



THE CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, FROYLE (“St. MARY’S”)

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2019

Introduction

During the time in which this Report has been ‘in production’, our world has changed – and is continuing to change - in ways unimaginable at the end of 2019. At the time of writing, all church services and other public events and all non-essential face-to-face social contact have been suspended indefinitely. We have even been forced, regrettably, to close the church. Our Vicar and his resourceful team are undefeated by these events and have re-imagined church thanks to Zoom and YouTube...! The annual meeting of parishioners and the annual parochial church meeting, scheduled for 2 April, at which this Report would normally be presented, have been deferred at the direction of the Bishop of Winchester until sometime before 31 October 2020.

The PCC thought it important nonetheless to complete and circulate our 2019 Annual Report at this stage. Although it reads in some respects as if from a different era, God is unchanging, and the aims and purposes of his Church remain constant. We should continually review and reassess how we seek to achieve those aims and purposes and what is of real value in our activities, particularly in times of uncertainty and hardship.

Aims and Purposes

The role of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) of St Mary’s is to co-operate with the Incumbent, Yann Dubreuil, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, throughout the parish. That mission entails, by living a Christian life, seeking to make our

Church ever more relevant both to people in Froyle and to the wider community of which we are part. Our purpose is to worship God and to give every person in the parish and benefice the opportunity to understand and respond to the Gospel; we are also called to be a Church where people can grow as disciples and engage in ministry in the community and beyond.

The PCC is also responsible for the upkeep of the St Mary's church building and separate cemetery in Upper Froyle.

Objectives and Activities

General: The PCC, together with the Vicar, decides the form and style of services used. The PCC makes arrangements for the services, whether regular Sunday services or special services.

The PCC also encourages the use of the church for occasions not associated with formal services but which motivate people to come into the church and enjoy other activities there.

Services and other activities in the church will be resumed as soon as the current restrictions are lifted.

The PCC raises money to pay its required contribution to the Winchester Diocese's Common Mission Fund (Parish Share) and its 25% share of the Cost of Ministry in the benefice (i.e. the expenses of the Vicar and the benefice office). We also fund the running of and repairs and improvements to the church and the costs of services held there.

In conducting its activities, the PCC is blessed in the leadership of Yann Dubreuil, our Vicar, and Christopher Ogilvie Thompson, our Assistant Priest, as well as in the support of David Perryman, a retired vicar living in Froyle, who acts as Honorary Assistant Minister and who, among other things, conducts some of our services. We have also benefitted from the much welcome support of Zoe Paine, a parishioner from Bentley, who was training as an Ordinand (Minister in Training).

pMAP/bMAP: Since the beginning of 2016 the PCC has been guided by the objectives identified in the 'Parish Mission Action Plan' or 'pMAP', drawn up by the PCC in 2015.

As anticipated in last year's report, the pMAP has been under review during 2019, and is due to be replaced by a single Plan for the benefice as a whole (a 'bMAP'). This will identify a limited number of priorities, more focused in scope than in the pMAP and therefore, it is hoped, more measurable and achievable. Some of these priorities will be best pursued at parish level (e.g. in the case of Froyle (i) the modernisation of the Froyle church building facilities and (ii) broadening our public worship to include more contemplative services); other priorities will require the greater resources of the benefice as a whole, and will include, importantly, (i) broadening the appeal of the Church to younger people and (ii) the further development of the home group network across the benefice (see below under 'Bible

study/home groups'). The benefice is behind schedule in concluding this bMAP, but it is hoped to finalise it by the middle of this year.

Achievements and Performance in 2019

Worship and prayer

Regular services: The benefice monthly rota of Sunday services remained unchanged in 2019. This provided Froyle with two 11:00 Holy Communion services in the middle of the month, flanked by an 8:00 am Holy Communion on the first Sunday and Evensong on the fourth – plus a rotating benefice Holy Communion service at 11:00 am on the fifth Sunday where there is one. We reverted to holding Evensong at 6:30 pm throughout the year (rather than at 5:00pm in winter), because it was difficult to fit in time for the choir to rehearse beforehand at the earlier time.

Average attendance at the regular mid-morning services in 2019 was around 35, slightly down from 2018 (38). This included, as in recent years, wedding couples from outside the village, who flatter the numbers of our regular congregation (as well as its average age), but it is a real joy to have them at our services.

