

COGGES PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

Background

Cogges PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the vicar, the Rev Andrew Sweeney, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the parish church, St Mary's, and for the Cogges Church Centre. The PCC is registered as the charity "The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of St Mary Cogges" with charity number 1129824.

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:

Members ex-officio

Rev Andrew Sweeney (*Incumbent & Chairman*), Rev Andrew Pritchard¹ (*Curate*), Rev Miriam Keen (*Associate Minister*), Rev Penny Joyce² (*Associate Minister*), Rev Tim Edge (*Non-stipendiary Minister*); Mr Colin Johnson and Mr David Lockwood (*Churchwardens*); Mr Nick Pike, Mr David Smith and Mr Richard Young (*Licensed Lay Ministers*); Mrs Barbara Eaton, Mr Nathaniel Miles and Mrs Judy Poole (*Representatives on the Deanery Synod*).

Elected members

Mrs Jenny Allen³, Miss Jackie Archer³, Mrs Tessa Cox, Mrs Gill Curwood, Mr Malcolm Harper (*PCC Secretary*), Mr Keith Harwood (*PCC Treasurer*), Mrs Valerie Hill³, Mrs Ali Laithwaite⁴, Mr Harvey Leach (*PCC Vice Chairman*), Mrs Heather McCulloch⁴, Mr Allen Moxham, Mrs Libby Osborne, Mr Gareth Regan⁴, Mr Anthony Sayles, Mr Stephen Smith, Mr Gordon Spankie, Mrs Hilary Warner and Mr Nigel Williams.

¹ From July 2009; ² Until April 2009; ³ Until APCM (April 2009); ⁴ From APCM.

Church attendance

There were 218 people on the Church Electoral Roll at the 2009 APCM, including 99 who were not resident in the parish. The previous Roll contained 189 names. The average Sunday attendance at St Mary's Church was 23 at the early communion services, 180 at baptism and thanksgiving services, 148 at joint benefice services and 133 at other main morning services, 138 at the confirmation service, 26 at the monthly evening celebration services, 19 at the quarterly healing services, 77 at the service to welcome the new curate and 12 at most other evening services. These figures may include some people attending more than one service. Attendance at festival services was 228 at the Easter Sunday family communion, 155 at the Christingle service, 201 at the crib service, 83 at the carol service, 96 at the first communion of Christmas and 200 at the Christmas Day family service.

Committees

The **Standing Committee** is required to exist by the *Church Representation Rules*. It consisted of the vicar and curate, the churchwardens, the PCC vice-chairman, the PCC secretary, the PCC treasurer and two elected members: Mrs Judy Poole and Mrs Barbara Eaton. The Standing Committee has power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions given by Council. Its main activity is to set the agenda for PCC meetings, and to ensure any necessary preparation for the meetings is made.

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The **Ministry Group** consists of those with the Bishop's license to minister in the parish (the clergy and Licensed Lay Ministers) and others at the invitation of the vicar, and shares with the vicar his pastoral responsibilities.

The **Church Centre Management Committee** was set up by the PCC to oversee the management of the Cogges Church Centre.

The **Benefice Child Protection Committee** was set up by the PCC (with South Leigh PCC) to oversee all aspects of child protection within the benefice.

The **Missionary Team** was set up by the PCC to advise it on support of those engaged in mission at home and overseas.

Review of the year

There were five normal meetings of the PCC during the year, and there were also five meetings of the Standing Committee. The average attendance by *ex officio* and elected members at the PCC meetings was 55%.

The activities planned by the PCC complied with the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit, and were in general open to (and often were intended for) residents of the parish and the wider area.

Strategy and Vision

There was a special meeting of the PCC in January with Rev Chris Neal (Director of Mission and Community, CMS) to continue the work on "Growing as a missional community" begun at the Parish Away Day in September 2008, followed by two joint meetings of the PCC and Ministry Group in May. This led to a Parish Day, "Christ in you", in St Mary's in September and further discussion at the September PCC meeting.

Another theme discussed during the year is the vision inspired by Jane Holloway to become a "House of Prayer" church. From this has come a weekly series of prayer meetings (*Open to God*) during Lent, a monthly series (*The Gathering*) in the autumn and was the key topic at the November 2009 and January 2010 PCC meetings.

Throughout the year, the PCC has been discussing whether to appoint a "youth pastor" to lead the church's work with children and young people. An appeal within the church for funds to support this appointment has been successful; the PCC has agreed the job description and selection criteria, and the post has now been advertised.

The PCC has also had brief discussions on national, diocesan and deanery papers on vision and strategy.

Outreach and activities

Rev Penny Joyce told the PCC in January of her decision to leave Cogges on Easter Sunday, and the PCC discussed at several meetings how to continue outreach to the Madley Park estate. Although *Jigsaw* stopped meeting after Easter, it restarted during the autumn and the PCC is still discussing the best way to continue this work. The future of *Bitesize* has been discussed and the possibility of merging it with *Alpha* is now being explored.

