



**The Parish of the Collegiate Church of the Holy Cross and the
Mother of Him who Hung Thereon, Crediton**

Address for correspondence:

The Parish Office, The Boniface Centre, Church Lane, Crediton, EX17 2AH

**Annual Report
and
Financial Statements**

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended
31st December 2019

Rector:

Vacancy from 1st January 2019 to 3rd March 2019

The Reverend Matthew Tregenza from 4th March 2019 to 31st December 2019

Bankers:

Nat West, Cowick Street, St Thomas, Exeter

Independent Examiner:

Stapletons Chartered Certified Accountant

4 Market Street, Crediton, EX17 2AJ

Our web site:

www.creditonparishchurch.org.uk

The Parochial Church Council is a Registered Charity No. 1129124

The Parochial Church Council of Holy Cross, Crediton

Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2019

Administrative Information

Crediton Parish Church is situated on Church Lane, Crediton and is part of the Crediton Benefice Community which covers three parishes and eight churches within the Cadbury Deanery of the Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is the Parish Administrator, Parish Office, Boniface Centre, Church Lane, Crediton, EX17 2AH. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2017) and registered with the Charity Commission – Registered Charity No. 1129124. PCC members are elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting in accordance with the Church Representation Rules 2017.

PCC members who have served from the 1st January 2019 until the date this report was approved were:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	Revd Matthew Tregenza	from 4 March 2019
<i>Assistant Curate:</i>	Revd Helen Drever	
<i>Churchwardens:</i>	John Musty (Vice Chair), Sheila Ralph, Mike May	
<i>Ex Officio (Deanery Synod)</i>	Sue Barker, Amy Bright, Anne Jerman, Carol Price	
<i>Ex Officio (Diocesan Synod)</i>	Revd David Francis	
<i>Ex Officio (General Synod)</i>	Dr Jack Shelley	
<i>PCC Treasurer</i>	Glenda Hills	
<i>PCC Secretary</i>	Anne Jerman	
<i>Elected Members</i>	Angy Cargill	until APCM 2019
	Kate Lang	until APCM 2019
	Stephen Mitchell	until APCM 2019
	Garry Adams	Eileen Brassington
	Peter Brewer	Ernie Heard
	Ted Staite	James Turner
	Gill Lee	from APCM 2019
	Stella Stephens	from APCM 2019
	Mandy Tomlinson	from APCM 2019

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules 2017. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Assistant Curate, the Churchwardens, those elected to the Deanery/Diocesan/General Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

Unusually, Crediton Church Corporation (the twelve Governors) owns and is responsible for the repair and maintenance of the church (which is a Grade I Listed Building), its artefacts and the churchyard and also for St Lawrence Chapel which is a Grade II Listed Building. The PCC is responsible for the day-to-day arrangements and running costs. The PCC is also responsible for the church at Holy Trinity, Yeoford and the Boniface Centre in Church Lane, Crediton although both have their own management committees. St Luke's, Posbury is also within the parish but by long arrangement, is largely autonomous to Crediton PCC.

Aim and Purpose

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met nine times during the year.

Given its wide responsibilities, the PCC has a number of sub committees, each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These include Worship; Ministry; Missions & Charities; Children & Young People; Communications; Housekeeping; and Social. Each Committee reports back to the full PCC.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC, as part of the Crediton Benefice Community, commits itself to carry out God's will through prayer, worship, learning and action. We will develop our life together as we reach out to others; affirm individual strengths; value the diversity of churchmanship across the Benefice; nurture growth, vocations and leadership; work towards greater accessibility and respect and sustain our environment.

These objectives within our Mission Action Plan (MAP) encompass the Diocesan Strategy to Grow in Prayer, Make New Disciples and Serve with Joy. The MAP sets out what has been achieved to date and presents ideas for future opportunities. Developing the Deanery Plan during 2020 will provide a catalyst to review and revitalise the MAP. We welcome people into our worshipping community which offers a diversity of prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We want to reach out into the local community and have involvement in community projects which enable people to live out their faith in daily life.

Achievements and Performance

Worship and Prayer

The PCC offers a range of services not only on Sundays, but also during the week, which suit a diversity of preferences in styles of worship. These range from a Sung Eucharist (with a large robed choir that is well-known throughout Devon) on Sundays to Morning and Evening Prayer and said Communion mid-week whilst Sacred Space (one Sunday evening a month and held at St Lawrence Chapel during the summer months) provides a time of quiet and reflection. We have a good number of committed and hard-working Junior Choristers who (together with a number of the adults) have had considerable success in achieving RSCM ribbons and medals. They also enjoy social time together each week which is led by an adult choir member and provides a range of activities. The choir was invited to sing at Sherborne Abbey and Wells Cathedral in 2019 which further widens the experience of the Junior Choristers in particular.