Yann continued to vary the lectionary readings for the Sunday services, as he has done in the past, by introducing a sermon series on a particular theme from time to time: we had sermons (and readings to match) on Spirituality and on Acts and the Church. There was also a series of video talks held in Bentley church hall over a number of weeks looking at the overall nature and significance of the Bible, called the Bible Course. This excellent course, kindly organised by Kathy Ogilvie Thompson, was reflected in some of the sermons. The sermon series continued in 2020 prior to the suspension of services: we finished a series on the Letter of James, and for Lent the sermons have been looking at the Old Testament book of Amos – parts of the Bible which most of us would otherwise never reach....

Late in 2019 we started to introduce, at the second regular 11:00 am service each month, individual prayer for healing, which we hope people have found helpful.

Active involvement in our regular services by a range of individual members of the congregation, at both a practical and spiritual level, is surely a healthy sign. Volunteers to read, lead prayers, 'meet and greet', set up, sing, provide sherry and coffee or otherwise contribute, are always welcome. Such participation not only eases the burden on others but also makes the services more engaging and rewarding. We look forward to gearing up again on all this as soon as we can.

Bible study/home groups: We now have two bible study groups in Froyle, the second of which started in 2019. Both are led by Christopher. The benefice as a whole has many such groups – sometimes called 'home groups' - about 12 in all. They are one of the strengths and defining features of the benefice – developing them further will, as noted above, be one of the priorities in the new bMAP.

Discussions at these groups are based on bible studies, but the meetings tend to be much more than that. They are gatherings (averaging 8 /12 people) which include food and drink and prayer; different groups meet at different times of the day, usually in someone's home; some groups are single sex, others mixed (the two in Froyle are mixed); they include people with great faith and people who question everything; they provide an unthreatening, comfortable environment in which people with very different life experiences can talk or just listen, as the group explores a range of issues, depending on where the conversation leads, in a way for which day-to-day life does not otherwise often provide an opportunity. Above all, these groups are a catalyst for friendship and for prayer. The groups are not generally linked to any particular parish, but, partly because they developed from the time before Froyle joined the benefice, the culture of home groups has not really become part of Froyle's DNA. At their best, however, these groups are wonderfully enriching, as those on the PCC who take part in them can testify.

Face-to-face meetings of these groups have been suspended by the coronavirus restrictions, but members are looking for other ways of keeping in touch during this period until meetings can restart.

Anyone wanting to know more should get in touch with Christopher, William Knowles or Sarah Roberts.

Music and choir: Jane Palmer continued to play the organ at two of our three regular sung services each month and to lead the choir as its director. Andrew Hunter-Johnson played at the third service, with Stella Croom-Johnson nobly standing in when we got stuck. The choral focus continued to be on the monthly evensong and on two special services, namely Advent and Maundy Thursday, both of which remained popular – 123 attended the Advent service last year, and 66 the Maundy Thursday Communion service. Jane continued to be able to call on a wide mix of singers from the benefice and elsewhere. The occasional practice of providing an impromptu choir to sing at joint benefice services rather fell by the wayside last year; the choir's one outing outside St Mary's was to sing carols at the Pax Hill Christmas fair – a performance which seemed to be much enjoyed by singers and audience alike.

Weddings: Six weddings were held in St Mary's in 2019. Thirteen were planned for 2020 (two of the couples with parents living in Froyle). With the church now closed, though, some at least of these will sadly need to be reorganised.

Funerals: Very sadly, we said goodbye to Bill Stanford who was buried in Froyle cemetery on 19 December last year, and whose wonderful thanksgiving service in the church on 25 February is still fresh in our minds. Two other funerals were held in Froyle church last year, one for Dora Penman, the other for John Lucas.

Christmas and Easter: 325 people attended our four Christmas services – slightly down on last year, but still a good number. The Carol Service stands out in the memory as being particularly happy and uplifting.

At Easter, the trend in the last four years has been for attendance at our Easter Day Holy Communion service (70) to decline gradually, while our choral Maundy Thursday Holy Communion service (66) has increased in popularity by a similar number, so that attendance across the two services has been almost exactly constant over that period. We again held (as promised in last year's Annual Report) an Easter garden making and egg hunting event for young children on the Saturday before Easter Day – hard work for those involved in organising it, but a lovely, worthwhile event. There will, sadly, be no Easter services this year.

Remembrance: Our first Remembrance Sunday service after the First World War commemorations of the previous five years was an uplifting event, with some terrific contributions from all involved both at the War Memorial Act of Remembrance and afterwards in the church – where we had some excellent new readers and some very moving hymns.

