

St Lawrence Church, Cucklington

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council For the Year ended December 31st 2013

St Lawrence is a parish in the Rural Deanery of Bruton and Cary in the Diocese of Bath and Wells in the province of Canterbury in the Church of England. The Church of England is part of the world wide Anglican Communion. St Lawrence is in the United Benefice of Charlton Musgrove, Cucklington and Stoke Trister with Bayford.

This annual report is printed for reception at the Church Annual Meeting on April 6th 2014 with the present Incumbent, Joanna Penberthy in the Chair.

Independent Examiner: Karen Perret

Church Architect: Mark Taylor

It is the responsibility of both the Parochial Church Council and the Incumbent to work together and to co-operate in all matters of concern and importance to the parish for the promotion of the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the Parish.

Membership

During the year the following people served as officers of the PCC:

Incumbent: Joanna Penberthy
Church Wardens: Karen Dunford & Brian Trueman *Wardens*
Chris Stanford *Vice Chair*
Stephen Harrison *Secretary*
Christopher Birrell *Treasurer*

Review of the Year

During 2013, the PCC met 6 times to oversee the work of the Church in this parish and benefice.

St Lawrence held weekly services during the year. The congregation and Rector are very grateful to Frank Woollen who plays the organ for us not only at our regular services but also at our special events and occasional offices. Thanks are also due to Julia Crawford Smith and Annabel Grellier who represent us on the Benefice LMT and who make a wonderful contribution to our Church life by their leading intercessions and their leadership of Growing Faith. Each month at St Lawrence there were two services of BCP Evensong, one traditional communion and one Morning Praise which twice a year hosts Growing Faith. A Joint Benefice Communion was held on the fifth Sunday around the churches. Holy Week services are also held around the benefice. Palm Sunday and Rogation services are also joint services as well as the annual Pet Service. St Lawrence continues to be available for baptisms, weddings and funerals.

This year the parish has continued to be funded with a mixture of direct giving and fund raising. The main fund raising events for general purposes this year were the Harvest Gift Day and lunch, the Benefice Summer Fair and the Hall talks with supper. All these events were a great success and much enjoyed and the Rector, on behalf of the PCC, would like to thank all those who helped in their organisation, provided food, as well as to all those who took part. A special thanks to Ms Pip Loxton who held the plant sale in aid of Church Funds.

The Rector would like to express the thanks of the PCC to all who over the year work hard in cleaning and decorating the Church. The church always looks magnificent and well loved. We are very grateful to Mrs Jan Sullivan and her team of ladies who produce wonderful flower arrangements, not only for Sunday worship but also for the special occasions, both Church festivals and weddings. On behalf of the PCC, she would also like to thank our team of bell-ringers who add so much to our church services and to Ms Pip Loxton our tower captain.

St Lawrence is left open for visitors and for those who wish to pray and thanks are due to everyone who makes this possible by being on the key rota. We know how much visitors and local people appreciate it. Particular thanks this year are due to Mrs Karen Dunford who undertook to oversee

the a new printing of the Church Leaflets as the supply of Mrs Vivienne Hutchings original leaflets have now all been taken by visitors. Mrs Dunford's new leaflets keep up St Lawrence's high standard!!

A Benefice strategy group consisting of a representative from each PCC and the Rector continued to meet to consider future plans. The Strategy group report was discussed at each PCC separately and then at a joint meeting in November. While the Group's recommendation to join the three parishes in the benefice into one parish with one worshipping community was rejected by two of the three PCCs, it was agreed to work together on providing worship suitable for young families.

The project to see to the repairs to the Tower roof as advised in the Quinquennial report has been put in hand and thanks are due particularly to Mr Brian Trueman for his hard work and to the PCC subgroup that has supported him.

The Rector wishes to express her sincere thanks to Mrs Liz Learmond for her work and support as Reader and to the Wardens, Officers, Members of the PCC and the congregation for their unfaltering enthusiasm, commitment and support in 2013.

Future plans

- ⇒ St Lawrence will cooperate with the other parishes in developing a pattern of services to enable young families to take an active part in church life.
- ⇒ Works will be put in hand to repair the Tower roof
- ⇒ A stewardship strategy will be put in hand.