Aspects of outreach have been discussed at all the meetings of the PCC, with a number of activities: *Alpha*, the *Marriage Course*, a *summer holiday club*, *summer church opening*, participation in the *Ride & Stride*, the traditional *Children's parties on 31st October*, a *Thanksgiving and memorial service*, a various seasonal services and activities.

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Other outreach activities have continued during the year, including the monthly meetings of the *Cogges Seniors Group* and the *Time Travellers* groups, the weekly *Toddler group* and a related daytime toddler friendly home group, and the monthly or fortnightly *Pastorate* meetings. Cogges church members are involved in Besom, Fairtrade and Christian Aid.

Prayer support has continued throughout the year through home groups and prayer triplets and with a prayer meeting most weeks for Blake School (which also covers JAM club young people and the new Christian Union at Wood Green School). The Church's activities and members' needs are faithfully remembered in prayer at the Thursday morning prayer group throughout the year. The monthly prayer night restarted.

Finance

The PCC is responsible for all parish finance, and its management and control, and has appointed a treasurer to supervise this area. The PCC considers preliminary statements of income and expenditure three times a year, as well as approving the annual accounts for presentation at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting.

The financial statements for 2009 show a 2% decrease in voluntary unrestricted income. Restricted income increased by 50%. This is due to the initial fundraising for provision of a Youth Pastor, and the incorporation of the "Discovery Days" funds into the balance sheet now that Rev Penny Joyce has left the project. The PCC approved a budget for the Church Centre proposed by the management committee.

The other main financial item considered by the PCC was the distribution of grants to charities and other causes working in mission and relief at home and overseas. The PCC has an agreed policy to give away at least a tithe of its general fund income (in addition to any earmarked donations). The PCC agreed to a distribution of the tithe for 2009, with £2,690 allocated for overseas mission, £1,460 for overseas relief, £4,100 for home mission (including £2,760 to Adventure Plus) and £2,750 for home relief and funding. The PCC has for many years supported a minister in Burundi but is now phasing this down and increasing funding for a medical student from Burundi. The PCC also agreed to provide some support for two years for a member of the church working with Operation Mobilisation. The total of earmarked donations in 2009 was £6,163 including receipts for the Parish Needs Fund and for the minister and medical student in Burundi.

The PCC approved a revision to the local service fees and to the rents for hiring the Church Centre. The PCC also agreed to make a voluntary contribution to the diocese towards the rent of the curate's house.

Property

The PCC considered tenders for repairs to the church roof and lychgate and appointed a contractor; this work has been completed. Work was also agreed on five trees which were identified by the tree audit in autumn 2008 as priorities.

The floor in the Church Centre was stripped and revarnished.

The PCC agreed to renew for another three years the letting agreement for the use of the Church Centre by the Cogges Under Fives Association.

The Blake Educational Trust had notified the PCC in 2008 about its plan to redevelop the House at the church centre, which the church rents from the Trust, to provide for a church office on the ground floor (at a commercial rent) and a separate flat on the upper floors. The PCC decided to undertake a full review of options for the location of the church office, and held a special meeting in May which decided to accept the Trust's proposal. Another issue raised by the Trust concerned its plan to apply to the Land Registry for formal title to the House, including the Church Centre garden and

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the church car park outside the lychgate; subsequently the Trust has agreed that it should not claim title to the garden and that it will offer to sell most of the car park to the PCC.

Other activities

The PCC was pleased to hear that the request for a curate to be allocated was successful, and to welcome Rev Andrew Pritchard and his wife Fenella to the parish in July.

The scheme for the benefice of Cogges and South Leigh and the benefice of North Leigh to be held in plurality came into effect on 1st May.

The PCC was registered as a charity with the Charity Commission.

The PCC had a long discussion on how to encourage more involvement by church members in the various rotas for helpers, especially for helpers at Junior Church.

The Child Protection policy was reviewed and confirmed, and approval given for a CYFA trip. The PCC appointed Mr James Benson as a governor of the Blake School.

The PCC received regular reports on meetings of the Deanery Synod and of Churches Together in Witney and District. The Vicar, Curate and Associate Minister were able to report to each PCC meeting on matters of interest or concern.

Related Trusts and Charities

Charities in the names of Henry White, William Wright, Simon Holford, Sarah Scott Pruce, and Edward Nourse were originally grouped together as the Cogges Ecclesiastical Charities, now in process of being wound up, and as the Cogges Non-Ecclesiastical Charities, now reformed as the Cogges Welfare Trust and no longer administered by the Church.

The Blake Educational Trust owns the House at Cogges Church Centre for which it currently receives a rent of £1200pa. Its Trust Deed is being modernised and once this is completed, the site of the new Blake School will be transferred to it. The Trustees are the Incumbent, a Churchwarden, 2 nominated members of the PCC and 3 independent members appointed by the Trust.

31st January 2010

Rev Andrew Sweeney (Vicar)
on behalf of the PCC