Harvest Thanksgiving: Our thanks as always to the Community Group for organising the harvest supper on Friday evening 13 September (five weeks earlier than in 2018 – earlier seemed better) and the decorating of the church in time for a lovely harvest thanksgiving service.

Open Air Pet Service: No review of our services would be complete without mention of the pet service on the recreation ground the day after the fete – also organised by the Community Group. This is always a very happy family event.

Whatever the service, St Mary's, as every year, always looked breathtakingly beautiful and perfect for the occasion. Our thanks for this go primarily to our unusually talented flower arrangers, the Vestments Group and the church cleaners.

Other events and activities in 2019

Prayer stations: As in the previous two years, a nine-day period of prayer between Ascension Day and Pentecost (a 'novena') was celebrated by Christians around the world. As part of this, all home groups in the benefice (including the one Froyle bible study group then in existence) were again asked to make one or more prayer stations. These were mostly installed in Bentley church hall, where a rota was organised so that there was somebody praying 24/7 throughout the period, although some were displayed in Binsted and Froyle churches as well. The Froyle bible study group produced a display of prayers and accompanying pictures for each of the nine days, based on Matthew's Gospel; this was set up in Froyle church. Special thanks, though, must go to Peter Wonson, who produced an extraordinarily striking and evocative construction with a focal point of stones and moving water entitled 'Living Water', which was installed in Bentley church hall.

Teas on Tuesdays: The Fundraising Group (FRG) put on its usual cream teas in or outside the church on each Tuesday afternoon in June for anyone who wanted to drop by.

Christmas Fair: This took place again in Froyle church towards the end of November. As always, it created a warm and lively atmosphere enjoyed by all who came - it shows how imaginative use of space and lighting can make the church into a lovely, flexible public space. It also made money – nearly a third as much again as in 2018; well done the FRG team!

St Mary's News: There have now been two issues of this occasional publication, one early last year, before the last APCM, the second in September. As stated in last year's Annual Report, the thinking behind it is to enhance the Church's communications with members of the worshipping community by providing more in-depth analysis of some of its activities, in a way which cannot be done in the Froyle magazine. Feedback on this is always very welcome. Digital copies of these publications can be found on the benefice website: www.benbinfro.co.uk.

Administrative, Pastoral and Other Support in the Benefice

Administrative support: Hannah Dubreuil, Yann's wife, and Lora Bowden continued to share the role of Administrator for the benefice, each on a part time basis, throughout 2019, based in the Church Office for the benefice behind Bentley Church – Lora with more of a focus on media and communications. Lora is, however, now standing back from her role due to unexpected family commitments, and Gemma Ball has nobly volunteered to take her place – alongside her part time role as pastoral assistant (see 'Youth and worship leaders' below).

Anna Chaplain: We are blessed to have found Nicky Smallwood to replace Jonathan Rooke as the benefice's Anna Chaplain, offering spiritual support for older people, their relatives and carers. Nicky is married with three school-aged boys, lives outside the benefice and is hoping to be ordained as a deacon in July. She started working in the benefice last year for two days a week, spending one day in the two Bentley care homes, the other on home visits, coffee mornings (including the Meeting Place), community/church events and meetings. Importantly, she has also, over the last few months, been organising the training and setting up of a group of what she calls "six wonderful Anna Friends" – a team of volunteers within the benefice, including from Froyle, who will soon (coronavirus restrictions permitting) be commissioned. Commissioning or no, we particularly welcome this development at a time when the older members of our community are not only the ones most exposed to coronavirus and its attendant restrictions, but also the ones who are most difficult to support when face-to-face contact is not possible. Nicky's contact details are in the Froyle magazine, so do get in touch with her if you or someone you know might benefit from having a chat with her or with an Anna Friend.

Youth and worship leaders: Sam and Gemma Ball (as they are now called, having got married last summer), joined the benefice in September, as anticipated in the last Annual Report. Sam is involved mainly in developing worship in the benefice, and Gemma in youth work. Both, though, have been focusing particularly on broadening the appeal of the Church to younger people (as mentioned, a key objective of the new bMAP). You may have already met them - Gemma sang in the Froyle choir at the Advent service, at which Sam gave a reading, and they have come to services in Froyle from time to time; they have also been much in evidence at Live@Five services in Bentley. They are a very exciting addition to the benefice team. They are both working in their roles on a part time basis, although Gemma will now (as from 1st March 2020) commit her remaining time to acting as church administrator alongside Hannah. Just to remind you of what we said in last year's report: the additional cost of having Sam and Gemma in their roles as youth and worship leaders is being privately funded by a small number of generous individual donations.

