

ST MARK'S CHURCH, ENGLEFIELD

in the Deanery of Bradfield

ANNUAL REPORT of ENGLEFIELD PCC

April 2022 – March 2023

ORGANISATION

Benefice of Englefield

<i>Rectors</i>	<i>The Rev Nicholas Wynne-Jones, Chairman of PCC (until 19 May 2022)</i> <i>The Rev Julia Myles, Chair of PCC (from 8 September 2022)</i>
<i>Parish Office</i>	<i>St Mark's House, Englefield, RG7 5EP</i>
<i>Bank</i>	<i>Lloyds TSB, 1-2 Market Place, Reading, RG1 2BQ</i>
<i>Independent Examiner</i>	<i>Mr F W Wells FCA</i>

During the year the following served as members of the Parochial Church Council:

<i>Wardens</i>	<i>Paula Fenwick</i> <i>Torquil Montague-Johnstone</i>	
<i>Representatives on Deanery Synod</i>	<i>Paula Fenwick</i> <i>Torquil Montague-Johnstone</i> <i>Ron Marillier (Treasurer)</i>	<i>until APCM 2023</i> <i>until APCM 2023</i> <i>until APCM 2023</i>
<i>Elected Members</i>	<i>Daphne Boddy</i> <i>Peter Hollands</i> <i>Elizabeth Benyon</i> <i>Richard Benyon</i> <i>Linda Price</i> <i>Melanie Townsend (resigned March 2023)</i> <i>Carol Boulter (resigned March 2023)</i> <i>Aldo Guiducci, (Vice-Chair)</i> <i>Catherine Haig</i> <i>Liz Marillier (resigned November 2022)</i> <i>Penny Savage (Secretary)</i>	<i>until APCM 2023</i> <i>until APCM 2023</i> <i>from APCM 2021</i> <i>from APCM 2021</i> <i>from APCM 2021</i> <i>from APCM 2021</i> <i>from APCM 2021</i> <i>from APCM 2022</i> <i>from APCM 2022</i> <i>from APCM 2022</i> <i>from APCM 2022</i>

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio, co-opted annually or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules. The Council aims to maintain 12 elected lay representatives having declined to accept the default laid out in the Synodical Government (Amendment) Measure 2003. Eleven elected members served in the year until the resignations above. The PCC has met five times during the year with an average attendance of 73%. Members of the Standing Committee are the Rector, Churchwardens, Vice-Chairman, Lady Benyon, Treasurer and Secretary.

An interregnum followed the retirement of the Rev Nicholas Wynne-Jones in May 2022. The Churchwardens arranged cover for Sunday services and the summer weddings, predominantly by the Rev Alan Gates and Rev Dr Anthony Peabody. The Council very much appreciates their help and support during this time.

The Rev Julia Myles accepted the offer to serve as Rector and her induction and institution service was held on the evening of 8 September 2022, minutes after the announcement of the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Prayers were offered in thankfulness for the late monarch's reign and the Rector swore allegiance to King Charles III at the appropriate point in the service.

Sunday services and some funerals are 'streamed' live to the St Mark's community on the weekly email circulation list, via a private YouTube link. A volunteer reports to CCLI the hymns used in services.

The suspension of the communal cup continued during the interregnum with individual cups. On the arrival of the new Rector, following advice from the Bishop of Reading, the PCC agreed that communicants would be offered wafer intinction at Holy Communion with the option of receiving in one kind only. This was carefully explained by letter and in person to the congregation and was positively accepted by communicants.

The Eucharistic Prayer of Common Worship for each season in the church calendar and the Book of Common Prayer (1st Sunday in the month) are used for Sunday services. The Council ensures that Bible reflections and studies are widely advertised. The church is unlocked each day and visitors find the church peaceful and welcoming.

The Council aims to keep the church in good repair and to monitor the upkeep and appearance of the graveyard in accordance with the latest Diocesan and Parish regulations. The final phase of works identified under the Quinquennial inspection are being attended to.

ATTENDANCE

(Last year's figures in brackets.)

The 2022 APCM was held on 25 April. This report covers April 2022 to March 2023. Statistics for Mission are reported for the calendar year 2022, with Baptisms 2 (2); Marriages 6 (5); Funerals 4 (5). The average in-person October attendance (as required by the Diocese) was 39 adults, 4 children, with connections online averaging 11. On Easter Day 2022 attendance was 132 in church.

