

St Leger, Ambridge- St Helen's

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council

For the year ended 31st December 2006

Administrative information

St Leger Church, Vicarage Lane, Ambridge, St Helens, WA10 6DW

Official correspondence to Parish Administrator, Church Office at the above address

PCC members are:

Incumbent-	Revd Joanne Able	Chair
Readers-	Mr John Bloggs *	
	Mrs Janet Case	
	Mr James Dyson	
Churchwardens-	Mr Ken Ellis	Vice Chair
	Mrs Kathleen Frost *	
Deanery Synod representatives	Mr Leonard Johnson *	
	Mrs Lisa Jones	
	Miss Alison Jones	
	Mr Timothy Morris	
Elected members-	Mrs Joan Baker	(from APCM 06)
	Mr Geoff Bulman	
Treasurer	Miss Jacqueline Clarkson *	
	Mr Jack Cook	(to APCM 06)
	Mr John Cookson	(re-elected APCM 06)
	Mrs Margaret Davison	
	Mrs Anne Foster	
	Mr Arthur Guinness	
	Miss Kelly Holmes	(re-elected APCM 06)
	Mrs Sarah Kelly	
Electoral Roll Officer	Mr Nicholas Manson	
	Mrs Nicola Morris	(from APCM 06)
Secretary	Mrs Brenda Norris	
	Mr Henry Potter	(to APCM 06)
Child Protection Officer	Miss Harriet Quine	
	Mr Percy Roberts	(from APCM 06)
	Miss Tina Thomas	(to APCM 06)
	Mrs Gina Tonik	

Bankers- Scrooge and Sons, 1 High St Ambridge, St Helens WA 10 5NN

Auditor- Miss Helen Money Penny, McQueen's & Co, 6 High St Wigan WA9 4CT

Legal Advisors- Roger Rumpole, 16 High St, Ambridge, St Helens WA 10 6LN

Architect- Richard Rogers, 68 High Towers, Liverpool L1 3NW

Day to day management control of the Church is exercised by the incumbent and wardens: Rev Joanne Able, Mr Ken Ellis, and Mrs Kathleen Frost contactable via the church office 01923 45678

Structure, Management and Governance

St Leger Ambridge PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure 1956. The PCC is exempted by order from registering with the Charity Commission

Other related trusts:

Friends of St Leger- registered charity 123456, 4 members of the PCC are trustees; marked above by a *.

Ambridge Parish trust for impoverished children, registered charity 111789 the incumbent is a trustee

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church members are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC operates three subcommittees: The Standing Committee, Youth Committee, and Mission Committee. Membership comprises

Standing committee: Incumbent, Churchwardens, PCC Secretary and PCC Treasurer

Youth Committee: Incumbent, one Churchwarden, Mrs Audrey Ash, Mrs Janet Davies, Miss Kelly Holmes, Mr Nicholas Manson, Miss Harriet Quine

Mission Committee: Mrs Janet Case, Mrs Lisa Jones, Mr Roger Mann, Mr Henry Potter

PCC members receive induction training including trustee responsibilities, basic health and safety, risk assessment and management, and child protection procedures.

Risk Assessments:

To identify their major risks, the PCC undertook a programme of assessments.

Procedures were then put in place to manage those risks and minimise their impact on the life of the church. Action in the main areas of risk has been taken as follows.

Financial Risk

An annual budget is prepared to ensure short term viability. Actual results compared with budget are reported to the PCC quarterly. The investments held by the PCC are reviewed every three months by the Finance Sub-Committee. Investments are only made in approved low risk funds approved for charity use. All assets are insured and levels reviewed annually and approved by the PCC. The PCC intends to review internal financial controls within the parish over the next twelve months.

Health and Safety

A review has been undertaken by a member of the church with specific experience in this field. The PCC has been appraised of the risks and the necessary compliance requirements and these have been complied with. Specifically procedures for recording accidents have been put in place and all wardens and sidespeople have been trained in fire safety. These procedures are reviewed on an annual basis and formally reported to the PCC.

Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection

The PCC have all been formally checked under child protection legislation and the pastoral visiting team have been checked under vulnerable adults legislation.

Operational Risk

Plans have been agreed with the Church School for services to be held in the school hall in event of the church becoming unusable for a limited period.

All identified risks were split into four groups; financial risks; risks that would harm the PCCs reputation; legal risks (Health and Safety, Childrens Act, etc.) and operational risks. All formal risk assessments are listed within the PCCs *Risk Register* and reviewed annually.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC (Powers) measure 1956 states the PCC "is to cooperate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social, and ecumenical"

At St Leger's we have a mission statement which confirms our mission to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England, both through the Word and our deeds to love the Lord our God and to love his children- our neighbours.

In order to do this our objectives for 2006 were:

- To review our services in order to enhance the beauty of our worship, and make our occasional offices more accessible to those with no experience of church
- To develop activities for the many elderly and lonely in our town after consulting on what would be welcomed
- To develop a fresh expression of worship in the local school for children and parents after the school day one afternoon a week
- To increase our giving to mission and charities
- To undertake a giving in grace programme in order to teach the biblical messages about money
- To help people who have asked for assistance with prayer
- To meet more with our ecumenical partners in the town

In 2006 we:

- Changed our baptism services and set up and trained a small baptism team to prepare parents and godparents, and follow up baptism families
- Set up a luncheon club followed by a games and crafts afternoon once a week
- Started Tuesday Time for God in the school each week in term time at 3.45 pm
- Increased our mission giving to 10% of regular income
- Prepared for a Giving in Grace programme in spring 2007
- Arranged for a Lent series in 2007 on ways of praying
- Contributed to Churches together in Ambridge joint services and exploration of young peoples needs

As a result of our new objectives in 2006 we estimate that a further 15 people are giving 3 hours a week on average in volunteering time. This is in addition to the sizable contribution made in time for youth organisations, worship, and fellowship. This is estimated at roughly 250 hours per month.