Alpha Course: as reported last year, a well-subscribed Alpha course was run in Bentley during the first part of 2019, which was attended by a number of people from Froyle, and from which the second Froyle-based bible study course referred to under 'Bible study/home groups' above developed. A further Alpha course is planned for later this year.

Fabric and Contents of the Church and Churchyard

Vestments: The church vestments are one of the distinguishing treasures of our church, and the Vestments Group continues to go from strength to strength in restoring, preserving and promoting the unique nature of this collection. In 2019 conservation work on two veils was funded by a generous donation from the Barbara Whatmore trust. The collection is increasingly recognised by experts around the country for what it is – this is the result of many years' dedication by the members of the Vestments Group. Further information can be found on the Group's website: www.froylevestmentsgroup.org.uk.

Fabric of the church and Quinquennial Report: Every five years we are required to have a review of the fabric of the church conducted by an architect approved by the Winchester Diocese – called the inspecting architect. Louise Bainbridge of Seymour & Bainbridge in Winchester has fulfilled this role for us for a number of years. Our last Quinquennial inspection was carried out in 2015. Since then we have had a programme of carrying out work to the church building required or recommended in her report. By the end of 2019, the required work had all been carried out other than some redecoration work to the chancel, nave and porch, which it has been agreed can be held over until we replace the lighting as part of the modernisation programme (see below). A further Quinquennial inspection will be carried out, coronavirus-related restrictions permitting, later in 2020.

Last year we appointed a 'jobbing builder', Hills & Downs Property Preservation Ltd., with experience of working on old buildings, including working with lime mortars and plaster and dealing with dry rot and beetle, and which is tasked with carrying out minor items of maintenance not needing Diocesan approval. This arrangement has worked well.

Final work was completed on our ageing electrical installation, to enable our contractor to issue the necessary safety certificates. These are valid until the next scheduled electrical inspection in 2022. We reported last year our concern that the state of the electrical installation might oblige us to replace our lighting in the church immediately – an expensive proposition. Such replacement will still be required at some point, and is now expected to be the second phase of the modernisation programme referred to below, following on from the refit of the vestry. In anticipation of what we then thought to be the immediate need for a new lighting system, we did a great deal of work last year on possible designs for it, which will stand us in good stead in the future, even though the technology will have no doubt moved on to some extent.

Structure of the church building: We continue to investigate the cause of the cracking in the plaster of the walls around where the structure of the nave meets the structure of the tower, which has become much more pronounced in the last few years. As stated in last year's Report, establishing the cause and likely long-term effect of this movement between the two structures (which themselves seem to be sound) is a gradual, step-by-step process over several years. Last year 'tell tales' and a 'plumb bob' were installed in the church; they are being regularly monitored.

In addition, we have, as anticipated in last year's Report, pursued ways of monitoring the soil structure, changes in which are a likely cause of the movement. Early this year boreholes were sunk and trial pits dug in selected areas round the outside of the tower and west end of the nave, in order to examine the footings and underlying ground conditions. This work was coupled with an analysis of the network of service conduits (electrical supply, water supply, drains and soak aways) under the surface of the churchyard. The results are now being processed.

All this has been done on the basis of advice both from our inspecting architect, Louise Bainbridge, and from the structural engineering consultant, Martin Kirby.

It may well be, in the end, that no remedial work is worthwhile beyond finding a way of managing the cracking caused by the movement between the two structures. The need for some form of strengthening of the foundations at some point cannot, however, be ruled out.

Modernisation (reordering): The scope, priorities and speed of implementation of this ambitious programme for upgrading the facilities available in the church were subject to much debate and change during the course of 2019. The most important development affecting this was that during the middle part of last year we received a small number of significant offers of funding from individual parishioners. These hugely generous offers were specifically intended and timed to ensure that, before finally settling on the overall scope of what we needed to achieve, we did not feel unnecessarily limited by concerns about funding. While this funding will not in itself be sufficient to cover the entire programme as we now see it, it will get us a long way towards it without our having to deplete our existing funds, which will be much needed for other things.

