

**ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR,
BARNESLEY**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL
INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2020

Bank: **Barclays Bank**
 10-18 Queen Street
 Barnsley
 South Yorkshire
 S70 2AJ

Independent Examiner: David Mokes

Administrative information

The Church of St. Edward the Confessor is situated in Racecommon Road, Barnsley.

It is part of the Diocese of Leeds within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:-

St. Edward's Church, Racecommon Road, Barnsley S70 6JY

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2020 until the date this report was approved are:

Incumbent: Revd Canon Stephen Race

Reader and

Churchwarden: Fred Thompson to November 2020

Churchwarden:

Representatives on the Deanery Synod:

Fred Thompson

Elected members:

Rhoda Beard	Deputy Treasurer; Deputy Churchwarden
Margaret Cawthorne	
Terry Gelder	Deputy Churchwarden
Margaret Gostelow	PCC Secretary
John Gostelow	to November 2020; Treasurer
Dorothy Jenkinson	
Lynette Mace	to November 2020; Deputy Churchwarden

Structure, governance and management

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

St. Edward's PCC members are elected for one year. Deanery Synod representatives are elected for 3 years.

Objectives and Activities

St Edward's PCC is responsible for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church and grounds of St Edward's, Racecommon Road, Kingstone, Barnsley.

Review of the year

The year began with regular services and events being held, including coffee mornings and a Lent Lunch.

The first Covid-19 lockdown began in March and the church was closed from 19th March to 29th July. The annual meetings due to be held on 19th April were deferred until 16th November and were held virtually during the second lockdown.

Throughout the first lockdown the Pastoral Committee met weekly on Zoom to check that contact with members of the congregation was maintained. Regular phone calls were made and letters sent to those who could not receive the weekly pew sheet email.

In July, following government and Church of England guidance, the church opened for private prayer after a comprehensive risk assessment was carried out. In August, weekly Sunday services resumed with a Service of the Word on the first Sunday of the month and Eucharists on the remaining Sundays.

In the November lockdown, the church was once again open for private prayer, and services recommenced in December. Wednesday Eucharists started at the beginning of 2021.

At Christmas we held a Carol Service and Eucharists on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The church has been kept clean and the churchyard has been maintained throughout the year.

In 2020 there were five baptisms, one wedding and six funerals.

The PCC has met regularly via Zoom in 2020 to carry out its duties and responsibilities. It has ensured that our Covid-19 risk assessment has been updated when necessary and that it has been publicised to members of the congregation both in the pew sheet, on the website and in church.

There was no interest from members of the congregation in virtual social events or fund-raising, although a Gift Day was well supported and raised £1074.60. Regular meetings of church groups, for example the Guild and Friendship Club have not been allowed to take place. Refreshments after services were also forbidden.

St Edward's' PCC takes its responsibilities for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults very seriously. Our policies reviewed every year, are compliant with legislation and recommendations from the Church of England, and are available at the back of church or via email from margaret.gostelow@gmail.com

PCC members would like to thank our clergy in the Benefice who have continued to lead services and offer support to us and to the congregation at some personal risk.

Future plans

Discussions are now taking place in PCC meetings on the future of St Edward's church and what we can offer to our local community in Kingstone, for example groups to help people who feel isolated (one of the Benefice mission priorities), or disorientated following their experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic. We also support the other Benefice mission priorities: ministry to Baptism families and outreach to schools. We feel it is important to hold onto our central, classic Anglican style of worship which provides a contrast to the offer in other churches in the Benefice.

Electoral Roll Report

There were 49 people on the electoral roll at the last AGM held in November 2020.

Fabric Report

The church fabric continues to be in good condition.

On January 30th '20, there was an inspection visit by the Fire Audit Officer, which resulted in the church requiring a wired fire alarm system and emergency lighting in the vestry area. Following receipt of the Fire Audit report, and after lockdown at the end June, holes and gaps in the boiler room were filled and covered with fire resistant board. Estimates of costs for the work of installing the wiring, emergency lighting and the replacement in church of halogen lights with LED lights, were received.

The pandemic lockdown caused a delay in the wiring work being installed.

At the beginning of October, two shrubs were removed from the west and east sides of the belfry by builders, who also cleaned the low-level guttering around the church. In November, drains on the southside of the church were flushed through, after the slow drainage of water following heavy rain was seen near the south door at the west end of the church.

At the beginning of December '21, the halogen lights in the chancel and sanctuary were replaced with LED lights just before Christmas.

Fred Thompson

Deanery Synod

No Deanery Synod meetings were held in 2020 due the coronavirus pandemic.

Fred Thompson

Financial Review

Parish Share

The PCC paid 51.3% of our Parish Share in 2020. This was paid from our General Fund with a £2000 transfer from our Fabric Fund.

Our Parish Share arrears now stand at £49227 after 7 years; previous arrears were written off when the new diocese was formed.

Although the diocese has reviewed how the Parish Share is paid, the formula still does not reflect our ability to pay; however, it does now reflect that we do not have a full-time priest. The Share for 2021 is £22,363 which is the same as for 2020. This is still far more than we can pay with a greatly reduced congregation.

Fabric Fund

Our Fabric Fund now stands at £53,606. This fund is not restricted; it is viewed as part of our reserves.

It is still the intention of the PCC to be prudent and save the Fabric Fund for the upkeep of the fabric of the church which will fall into disrepair if this was not the case.

Income

As well as a significant reduction (£1,901) in giving by the congregation, our total income, ignoring legacies, was down by £9,199 this year. This was largely due to the lack of income from weddings, lettings and fund-raising events because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Reserves Policy

It is the policy of the PCC of St Edward's Church, Barnsley to hold unrestricted reserves to cover the running costs of the church for a 6-month period (*), plus £5,000 to provide additional support for planned repairs. The PCC estimate this to be a total unrestricted reserve of £17,000.

The PCC believe it is also prudent to hold a designated Fabric Fund as part of its reserves to be used to meet anticipated costs to the building over the next five years as another quinquennial inspection is due in 2022.

* The Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers recommend a period of between 2 and 6 months depending on the size and financial standing of the church. The 6-month period for St Edward's is because we are unable to raise funds quickly from donors and because we have a small congregation.