The Electoral Roll has been revised as required in accordance with Church Representation Rules and stands at 95 (94), 78 (76) of whom are not resident within the parish and 17 (18) of whom are resident.

ACTIVITIES

Full details are given in 'A Year in the Life of St Mark's Church'

The PCC is confident that the congregation and local community are kept informed of church services, the school news and village events. A weekly news sheet is emailed to over 100 people, the website and Parish News provides much information on local issues, events and church news. A Facebook page has been added <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100088397906146>

Sunday School attendance has been encouraging, although it still varies widely from week to week. The Council is grateful to Saffy O'Sullivan for her faithful delivery of creative teaching and the ideas and plans she has. Children take part in family services at Christmas, Harvest, Mothering Sunday, etc with prayers or songs. Following the refurbishment of the vestry last year tables and chairs were purchased for Sunday School use, which are also suitable for adults.

The PCC is grateful for its Deanery Synod representatives' regular and detailed reporting on Synod matters. Deanery events, including Let's Talk Theology continue and are welcomed. Time to Pray was suspended during the interregnum, and is being reinstated after Easter.

The Carols by Candlelight, Nativity and Christmas Day services were very well attended. A professional choral quintet and the Englefield School choir enriched the singing at the Carol service.

Advent groups and a Lent group were organised within the church community, with additional online reflective platforms advertised to the congregation for use during these periods.

MANAGEMENT

The Safeguarding policy is reviewed annually and PCC members are regularly reminded to keep their training up to date by accessing the relevant Diocesan on-line modules. Daphne Boddy has taken on the role of PCC Lead from Carol Boulter, both of whom are thanked for their valuable contribution. The Council is grateful to the Sunday Club leaders, the Safeguarding Officer and Parish Verifier for their support of this important area.

DBS checks are made every 3 years. The Safeguarding Procedures document (formerly Action Plan) was revised in April 2022 and formally agreed in July. The new Rector has taken the role of Recruiter for DBS checks.

Health & Safety is reported at each PCC meeting and the Health & Safety policy document was reviewed and approved under the three year rule. A copy has been signed on the arrival of the new Rector, with a full review due in 2024. Paul Myles was appointed as H&S Officer in the autumn, because of his knowledge and experience in this area. The Council is grateful to him for his sound advice and attention to these matters.

The Churchwardens and Heating Sub-committee continue to liaise with the Englefield Estate as to how best to replace the boiler as the current one cannot be guaranteed to work in the long term. A more efficient and environmentally friendly option is being investigated, but timing on a decision and cost are the main issues. It has been difficult to get a response from SSE to monitor charges for electricity usage, but contact has now been made which should give more accurate readings and charges.

The Council is grateful to the volunteers who provide the wonderful flower arrangements in church during the year and particularly at festivals. A 'flower pot' fund was agreed to be available for the team (initially £50 per month).

A replacement photocopier was acquired on a rental basis which has enabled the Rector to print service booklets, posters and flyers at a much more reasonable cost than a printer.

Should families request streaming of a funeral service the PCC agreed that a modest charge would be made to cover the time and expertise required. It was also agreed that Paul Myles will act as the new verger.

The Council is grateful for the rota of organists and in January 2023 the organist fee was increased from £40 to £50 per Sunday service.

A new set of church hymnals, *Ancient & Modern Hymns and Songs*, was purchased to replace *Hymns Ancient & Modern New Standard*. Blocking on the front with 'St Mark's Englefield' was included on the 100 copies of the words edition, two organist copies and 10 choral copies. The PCC is grateful for the generous donation to cover the cost of the words editions.

A QR code is advertised which links to the *Just Giving* Page, adding to the other ways of giving to the ministry of St Marks, ie the Parish Giving Scheme (PGS), the electronic 'tap to donate' terminal and the collection basket passed round during the Sunday service.

The Council aims to provide 10% of its unrestricted income, averaged over any three year period, to specific outreach appeals. Good stewardship of St Mark's is encouraged amongst the congregation and community. Members of the PCC participate in Ride & Stride for the Berkshire Churches Trust. The West Berkshire Foodbank appeal was supported during Harvest and Lent.

The PCC accounts for 2022 were audited by Mr Francis Wells. They show that the Church's funds are in a satisfactory situation for the year, with net surplus of £1,164 and a bank balance at year end of £62,273

Signed Date