We have now settled on the scope of what we would like to achieve in the coming years by way of facilities modernisation, and the order and phases in which we would like to do it. In October 2019 we formally applied to the Diocese for what is in effect planning consent (called a 'Faculty') for the first phase of this programme, namely the upgrade of the vestry to include kitchen facilities. In that application, we set out the overall scope of what we are seeking to achieve in the following terms:

“The facilities in the church have not been modernized in any significant way for many years, other than the installation of a single lavatory in the porch area (2005) and of a sound system (2003)... While the church does not have the scope or ambition to become a full-on community centre, it is a much-loved public space which could and must cast its net more widely as a centre for mission and for more general community involvement. In financial terms, we have an opportunity to modernize the facilities available in the church which may not come again in the foreseeable future.

The main aspects of the modernisation comprise:

- Upgrade and refit of the tower base vestry with improved kitchen facilities
- Replacement of the lighting...., followed by redecoration of the whole interior
- Replacement of the heating (the current heating system is inefficient and ineffective)
- The rebuilding of the sacristy – this was first attempted in the 1980s, but the project ran out of steam..... We would.... want to replace the sacristy with a larger structure which will enhance the use of the church for a broader range of worship and secular activities.

This modernisation will be carried out in separate, self-standing phases over several years. It is important to us, though, both in funding terms and in order to embrace fully the aspirations we have for the use of the church in the future, that we never lose sight of the overall scope of the project.

.....

The current application relates solely to the upgrade and refit of the vestry with improved kitchen facilities – the lighting and subsequent phases are expected to be implemented in 2021 and the years immediately following.”

One aspect of this work which is not referred to in this application, because it was not significant in terms of the fabric of the building, is the replacement of the chairs – this was mentioned in our last Report and is still part of the programme. This, like all aspects of the programme, will be subjected to wide ranging consultation with everyone in Froyle who is interested.

The Faculty consenting to the work in the vestry was forthcoming in February 2020. It must be emphasised that this does not extend to or commit us to any other aspect of the programme.

The vestry has now been cleared out in preparation for initial exploratory work on matters such as drainage and how to deal with existing damp and what kind of floor would be most appropriate – this was done just before the church was closed as part of the current restrictions on movement. The kitchen and storage units will be in accordance with the designs which have been on display in the church for more than a year. The 'look' of the units, however, has not yet been fully considered.

This project is being run by a small group led by Nigel Southern and including Jan Elliott, Jane Macnabb, Mike Starbuck and William Knowles. The group had expected to have a full discussion on the project at the APCM. Other ways will be found to communicate and consult with everyone as the project progresses. Members of the group will be happy to discuss any aspect of this project directly with anyone who wishes to know more.

Churchyard and cemetery: Both the churchyard and the cemetery suffered from a lack of management attention in 2019, although we are very grateful to Gareth Wells for doing a wonderful job in maintaining the churchyard on a day-to-day basis, and Mick Burton for doing the same in the cemetery. We are also grateful to a small working group who removed a great deal of ivy in the churchyard and tidied up some of the 'Messenger' tombs earlier this year. We recognise that there is much to be done in both the churchyard and the cemetery, including, in the churchyard, renewal of the notice board, restoration of the boundary walls, and the resurfacing and lighting of the footpaths.

Contents: St Mary's did not acquire any permanent articles in 2019, nor did we dispose of any.

Finance

The 2019 financial statements for the PCC are attached to this Report. The good news shown by these statements is that our accumulated funds base, shown under 'Parish Funds' on the second page of the statements, is healthy - reflecting not just the donations for the modernisation/reordering referred to above, but also a build-up from the generous regular giving we have experienced in recent years. The less good news is that our regular income for 2019 fell short of our regular expenditure for the first time in many years (see the first page of the statement). This was more because of a decline in income than an increase in expenditure, and is part of a trend in declining income over the last two or three years. It will be exacerbated by the suspension of services during the coronavirus outbreak. We need to reverse this trend, since the shortfall requires us to eat into our accumulated funds in a way which would, in a small number of years, undermine our financial stability. We shall be writing to parishioners about this in greater detail in due course.

Thoughts for the Future

It is difficult, as the coronavirus tightens its grip on society with no end in sight, to think beyond the present crisis. But the more the crisis calls into question some of the practices and assumptions which have underpinned human development in recent decades, the more important it is to hold fast to, and project to our communities, unchanging Christian values and beliefs – the "aims and purposes" set out at the start of this Report.

