96	31373.68	27722.52
	CLERGY EXPENSES	5,819.09	6601.47	3552.83
	CHURCH UPKEEP	12,951.21	11952.02	9886.90
	SERVICES UPKEEP	250.50	795.19	312.91
	CHURCHYARD UPKEEP	980.69	1588.01	1100.02
	TRADING/PARISH MAG COSTS	5,189.46	4263.69	5185.30
	HONORARIA/SUPPORT COSTS	812.43	2068.97	1810.05
	FUNDRAISING & CHURCH ADMIN	2,855.45	1814.90	1559.94
	RESTRICTED PAYMENTS	2,446.91	1802.35	0.00
	MAJOR WORKS	0.00	20488.50	11420.08
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		60,274.70	84238.27	64896.14
SURPLUS /LOSS BEFORE BENEFIT OF LEGACIES		-3,841.77	-12123.66	-5087.12
EXCEPTIONAL INCOME--LEGACIES		0.00	18486.83	35000.00
NET SURPLUS GENERAL ACCOUNT		-3,841.77	6363.17	29912.88
 Mark Clixby (Hon. Treasurer)		I have examined these accounts and certify them to be in accordance with the statments and vouchers produced to me  Brian Phillips (Hon Examiner)		

ALL SAINTS CHURCH - BIDDENDEN KENT						
Bank Account Summaries						
		CURRENT A/C	CAPITAL RESERVE	RESTORATION FUND	FLOWER A/C	TOTAL
Opening Balance 1/1/2010		14,762.52	53,492.07	1,002.78	667.42	
Opening Balance 1/1/2010		100.00		100.00		
	LESS O/S CHQS	-4,355.74				
OWED BY BANK		0.60				
OPENING CASH POSITION 1/1/2010		10,507.38	53,492.07	1,102.78	667.42	65,769.65
	INCOME	56,432.93	26.68	0.35	1,459.00	57,918.96
	EXPENDITURE	-60,274.70			-1,621.55	-61,896.25
	TRANSFERS	950.00	-950.00			0.00
	TRANSFERS	690.00		-690.00		0.00
CLOSING CASH POSITIONS 31/12/2010		8,305.61	52,568.75	413.13	504.87	61,792.36
Represented BY						
Reserve Account		8,162.59		313.01		
Current account		403.00		100.00	504.87	
Capital Deposit Account			52,568.75			
PER BANK STATEMENTS		8,565.59	52,568.75	413.01	504.87	
Add 2011 cost banked in 2010		265.20				
Less unrepresented cheques						
	128.08					
	40.00					
	35.30					
	91.06					
	230.74					
		-525.18				
Total Cash		8,305.61	52,568.75	413.01	504.87	61,792.24
Investment Assets	CCLA MEMORIAL FUND		SHARES			11,196.25
	CCLA INVESTMENT FUND		SHARES			50,844.66
	CCLA LEGACY		DIVIDENDS			3,108.31
	CCLA ORGAN FUND		DIVIDENDS			758.51
	WAR STOCK		DIVIDENDS			901.60
						66,809.33
 Mark Clixby Treasurer		I have examined these accounts and certify them to be in accord with statements produced to me.  Brian Phillips Hon. Examiner				