

# St Mary the Virgin Church Guarlford and St Mary the Virgin Church Madresfield

## Annual Report for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

### **Background**

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Reverend Gary Crellin, the Rector of the Parish of Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has the responsibility of fostering an appropriate relationship with our Church-aided school - the Madresfield Church of England Primary School.

### **Membership**

Members of the PCC are either ex-officio or elected by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) in accordance with the Church Representation Rules.

The following served as members of the PCC:

#### ***Incumbent***

The Revd Gary Crellin                      Chairman

#### ***Licensed Lay Minister***

Mrs Ros Davies

#### ***Churchwardens***

Mr Christopher Bennett

Mrs Elizabeth Palmer                      Vice Chairman

#### ***Members***

Mr Peter Hughes                              Treasurer

Mrs Barbara Hill                              Authorised Lay Minister

Mr Don Hill

Mrs Val Levick

Mrs Rosemary McCulloch

Mrs Margaret Tummey

Mr Chris Lester

Secretary: Mrs Janet Lomas

Representatives on the Deanery Synod

Mrs Elizabeth Palmer

Mrs Margaret Tummey

### **Rector's Report**

I am delighted to introduce my first Annual Report to the APCCM as Rector of the Parish of Guarlford and Madresfield with Newland. Although only covering the latter six months of 2018, I believe that there is a lot to be proud of and give thanks for. We held Remembrance activities in both churches, our harvest festival at Madresfield was truly delightful and we trialled new services and worship materials. We had some teaching, regular sermons, we are beginning to tackle our communications and we all had a great Christmas. I would like to thank all of those people that hold an Office in the church for all they did to hold the Parish together pending my arrival. Church bureaucracy is stifling at the best of times, let alone when you do this as a voluntary activity. Thank you to all that you did, and hopefully you will consider doing some more next year. Thank you to those of you who clean the church or ring our bells or decorate our churches so beautifully with flowers. Thank you to all of you that support *Open The Book* or our work with young children in the school and nursery settings. Likewise, I want to thank those that stepped down or changed roles in the past year.

Although only meeting them briefly, I know how much the Kuuns are missed from parish life. Thank you. For the Lay Ministers across the Benefice and the retired clergy that assisted in worship, I am very grateful for your dutiful service.

In my opening sermons across the benefice, I complimented the parish(es) on their ability to recruit a George Clooney look alike to be their priest.....

A rather flippant or vain remark of course but it serves to highlight for me the vision and mission of our churches in the parish moving forward. We need to be attractive and welcoming. We need to reach out and serve and support - look out where God is and urging people, and us, to join in with his mission. I am concerned with our falling church attendance, but that is by and large a national issue being reflected locally. We need to, as I preached recently, think and pray things through - especially - are we fishing on the right side of the boat? If we continue as we are, we will do what we can but we need to do more. Let's look to support, like every other church, the children and families. But, what about the lonely widow or widower? Those in our communities that feel isolated? Can we spread our nets more widely? I look forward to working with you all and serving you all too. In Christ.

Rev Gary Crellin

### **Church Attendance**

The weekly services averaged about 10 people in each congregation but the special services attracted larger congregations. The PCC hopes that with the advent of the new Rector, numbers will increase (see also Rector's report above).

There were 30 people on the Electoral Roll of whom 8 were non-resident in the Benefice.

### **Review of the Year**

The PCC met four times during the year with an average attendance of 84% of the members.

The PCC is aware of its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. The PCC will be using the "Safeguarding Toolkit" provided in the Diocese as a way of self-assessment to seek to ensure it fulfils that duty

Our fund raising activities during the year raised £2080 being our share of the Madresfield Open Gardens and Fete (£1974) and the Lenten Boxes (£105.27).

Daffodil Sunday which can be a major fund raiser was cancelled due to the inclement weather.

We did not receive anything from the Guarlford Christmas Bazaar this year as there were other financial constraints on the Village Hall Committee.

Our main charitable donations this year, other than via funeral collections, went to Madresfield C of E Primary School (£500) and Crisis (£105)

Joint events with Powick and Callow End included joint Lent groups and shared services.

Sunday Worship was experienced every Sunday during the year, if not in both Churches, almost always in one of them. On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday "4 in Faith" Communion was enjoyed in rotation when the Benefice joined together to worship. Family and/or baptism services were held occasionally at each church instead of the normal main service. On major festivals, one joint service was held alternating between the two Churches at Guarlford and Madresfield

### **Fabric of the Churches**

The PCC carried out repairs and maintenance to both Churches amounting to £5800 including Churchyard maintenance at Guarlford. We are fortunate that the Madresfield estate have agreed to continue to maintain the Churchyards at Newland and Madresfield free of charge.

### **Legacies and Donations.**

We were very fortunate to receive a legacy, albeit restricted to use on Guarlford Church, of over £9000 and smaller donations form a number of sources but especially worth mentioning that from the Guarlford Parish Council of £500.

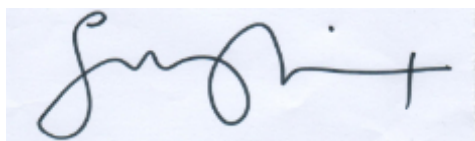
### **Newland Parish Room.**

We are also extremely fortunate to receive the rent from the School House at Newland (known as the Newland Parish Room). This amounts to £4062 and we are grateful to the tenants Mr and Mrs Bullock that for several years they have not asked for any repairs to be carried, recognising that they are paying less than a full rent for the property. The PCC intends reviewing this rent in 2019.

### **Accounts summary.**

The closing balances at the bank for the year from all accounts was £37603. At the beginning of the year there was £37299 which means an increase of about £300. This appears good news but includes the one off legacy of £9000. However we also lost our main fund raising opportunity when Daffodil Sunday was cancelled, but managed to pay £3000 of the 2017 Parish share, and pay all of that due for 2018.

**Approved by the PCC on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Gary Crellin (PCC Chairman).**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Gary Crellin', is written on a light blue rectangular background.