In April 2019, the cover of the Froyle village magazine – which is of course a secular magazine, not a church one – was changed for the first time most of us can remember; it now shows a delightful drawing by Anna MacInnes of the road through Upper Froyle, with St Mary's in the background. The church is an important visual symbol of our community, even for many of those who never set foot in it. But its symbolism is more than visual – it represents, for churchgoers and others alike, the values that make Froyle such a wonderful place to live. The improvements planned for the church building facilities only make sense if this continues to be the case.

Furthermore, we can only continue to be a 'live' Church community on a sustainable basis as part of the benefice as a whole – supporting and being supported by the other parts of the benefice. It is the diversity in terms of styles of worship and different approaches to faith in different parts of the benefice which gives us our strength. Key to our future is reaching out to younger generations and reaching out beyond our church buildings, which really has to be done on a benefice-wide basis - hence the emphasis in the bMAP on younger people and on home groups.

Those of you who heard the Bishop of Basingstoke preach at Froyle on 8 March will have heard him refer many times to what a strong and vibrant benefice we are. He meant it – we are! And he was not just referring to one particular part of the benefice. In Froyle we have as much to offer as to receive, but without accepting and participating in what we are offered, we shall struggle to flourish. The challenge is how we strike the balance by pooling what is best done at benefice level without losing the vitality and enthusiasm which comes from the sense of belonging to and pride in our village church.

Much of what can and should be pooled is admin/governance related. To some extent, this of course happens already. However, from the beginning of 2020 the newly rewritten Church Representation Rules (the Church legislation which regulates the governance of parish churches) offer two more structured routes by which parishes can, if they wish, clarify and formalise what is to be done at individual church level and what is pooled at a multi-church level.

The first of these is the establishment of what is called a 'joint council'. This is an entity (a 'body corporate', so a separate legal entity just like a PCC), created by two or more parishes in a benefice, to which the PCCs of those parishes transfer some or all of their functions and responsibilities. Under such a scheme, the individual parish churches continue to be parishes in their own right, governed partly by their PCC (to the extent that it retains functions to itself), and partly by the joint council.

The second route is for the churches to join together as one parish with one PCC, but to create a separate 'district church council' for each church, in which specified functions normally conducted by the PCC are retained at the level of the individual church.

The PCC has not yet discussed in any detail, let alone formed a collective view on, these possible structures and the issues to which they give rise – for example, the question of control of and motivation for giving, both for the fabric of the building and for the broader implementation of the aims and purposes of the Church. This is, though, something which the PCC will need to consider.

The PCC will of course consult widely on this issue. As a starting point for our discussions, most members of the PCC attended a joint meeting of the PCCs of the three parishes held in January, at which we heard a talk given by the vicar of the Parish of the Itchen Valley about their experience – some years ago, long before the structures contained in the 2020 Church Representation Rules were available - of amalgamating four parishes into one. It is clearly not easy, but for us to harness in some way the resources of the benefice more effectively and methodically should be seen as a vital opportunity for us in a world where declining clergy resources will increasingly bring parishes together – we are extraordinarily lucky to have available to us the resources we currently have.

The ‘Thank You’s We Must Never Take for Granted.....

Although we say it every year, we never stop meaning it. All Church activities require a huge effort from a large number of volunteers. Many of these volunteers have multiple roles, but thanks must go to all those who help make the Church in Froyle what it is – in particular, and in addition to the members of the PCC, the governance groups referred to below, the choir, our organists, the readers in church and the leaders of the Intercessions, the sidespeople and “setters up” in church, the bell ringers, the flower arrangers, the Booths who arrange thoughtful and timely stories in the Clive Barter display cabinet, those on the cleaning rota and all those who help with the range of community events in which the Church is involved.

Last, but by no means least, our thanks go to our Vicar, Yann, and to Christopher and David, and also the non-ordained members of the benefice team – Hannah, Lora, Sam, Gemma, and Nicky - for all they do for the Church in Froyle.

Administrative Information

St Mary’s church is situated in Upper Froyle, near Alton, Hampshire. It is part of the benefice of Bentley, Binsted and Froyle in the Diocese of Winchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is c/o Park Edge, Upper Froyle, Alton, Hampshire GU34 4LB. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC (Powers) Measure 1956) whose activities are regulated by the Church Representation Rules, and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of members of the PCC is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All those who attend the church are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. Membership of the PCC comprises the Vicar, Assistant Priest, Churchwarden, Deanery Synod representatives (all *ex officio*) and members of the congregation elected by those on the Church Electoral Roll. The PCC met four times in 2019.

