

ST MARY AND ST JAMES CHURCH
Hazelbury Bryan with Stoke Wake
Parochial Church Council

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 2013 FOR ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
6 May 2014. 7.30pm at the Village hall

2013 was a year of great changes with much consideration and thought for the future of this parish and the other 5 smaller parishes that make up the Hazelbury Bryan and Hillside Benefice; although to many it might not appear that anything has changed at all.

The Benefice has been without a Priest in Charge since 2011, the post of House for Duty Priest in Charge having been advertised twice but without success. The continuing interregnum resulted in the 6 parishes being reluctant to make decisions that might have to be changed if or when a priest was to take up the post. So that the whole Benefice can move forward and as the current arrangements of having lay-led Services and using retired priests to take Communion Services was working well, it was agreed that the vacancy should not be advertised again and the present situation would be made more official for a trial period of 3 years. Advice and permission were sought and a Ministry Group was set up which consists of:

William Ridding - the Rector of The Spire Hill Benefice (Stalbridge) who has responsibility for the Benefice in the interregnum.

James Hepburn and Jestyn Coke - our 2 Licensed Lay Ministers.

David Dunning - a retired priest who volunteered to help our Benefice and has been doing a great deal of pastoral work as well as taking Services.

Wendy Mattar - our Benefice Administrator who has been co-ordinating everything and arranging services within the Benefice.

The Archdeacon of Dorset, Stephen Waine and the Rural Dean, David Seymour, presided over a Commissioning Service in June at St Mary and St James for the 5 members of the our new Ministry Group who will run the Benefice for the next 3 years.

Now that the house for the House-for-Duty Priest (Meadow View, Wonston) will not be required for 3 years, it has been re-furbished and let by the Diocesan Property Department.

Considering that the church building is 15th century, it is not in bad condition and the new stainless steel roof on the south aisle had proved to be watertight over this very wet year. The PCC is making progress to restore the organ back to working order. Official permission has to be obtained and the process is a slow one but it has been started.

The PCC is still investigating the possibility of providing much needed toilet and refreshment facilities and a questionnaire was delivered to Hazelbury Bryan and Stoke Wake to see if the parishioners would be for or against building a parish room on land off the present car park. From those who replied there was a clear majority in favour. Plans have been drawn up for a building that includes a small meeting room with kitchenette, an office and toilets. It is still at a very early stage and it will be many months before any real progress can be made to see what is possible.

A Garden Party was held instead of the usual Church Fete and combined with a Flower Festival in the Church over the weekend it proved successful although not as much money was raised due to there being fewer side shows. Everyone who came along enjoyed afternoon tea in Manor Farm's garden and listening to the live folk music.

The Church maintains links with the primary school which holds its Easter, Harvest, Christmas and End-of-Term Services in the Church and Revd William Ridding visits the children regularly.

In 2013 there was a complete renewal of the Church electoral roll. There are now 47 on the electoral roll, down from 67 last year. This is due mainly to villagers moving away from the area.

During the Fairer Share Return Count for 2013, 29 regular members of our Church were counted, an increase of 3 on 2012. This is carried out for 6 weeks and only those from this parish are included. The number of regular attendees set the amount of Share that the parish pays for the following year. In 2013 the Share paid to the diocese was £10,412.

Services, especially those for special occasions, continue to be well attended and congregations welcome the opportunity to attend the services they prefer across the whole Benefice and not just within their own parishes. This Parish has an even mixture of traditional and modern services in order to meet the needs of the parishioners. In 2013 there have been Services taken by the Archdeacon of Dorset, the bishop of Sherborne and the bishop of Salisbury and during the year there have been 5 Baptisms, 3 Weddings and 5 Funerals in Church.

Every Wednesday the Prayer Group meet to say prayers in the Church and people are encouraged to put their request for prayers on the Prayer Tree in the church.

During 2013 the PCC have made the following donations and gifts:

The money from the Lent lunch in 2013 was donated to VSO work in Tajikistan by The Mothers' Union who organised the event.

The dry goods given at the Harvest Festival went to The Trussell Trust Food Bank at Gillingham.

The collection from the Harvest Service, along with the collection at the children's school Harvest Service, was sent to the NSPCC at the request of the children in the Primary School.

The collection from the Advent Calendar Service in the barn was sent to the Red Cross for the Philippians Disaster Appeal.

Gifts of toiletries suitable for teenagers and snacks given at the Gift Service were taken to Waves at Weymouth. The collection from this Service and a Christingle Service held for the Primary School was also sent to Waves.

The collections from the Carol Service and the Christmas Day Service were sent to CLIC Sargent, helping children and young people with cancer.

The PCC has given money to Elizabeth House in Uganda and has set up a regular donation of £50 to be sent each quarter.

A donation was sent to FEBA, the Far Eastern Broadcasting Associates.

To the school, the PCC donated the annual 'Good Citizen' prize and 'Moving On' books for the leavers.

A full copy of the Annual Report and Accounts are in the church.

Jean Cluett - Churchwarden