On the 1st Sunday of each month, there is a Family Service in the Boniface Centre with a band providing the music in a less formal atmosphere. It has also been possible on occasion to project images on a portable screen in support of the address given at the service. We would like to increase the number of families with young children attending this service and late in 2019, we introduced a simpler, more accessible form of service. Our Sunday Club uses material from 'In Our Midst' and 'Roots' and its teddy bear 'mascot' Bishop Furry has his own Facebook page. We have our own 'Babes & Toddlers' group and work with other Christian denominations in the town to run Messy Church which each church takes it in turn to host. Lay members assist with baptism preparation and the Children's Corner in church has been refurbished. Open the Book teams visit Haywards and Yeoford schools on a regular basis.

Services are held at Holy Cross, Crediton; Holy Trinity, Yeoford; and St Lawrence Chapel, Crediton. At present there are 158 on the Electoral Roll with 7 removals and 1 addition during the year. At Holy Cross, the average Sunday attendance at the 9.30am Service was 108 adults and 11 children and includes the choir. This number increased at Christmas when at the special, seasonal services, 158 attended 9 Lessons and Carols and 186 were at the Crib Service. At Holy Trinity, Yeoford and St Lawrence, Crediton there are fewer services with normal attendance between 5 and 10. St Lawrence hosts a well-attended Carols by Candlelight service at the end of December each year. The introduction of a Family Service at Holy Trinity, Yeoford saw an increase in attendance. Messy Church and a drop-in café each Monday in term-time are also offered there.

The church continues to provide an opportunity for our local community to celebrate and thank God for important events in the journey through life. During the year, there have been 18 baptisms and one thanksgiving service, 7 weddings and one wedding blessing and 18 funerals in church and 13 at the crematorium. We have a team of nine Pastoral Carers who have involvement with over thirty-five

people, ministering to predominantly the elderly and housebound. Many receive Home Communion, taken by the lay members of the team. This year, they were able to use two new Home Communion sets generously donated by members of the congregation. The Bereavement sub-group of the team makes contact with the families of all those deceased persons known to the church year with follow up visits where necessary. We offer an All Souls Service as well as maintaining a Book of Remembrance.

Sister Act (a women's group), study groups and a Wednesday morning prayer group offer further opportunities for nurture, learning and prayer. As we enter 2020, we are holding the first meeting of a men's group.

Church Fabric

The PCC has responsibility for the fabric at Holy Trinity, Yeoford. Following the completion of earlier repair works and a successful planning application, the management committee are pursuing a faculty application and fund-raising for the installation of kitchen and toilet facilities. The PCC is also responsible for the Boniface Centre which, through the Management Committee, keeps a maintenance schedule for repair and replacements. The Centre is well-maintained and in excellent condition.

Crediton Parish Church (Holy Cross) is open from around 8.30am to dusk each day with an alarm and CCTV system contributing to the security of the building, crime prevention and the safety of volunteers and visitors.

While not the direct responsibility of the PCC, church members contribute to caring for the fabric through their help and involvement at the June Exhibition with Flowers and the Christmas Tree Festival which raise money for works needed at Crediton Parish Church. This was a total of £17,774.70 in 2019 but other than these funds, the Governors have very little money available to them for repairs and maintenance given the size of the building. It is generally confined to the most urgent work – often needed for health & safety reasons – or there might be a specific appeal for a particular project. There is currently a separate Roof Appeal (under the aegis of the Governors) which is very challenging. The sum of £173,000 has been raised to date but £1.6 million is needed to replace the roof lead. The Friends of St Lawrence Chapel assist the Governors by raising funds to contribute to the maintenance, care and health and safety of the Chapel and garden.

Mission and Evangelism

Crediton Parish Church is an active member of Churches Together in Crediton and works collaboratively with the other denominations on Messy Church, the week of prayer for Christian Unity, the Good Friday Walk of Witness, an August holiday club and a summer Fun Day in the Park.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. The PCC allocated £6,300 to the five charities recommended by the Missions and Charities Committee – CMS, Christian Aid, Connect, Mission to Seafarers and Farming Community Network. The Committee also organizes three cake stalls a year and the Harvest Supper raised over £1,000 for Send-a-Cow. There are also ad-hoc collections in response to emergencies and natural disasters. The Friends of St Lawrence Chapel support Médecins Sans Frontières and 50% of the money raised at the annual Fair at the Chapel in August is donated to MSF.