The current members of the PCC and the Churchwarden will all continue in office until the deferred annual meetings referred to in the introduction to this Report are held. PCC members who have served from 1 January 2019 until the date of this report are:

<i>Incumbent:</i>	The Revd Yann Dubreuil – (<i>Chairman</i>)	
<i>Assistant Priest:</i>	The Revd Christopher Ogilvie Thompson (<i>Assistant Curate prior to 1 April 2019</i>)	
<i>Churchwarden</i>	William Knowles	
<i>Deanery Synod Reps</i>	William Knowles and Robert Bourne	
<i>Elected members:</i>	Nigel Bulpitt (<i>Treasurer</i>)	Jane Harrap
	Nigel Hughes	Jane Macnabb
	Jonathan Pickering (<i>secretary</i>)	Sarah Roberts
	Nigel Southern	Michael Starbuck (<i>Health & Safety Officer</i>)
<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i>		Jonathan Pickering

Each of the three parishes in the benefice has its own PCC. In addition, a Rector's Council, comprising the Incumbent, Assistant Priest, David Perryman as Honorary Assistant Minister, churchwardens from all three parishes and Steve Fice as Operations Manager for the benefice, considers matters that relate to the benefice as a whole. Where relevant, matters discussed at the Rector's Council are taken back to the individual PCCs for further discussion and agreement. The Rector's Council met three times in 2019.

Joint PCC meetings are held twice a year, at which matters relevant to the benefice as a whole are discussed.

The PCC and churchwarden are supported in their governance function by a wide range of people, but particularly by four Groups, three of which were formed in 2014 to try to provide over time more consistent and informed decision-making on key aspects of the Church's activities than the PCC on its own could expect to do, together with the more long-standing Community Group. These Groups report back to the PCC; their areas of focus are as follows:

- Fabric Group: this Group, under the chairmanship of Mike Starbuck, is intended to take a consistent and long-term view of the church building, its repair and maintenance requirements and the uses to which it is or could be put.
- Fundraising Group: under the chairmanship of Nigel Bulpitt, this Group organises events aimed at general fundraising and at greater use of the church building. Its role extends also to looking at how best to fund major

capital projects, both for the repair and for the modernisation of the church building facilities.

- Worship and Services Group: this Group is chaired by the Vicar; it looks at how we worship in Froyle generally, at whether we reach all parts of the community as effectively as we can, at the facilities available to help us develop our faith outside formal worship and at the spiritual aspects of pastoral work.
- Community Group: this Group has a different history, having developed of its own initiative over time to act as a dynamic liaison between the Church in Froyle and the village community. It organises, for example, the Pet service, the harvest supper, the soup lunch following the harvest festival, Songs of Praise services and more generally lends vital support to many activities where Church meets community.

Parochial Church Council

Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Froyle

31 March 2020

Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Froyle

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ending 31 December 2019

	General Funds		Designated Fabric	Restricted Funds			Total	
	2019	2018		Re-ordering	Vestments	Other	2019	2018
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
INCOME								
Planned giving and Gift Aid envelopes	21,852	22,395					21,852	22,395
Collections (not Gift Aid), Church Boxes	3,918	3,832					3,918	3,832
All other giving	1,450	3,970		123,340	2,808	63	127,661	6,145
Gift Aid recovered	6,576	7,664			148		6,724	7,664
Total voluntary receipts	33,796	37,861					160,155	40,036
Fundraising	5,102	7,533			938		6,040	8,308
Fees Paid to the PCC	3,644	4,271					3,644	4,271
Dividends and Interest	329	179				1	330	180
Trust Income (note 2)	2412	2,254					2,412	2,254
Legacies and all other receipts	0	1,176	237	5,000			5,237	3,544
Total Income	45,283	53,274	237	128,340	3,894	64	177,818	58,593
EXPENDITURE								
Benefice/vicar's expenses (note 1a)	4,520	4,873					4,520	4,873
Parish Share	32,237	30,505					32,237	30,505
Cost of Ministry	36,757	35,378					36,757	35,378
Cost of fundraising	285	1,519			28		313	1,551
Utilities	3,325	3,223					3,325	3,223
Insurance	2,565	2,477					2,565	2,477
Routine repairs/maintenance	1,335	373					1,335	373
Churchyard	1,037	1,007					1,037	1,007
Other Ordinary Expenditure	329	254			2,115	77	2,521	3,118
Total Church Running Costs	8,591	7,334					10,783	10,198
Honoraria for organists	1,980	2,455					1,980	2,455
Upkeep of Services	798	755					798	755
Major repairs; fabric	0	0	1,171	2,085			3,256	12,626
Total church expenses	11,369	10,544					16,817	26,034
Contributions to Charities	1,450	2000					1,450	2,000
Total Expenditure	49,861	49,441	1,171	2,085	2,143	77	55,337	64,963
Net Loss/income for year	-4,578	3,833	-934	126,255	1,751	-13	122,481	-6,370
Balances b/fwd 1 January	28,340	24,507	29,569	0	3,874	3,114	64,897	71,267
Net Income for year	-4,578	3,833	-934	126,255	1,751	-13	122,481	-6,370
Balances c/fwd 31 December	23,762	28,340	28,635	126,255	5,625	3,101	187,378	64,897