The PCC has a Grant making sub committee which gives 25% of our mission giving to our link missionaries John and Janet Able with SAMS in Argentina; the remainder is given to a mixture of local, national and international organisations. In 2006 the PCC agreed to give 10% of its mission giving to Church Urban Fund for three years as requested by the Bishop.

Achievements and performance including review of charitable achievements against objectives

The PCC is delighted with its achievements against objectives set out in the previous section. However we are by no means complacent. The following section highlights the areas of activity and performance

The electoral roll is now 540 people, 46 of whom are not resident in the parish. This is a decline of 15 over 2005 as 23 have died and 45 moved away but only 53 new members have added to the roll.

Worship; Average attendance at Sunday Services remains constant at: 45 at early communion, 300 at family service, and 25 at evening prayer. However this does not include the monthly baptism services which continue to grow funeral ministry which averages 12 funerals and 0 weddings a year with an average attendance of 130! The midweek communion service averages 25 and the new Tuesdays for God is averaging 12 parents and 24 children with 5 members of staff also participating. Christmas services were very popular and 15 Carol services were held including the civic service.

Pastoral care and service to our community remains very important. The three nursing homes in the parish get weekly visits from the pastoral care team and monthly communion. The new luncheon club and what has evolved as a cards group for the elderly has increased our contact and our visiting which now averages 10 visits a week from the ministry and pastoral care teams.

Youth and children's work is also very important. Our Sunday school continues to develop under Mrs Audrey Ash's leadership. This year the Diocesan Children's Advisor has given training in Godly play. This has been an excellent resource and £210 has been spent on new materials. The uniformed organisations continue to do well with approximately 130 children and 15 leaders and volunteers. We remain very grateful to Mr Jones and Mrs Davies for their inspired leadership in this area; the monthly parade services remain a collaborative and joyous commitment between church and uniformed organisations. Our relationship with Ambridge school continues to grow with the new weekly services, regular assemblies and contribution to the RE curriculum and school visits to church. We now have three congregational members as Governors and also gave gifts to all school leavers this year for the first time. Our Mothers Union continues to grow and produced cards for HM prison this year.

Church Buildings were inspected this year by the quinquennial architect who found that minor repairs were needed to the guttering and brickwork of the north aisle. The annual gift day appeal was split between this cost and our link missionaries and the sum of £27,000 was raised which will pay for the necessary repairs and improvements to our loop system for the hearing impaired once a faculty has been obtained. The halls needed improvements to the kitchen and the fundraising committee raised the necessary £6,000 to comply with food hygiene requirements.

Finance, Giving and Fundraising continue to be a strain with increasing commitments. We have a large parish share which contributes towards the cost of ministry both in our own parish and other churches less fortunate than ourselves, and giving not keeping pace with inflation especially our large fuel and insurance bills. The Gift aid tax reclaim continues to be a real blessing with £24,000 reimbursed but we feel that more tax payers could use this facility and also give by standing order. The number of people giving by envelope has also not increased for some time and total giving only went up by 1% to £89,000. The PCC are leading the Giving in Grace Programme with a review of their own giving before the rest of the church family.

Performance of investments continue to be good with our endowments and reserves invested in the Central Board of Finance achieving 5% and increasing in value by £390.

Factors relevant to the achievement of our stated objectives were the sad departure of our music group leaders, Jane and Jack Kendrick to Scotland for family reasons. This meant that some of our intended changes to services have had to be delayed. One of the new families joining us are Tim and Thelma Oliver, who have experience in catering. They enabled us to start the luncheon club earlier than expected in March.

Financial Review

2006 was a difficult year financially income at £265,000 only just exceeded expenditure of £264,000. Our main source of income was again direct giving by our members which amounted to £150,000. This was increased by tax reclaimed of £25,000. Other significant sources of income were the gift day, £27,000 and a very generous legacy of £20,000 from the late Mrs Johnson. Costs again increased by slightly more than average inflation and repairs had to be carried out to the fabric of the church. However in spite of funds being tight we were able to maintain our commitment to contribute 10% of income to missions and charities.

The financial outlook for 2007 is not good and unless income is increased significantly we are expecting a deficit of about £10,000 in the year. It is hoped however that the Giving in Grace initiative planned for early 2007 will yield sufficient funds to cover the deficit and to start to build our reserves to a more secure level.

Reserves Policy

The PCC has a reserves policy whereby two months costs will be held as a general reserve. In addition a fabric reserve of £20,000 will be built up over the next four years to provide for expected renovation to the roof.

Currently the general reserve stands at £22,000 which is £20,000 lower than the desired level. The fabric fund stands at £2,000.

Plans for the future

As stated previously in 2007 we intend to

- Hold a Giving in Grace programme in spring 2007
- Hold a Lent series in 2007 on ways of praying

We also intend to

- Increase the luncheon club to two days a week
- Explore becoming a cell church to help us grow in our faith and become more confident in sharing faith
- Help develop an ecumenical youth club in Ambridge based at the community centre
- Be part of our deanery in a deanery mission