The Crediton Benefice Community Parish Magazine has a print-run of 400 copies and is distributed to churches across the benefice. Editions are sent by email to those living further afield, including our link parish in Makongeni, Thika. The magazine gives details of services, forthcoming events, articles of general interest, reports on previous activities and from church groups. It includes a prayer diary and the Diocesan newsletter. 24 complementary copies are delivered each month to homes around the town. The church has a Facebook page and an informative website - www.creditonparishchurch.co.uk

Other Activities

The Boniface Centre continues to play a major role in the activities of the church and outreach in the local, wider, communities. The PCC, through the Centre's Management Committee, seeks to keep the

Centre as a respected and highly valued venue for events including worship, social occasions, business meetings, charitable use and so on. The Centre was very well used in 2019 and it was particularly pleasing that the church itself made more use of the Centre than ever before.

The PCC has put forward three activities to the Crediton Wellbeing Project. The project aims to signpost people to local activities which contribute to reducing loneliness and social isolation. These activities are 'Babes and Toddlers', our regular Tuesday morning Drop-In for tea/coffee and cake and finally, a new venture this year, 'Going for a Sing-Song'. This is a bi-monthly event for people just to get together and sing for fun – without being a formal choir. Other groups in the parish (not already mentioned) include the bell-ringers and the Mothers' Union.

There have been PCC social and fund-raising events throughout the year which ranged from a coffee morning to a plant sale to a book fair to a wine tasting evening. The Choir has given concerts for its own funds and the Crediton Music Endowment Fund (a separate registered charity), which aims to promote the study, practice, provision and improvement of music making at Crediton Parish Church in a manner compatible with Christian worship, has arranged other fund raising concerts where the proceeds go towards uplifting the payments made to the music staff.

Financial Review

We continue to face a significant financial challenge. Total receipts on the unrestricted General Fund were down by £22,865.67 despite enormous efforts by the Social Committee to hold fund-raising events throughout the year. We have lost some generous givers (sadly through their deaths in most cases) and have not succeeded in attracting others. There was a shortfall of £7097 on payment of the Common Fund but it is our intention to make this up in 2020 – probably through dipping into our reserves but this is not a sustainable position in the long term. Other than that, we have met all our commitments however the year ended with a deficit of £258.17. The PCC is well aware of the financial concerns and will discuss, and decide, the way forward.

We have recently arranged for Text Giving to be available. This is a sensible move in a world where fewer people (especially the young) carry cash and expect to have other options open to them.

Reserves Policy

The PCC aims to maintain, if possible, net reserves at a level representing 3 months operating costs, plus a minimum of £15k to cover potential repair liabilities at the Boniface Centre and Yeoford.

Safeguarding

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and adults at risk. No Serious Incident occurred during the year that should have been reported to the Charity Commissioners. Consideration is given and arranged as necessary for appropriate training and the required DBS checks are completed.

Deanery Synod

Four members of the PCC sit on the Cadbury Deanery Synod, two on the Diocesan Synod and one on the General Synod. A report of the Cadbury Deanery Synod meetings appears in the Crediton Benefice Community Parish Magazine and includes feedback from both Diocesan and General Synod. Specific items are brought to the attention of the PCC as necessary. During 2019, the Synod heard a talk from a representative of the Farming Community Network, held a Q & A session with the Bishop of Crediton and discussed the results of the Common Fund Review. Late in the year, work began on the preparation of the Deanery Plan which will consider where we are now and how to move forward given the allocation of stipendiary clergy in the Deanery. The Deanery Development and Training Officer arranged three events during the year, looking at prayer, discipleship and inter-faith activities.

Retired Clergy, Music Staff and Volunteers

The PCC would like to thank everyone who has worked tirelessly during this year to make our Church a lively and vibrant community. Special thanks to Revd Helen Drever; all our Retired Clergy and Licensed Readers; to Mark Perry, Director of Music and Richard Stephens, Assistant Organist; to our Churchwardens, John Musty, Sheila Ralph and Mike May; to Gill Lee, Anne Jerman and Glenda Hills for dealing with the administration and finances; to all committee and sub-committee members and to all our other volunteers in so many areas. We couldn't have done it without you!

Approved by the PCC on 12th February 2019 and signed on its behalf by:

Matthew Tregenza

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Revd Matthew Tregenza (Incumbent)

John Musty

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John Musty (Vice Chair)