Parochial Church Council of St Mary's, Froyle

Statement of Assets and Liabilities as at 31 December 2019

		2019	2018
		£	£
	Notes		
Current Assets			
Deposit with CCLA		162,027	47,027
Cash at Bank	3a	20,448	13,989
Cash at Bank – Tower	3b	1,103	1,117
Cash at Bank - Vestments	3a	4,753	2,874
Total Cash and Deposits		188,331	65,007
Liabilities and non-cash assets			
Creditors	4	1,370	2,361
Debtors	4	417	2,251
Net Current Assets		<u>187,378</u>	<u>64,897</u>
Parish Funds			
Unrestricted Funds- General	5	23,761	28,340
- Fabric	5a	28,635	29,569
Restricted Funds			
Re-ordering		126,255	0
Vestments		5,626	3,874
Other			
Tower		1,104	1,117
Memorial		1,767	1,767
Hatchments		214	214
Flowers		16	16
Total Restricted Funds	5	134,982	6,988
Total Parish Funds		<u>187,378</u>	<u>64,897</u>

Approved by the Parochial Church Council on 11th March 2020 and signed on its behalf by

Yann Dubreuil

The Revd Yann Dubreuil (PCC chairman)

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the year ended 31 December 2019

1 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts and Payments basis except that certain expenditures are accounted for as accruals when (i) they are material, (ii) relate to the year in question and (iii) properly should be recognized as expenditure in that year.

1a Benefice/vicar's expenses are primarily the costs of running the Benefice office.

2 TRUST INCOME

Many years ago a donation was made to the PCC in the form of a trust. These funds have for some time been invested in 14,400 ordinary shares in Legal & General. Dividends on these shares are shown separately as Trust Income in the above accounts. The value of the shares (£43,632 as at 31 December 2019) is not shown in the Balance Sheet in order to avoid the need to account each year for movement in the capital value of these shares.

3 BANK ACCOUNTS

3a Account held with NatWest Bank Alton.

3b Account held with Nationwide Bank Alton.

4 CURRENT LIABILITIES AND NON-CASH ASSETS

Creditors shown in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities primarily represents fees due to the organist and a donation to be made to Naomi House. Debtors represent VAT recoverable.

5 FUNDS

Restricted funds represent donations received for a specific object or invited by the PCC for a specific object. The funds may only be expended on the specific object for which they were given. Any balance remaining unspent at the end of each year must be carried forward as a balance on that fund. The PCC does not invest separately for each fund except in the case of the Tower Fund and the Vestments Fund. Except in the case of these two accounts, any interest or dividends received on investment is allocated between the General Fund and the Re-ordering Fund as appropriate.

5a The Fabric Fund is unrestricted but it is a Designated Fund. The PCC has decided to put money aside from the General Funds for such designated uses in the future, as an aid to financial planning. These uses are to include structural and cosmetic repairs to the building itself and its surroundings but also necessary internal repairs and improvements to the services and facilities within the building as recommended by our architect, usually in her Quinquennial Report.

Unrestricted funds (General Funds) can be used for PCC ordinary purposes.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of St Mary's Church, Upper Froyle, Parochial Church Council

I report on the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019 which are set out on pages 15 to 17.

Respective Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The church's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The church's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission.

An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which give me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act have not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

PG Elliott
Philip Elliott

14 March 2020

ACMA, CGMA

Pastures
Well Lane
Lower Froyle