



# **2019 Reports**

## **For 2020 APCM**

**Foreword by**  
**Rev Karen Nelson, Associate Priest**  
**&**  
**Rev Mandy Young, Community & Missioner Priest**  
**St Edmund's and St Alban's Parishes**

This Annual Report seeks to reflect something of the hard work, dedication and Christian commitment of the congregation of St Edmund's Church during 2019/20 as we seek to live out in word and deed what it means to be an Inclusive Church, vibrant, open and welcoming to everyone in the name of Jesus Christ.

St Edmund's is a place where the spirituality of all our church family is encouraged and nurtured through worship and sacrament, prayer, learning and fellowship; it is a place where we hope to encourage all people, those who have journeyed with us for some time, and those stepping into our church for the first time, to explore their faith, to ask questions, and to grow into the people God calls us to be.

Our distinctive green and glass building is situated in the heart of the Temple Hill estate and we strive to be a Christian influence in this part of Dartford. Our building is shared with the GP surgery and Sure Start Centre and so is a community hub and focus of support and care for those who live in this area. For example, our community café, staffed by dedicated volunteers, helps to provide a place of welcome and belonging to all those who come to our building as well as nourishing, home-made food. The Winter Shelter, as in previous years, has provided a safe place to sleep for those without a place to live.

Our prayer is to reach out into those parts of the local community who are unaware of our presence, sharing the unconditional love of God with all, wherever and whoever they are. And we seek to be faithful in all we do. These aspirations are reflected in a recently created five-year mission plan, through which we hold ourselves accountable.

### **Our Vision**

Is to know Jesus Christ and to shape our hospitality and outreach to the local community in and through Him.

## **Our Policy**

The overall policy of the PCC is to do whatever is reasonably possible and achievable, to enhance the lives of all people, children, young people and adults within the parish of St. Edmund.

St. Edmund's 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. It also has the responsibility of co-operating with Diocesan Office and its committees as well as its partners (Temple Hill Surgery and KCC Sure Start Children's Centre) for the maintenance of the St. Edmund's Church Living Well building at St. Edmunds Road, Temple Hill, Dartford.

## **PCC Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

## **During the year the following served as members of the PCC:**

### **Ian Anderson**

Treasurer & Standing Committee

### **Janet Gunner**

Churchwarden & Standing Committee

### **Robert Etheridge**

PCC (Secretary) & Standing Committee (Secretary)

### **Andrew Carr**

Reader, Deanery Rep & Standing Committee

### **Sharon Earl**

Deanery Rep & Standing Committee

### **Joan Marr**

Standing Committee

### **Alan Jobling**

**Jackey Kent**

Standing Committee

**Paul Hillier**

The PCC has various sub-committees and groups that take on specific areas of responsibilities:

Child/Vulnerable Adult Protection Officer – Lorraine Bathgate

Worship – Lorraine Bathgate

Social & Fundraising – Andrew Carr / Sharon Earl

Little Edz (Primary) – Vacant

Finance – Ian Anderson

**Staffing**

We presently have one Authorised Lay Minister fulfilling ministries that he feels able to do. We are very grateful to him for his quiet and loyal ministry to St Edmund's.

Andrew Carr – Reader

**Church Wardens Report**

**Janet Gunner**

We are in the fourth year of running our Dementia Friendly Café at St Edmund's. The number of guests visiting us this year has remained stable. Please pray for this superb initiative and the volunteers that help run the two-hour session every second week of the month.

Our Community Café was re-opened this year and is run by various volunteers. We were most grateful to Margaret Drury who kindly paid for the white goods in the kitchen as well as other electrical items. The café is now producing a welcome albeit small income (as at the end of December 2019) to the Church.

Repairs to the tiles on the roof have been completed but we there appears to have been another leak.

We have had an ongoing issue with the front doors to the LWC. These had been repaired during the latter part of the year but have since developed another problem. A permanent solution is in hand.

Repairs have been carried out in the front entrance to the flooring.

Possessions recorded in the Church Log Book have been checked and confirmed as correct.

A Data Protection Procedure has been written by the Diocese and implemented within the LWC. Our local Procedure has been agreed with the Partners.

As the LWC building ages, so some of our lighting circuits have had to be replaced. We have taken the opportunity to install LED bulbs which are more economical to run.

