

The Parish Church of Ss. Michael and All Angels, Occold

Annual Report 2010

Background

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission. The PCC is responsible for co-operating with the incumbent, the Revd. Andrew Mitcham, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish of Occold the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical; it also has responsibility for the maintenance of the parish church and churchyard.

Membership

Members of the P.C.C. 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.

Incumbent	Fr Andrew Mitcham SSC	<i>Chairman</i>
Reader	Mrs. Alma Noble	
Churchwardens [Elected at the Meeting of Parishioners held in April 2010 to serve for one year]	Mr. Stephen Hubner Mrs. Gill Richardson	<i>Vice Chairman and Hon. Treasurer</i> <i>Hon. Secretary</i>
Deanery Synod Representative [Elected at the APCM held in April 2008 to serve for 3 years]	Mrs. Cynthia Capey	
P.C.C. Members [Elected at the APCM held in April 2010 to serve for one year]	Mrs. Jan Bragginton Mr. David Capey Mrs. Joan Cartwright Mr. Nick Cox Mrs. Elly Rivett	<i>Electoral Roll Officer</i> <i>Minutes Secretary</i>

The Standing Committee

This is the only committee required by law, and it is the only one in regular existence. It has the power to transact the business of the P.C.C. between its meetings, subject to any directions given by the Council. It consists of the incumbent and wardens.

Church attendance

In 2010 the average Sunday attendance was 9. The number of communicants at Easter was 12, and there were 10 communicants at Christmas, from a total congregation of 13. No Baptisms was celebrated and no marriages were solemnized during the year. There were 2 Funerals in church. A number of special services were held (the numbers attending are given in brackets): Songs of Praise (15), Harvest Festival (22), Remembrance Sunday Service (40) and Christmas Eve Carol Service (174). In addition Benefice Services took place on Palm Sunday in Eye and on Rogation Sunday in Bedingfield.

The Parish Ministry Team

The parish is grateful for the ministry of Fr Peter Hinchey during the year. The departure of Peter and Jenny to be received into the Roman Catholic Church is a parting of friends- but no less sad and painful for that. The Local Ministerial Training Group continued to meet monthly as Angie Baldwin completed her second year of training as a licensed Reader. During the year Alma Noble continued to exercise a much valued ministry in the Parish and Benefice.

Review of the Year

The P.C.C. met on 4 occasions in 2010 on 10th January, 22nd April (after the A.P.C.M.), 28th September and 7th December. The Council received regular reports from the Rector, Churchwardens and Treasurer. Among other issues, the following items were discussed:

The allocation of Parish Share.

The supply and deployment of stipendiary clergy.

The completion of work on the church tower.

The possibility of ecumenical services with Occold Baptist and the Grove Church.

Parochial Fees

A Restoration Appeal to cover the continuing programme of levelling the floor, outstanding repairs and the redecoration of the church.

Future fundraising events.

Financial Giving by Standing Order

The provision of memorial seat in the churchyard in memory of Peter Mills.

The Church Tower

Restoration work to the Tower was completed in 2010 thanks to a substantial grant from English Heritage, a grant from Suffolk Historic Churches and generous support from members of the congregation.

Fundraising

A successful Flower Festival was held during the first weekend of June; this was preceded by a well attended wine and puddings evening on the Friday and included a Plant Sale on the Saturday. The weekend concluded with a Songs of Praise. Thank you to Elly for co-ordinating these events and to all involved.

S. Michael's Flower Guild

S. Michael's Flower Guild continued to meet monthly under the chairmanship of Elly Rivett. The purpose of the Guild is social and to provide support for the church through fundraising and social activities.

Occold School

Fr Andrew continues to make monthly visits to Occold School to lead assemblies.

Concluding Remarks

The publishing of the Annual Report gives me an opportunity to thank all those who contribute to the life and worship of the Church in the parish and benefice. Particular thanks should be extended to Stephen and Gill for all the hard work they undertake on our behalf. Once again we are indebted to Rob Richardson for his work behind the scenes throughout the year, and in particular in preparation for the carol service, including arranging for the church to be floodlit. We also thank those who maintain the churchyard, play the organ and clean the church and arrange flowers. In giving thanks for people's generosity and commitment, and for blessings received in the past year, we pray that God will continue to strengthen and guide us in the months and years ahead.

On behalf of the P.C.C.
The Reverend Andrew Mitcham, Chairman

April 2011.