PAT (Portable Appliance Testing) has been carried out within the Church, café, annex and Surestart areas.

Vicarage:

- The Vicarage is now empty again and during interregnum, the heating has been maintained at 15c throughout the house to avoid damage to the pipes. The entrance door has been repaired and new locks have been fitted following a break-in.

Finally, we ask each member of the congregation to pray and consider their role within our church. We need volunteers to:

- Welcome People to our Sunday Worship
- Sing in the Choir
- Work the sound desk
- Read the Gospel and carry out prayers
- Carry out serving duties

Any help and assistance you can give will be much appreciated.

Thank you!

## **St Edmunds PCC – 2019 Financial Summary** **Ian Anderson**

2019 was once again an exceptionally challenging year for St Edmunds Church.

Our Parochial Church Council (PCC) budget forecast for 2019 would have seen a significant deficit in our accounts, but due to some significant donations, an increase in parish lettings, the generosity of our parishioners and the savings we have made during the year, we have, with God's help, managed to reduce what would have been an £6,706 deficit to a £9,000 surplus, which is an incredible achievement! For the financial year ending 31st December 2019, the PCC was once again able to meet all of its main financial commitments as well as making a small, but reasonable contribution towards the Diocesan Offer.

The PCC have two main streams of income; one derives from parish giving and the other comes from the commercial letting of our premises.

2019 saw our room, hall and church bookings higher than we had expected which generated much needed income.

We continued to be successful in approaching our congregation about personal giving and much of our congregation have bought into a 'planned giving scheme', both by standing order and envelope giving, whereby Gift Aid can be claimed back from the government for those paying income tax.

We are extremely happy to continue having our partners who are the NHS Doctors Surgery and the Children's Centre with us at the Living Well Centre.

St Edmund's PCC are now looking after the finances for Temple Hill Over 60's Club. We maintain strict records for income and expenditure and hold their financial balance in our Restricted Funds (i.e. Money which is "ring-fenced")

With God's help and with the support we receive from our parishioners and the income received from room lettings, we will be able to maintain a manageable financial position going forward.

## **Finally ...The PCC's Reserves Policy (Bank Balance):**

The PCC recognise that it should always maintain sufficient 'unrestricted' funds, which are the free reserves of the charity, at a level which equates to approximately three months unrestricted expenditure.

This provides sufficient funds to cover management, administration and support costs and to respond to emergency applications for grants which arise from time to time.

Unrestricted funds were maintained throughout the financial year.

Restricted funds (which cover Mission, Youth, Kondoa, Urban, Memory Café and the Over 60's Club) have increased slightly.

### **Dartford Winter Shelter** **Rev. Mandy Young**

For the sixth consecutive year, St Edmund's has, alongside other churches in our community, been providing food, shelter and fellowship for up to 12 people without a home, between early January and the end of March.

Other churches involved have been Net Church, The Salvation Army and City of David Church, Christ Church, Spital Street and Brent Methodist Churches and St Vincent's RC Church. Each venue hosts on one night of the week, with Mondays being shared by the Salvation Army, providing the meal, and City of David providing sleeping facilities and breakfast. All seven nights are covered during these winter months.

St Edmund's have been hosting the Winter Shelter on Thursday evenings and have been supporting roughly nine guests each time. The men need to be referred to the Shelter. As well as a home-cooked meal with a pudding each evening there are always biscuits and coffee available. St Edmund's shower is unique among the local churches involved and it is always greatly appreciated, as is the underfloor heating. The television and dvds were donated to the church and that provides some entertainment.

Volunteers work as part of three teams, with the evening team here until 10pm. a second team of night supervisors who are present between 10pm and 6.30am, and the morning shift who provide breakfast.

There have been several helpers each Thursday, with some coming occasionally, and others very regularly. The support and commitment of each of them is deeply valued and appreciated by the guests themselves and we are always keen to have new volunteers help us out, especially to cover the 10pm-6:30am night shifts! If you think you might be able to lend a hand next year, please do let us know. The work of the Winter Shelter offers precious and practical care to the most vulnerable in our community and is fundamentally part of the work and calling of the Church.

**Deanery Synod**  
**Andrew Carr**

The current Deanery Synod Representatives (elected at the 2014 APCM) are Andrew Carr (who is also Deanery Secretary) and Sharon Earl.

We have a new Rural Dean, Rev Dr Richard Mortimer (Christchurch Dartford). The Deanery Synod met three times throughout 2019-20 in churches across the Deanery.

At the June 2019 meeting at St Mary's Swanley, we had a guest speaker, Helen Stevens from *A Rocha*, a Christian charity working for the protection and restoration of the natural world. She shared passionately about its response to the biblical mandate to care for the earth, and a demonstration of the Christian hope for God's world. It does this through:

- practical involvement in nature conservation projects and ecological research;
- campaigning on biodiversity issues; and
- engaging with churches, schools, communities and individuals.

Part of the worldwide family of *A Rocha* organisations committed to conservation action as an expression of Christian mission, it works collaboratively with others who share its passion for the planet and its desire for its flourishing. More details on its work can be found on this link: <https://arocha.org.uk/>

At the October 2019 meeting at St Peter's Hextable, we had a guest speaker, The Archdeacon of Rochester, Ven. Andrew Wooding-Jones. He gave a wide-ranging talk on the past, present and future of the Diocese and his role within it. He spoke too of his passion for well-being, a sensitivity to the challenges of looking after Clergy, laity and volunteers – his heart "*That We Flourish*". We enjoyed excellent worship and a lively homily from its vicar, Revd. Johnny Douglas.

At the February 2020 meeting at St Margaret's Darenth, Revd. Kenneth Clark gave a wonderfully clear and comprehensive introduction to the Synodical System within the Church of England in terms of its origin, history and impact. It can be summarised thus: '*Episcopally led, synodically governed.*' There then followed a lively and enjoyable Q&A session, which led to proposals to create formal job descriptions for key roles, compile a handbook for new Synod members, and to actively seek comments from PCC's for topics to debate that might be progressed to future Diocesan and General Synods for debate/vote.

The next Synod Meeting is here at St Edmunds on Wednesday 17 June from 7.30pm.

Churches in the Dartford Deanery and the borough will again be supporting the Sunday morning worship at the 2020 Dartford Festival (Saturday 18th & Sunday 19th July), instead of the normal morning services at the churches concerned. Details on the Festival are available on the following link:

<https://www.dartford.gov.uk/by-category/leisure-and-culture2/festival>

### **Safeguarding** **Lorraine Bathgate**

All but one PCC members have completed online and, for those with added responsibilities, off site courses, on Safeguarding.

Living Well Centre staff have also completed online and offsite courses and DBS certificates as appropriate.

There are 'fill in' caretaker staff whose DBS' have now run out or not been completed by the Diocese of Rochester. The PCC will need to decide if new ones are to be requested.

Posters have been placed around the building re: domestic violence and how to access support. Cards are available in the foyer and the chapel for information on contacting Childline.

The foyer noticeboards have been revamped and a designated Safeguarding Board holds information for the congregation and those who use the building.

**CHILL Discipleship Group**  
**Andrew Carr**

**CHILL** at present doesn't meet, but functions solely as a duty group for Sundays. I was awaiting an initiative from Mark on homegroups which did not, for obvious reasons, come into being. I personally, as Leader, would prefer to wait until a new incumbent is in post and discover their perspective on such groups before resuming formal meetings.

**Music Group**  
**Lorraine Bathgate**

I find myself repeating my thanks to Robert and Jackey for another year of turning up to rehearsal and Sunday services each week. They have both been very faithful and I thank them again this last year.

We welcome anyone who has enthusiasm for singing and wishes to join us on Wednesday evenings at 6pm in church. This is the time we pick music, set up the IPad and laptop. If you are a lover of gadgets, perhaps you would like to learn how to set up and use the IPad and laptop?

It would be good to enlarge the pool of those who can operate the laptop and IPad for services, however, a VERY big thank you to

those who do it already, faithfully, week after week- Ian, Alan and Roger, what WOULD we do without you?

We will need to look at our microphones, especially the clip mics, which do tend to whistle and stop working. Robert organised a company to look at the whole system, upgrades – it will cost.....lots!

Lots of prayer please.

### **Electoral Role Report**

At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 there were 24 people on the Electoral Role of St Edmund's, Temple Hill.