

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN, THEYDON BOIS ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2023

St Mary's Parochial Church Council, along with the Incumbent, has the responsibility for promoting, in the ecclesiastical parish of Theydon Bois, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The Parochial Church Council also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building (including the Parish Centre), Churchyard and Church Hall.

Membership of the Parochial Church Council (PCC)

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

During the year the following served as members of the PCC:

Incumbent

Rev John Fry

Associate Priest

Rev Carol Newnham

Church Wardens

Mary Gill & Andrew Crook

Deanery Synod Representatives

Lisa Debenham, Robyn Marsh & Diana Meteyard

Elected Members

John Philip, Douglas Pleasant, Samantha Spencer, Hugh Meteyard, Kerry Ells, Elizabeth Hannibal, Andrew Tunks, (Treasurer), William Bennett.

Rosalyn Philip co-opted as Secretary

Parochial Church Council Meetings

In 2023 the PCC met on 6 occasions, with an average attendance of 75%. Copies of the minutes of PCC meetings were made available to all by request to the Benefice Office.

The parish continues to work towards the shared Benefice Vision of The Theydon Parishes which is expressed in this way:-

Core values: Faith, love and community.

We seek to live these values by welcoming all, caring and teaching so that we may change lives through sharing the love of God in Christ.

Andrea Crombie continued to serve as Parish Safeguarding Officer, and Safeguarding continues to be a standing item at all meetings. Safeguarding contact details are displayed in the church and on the Benefice website. The PCC has complied with its duty to have due regard to the House of Bishops' Safeguarding Policy and Guidance. During 2023, St Mary's Theydon Bois worked towards attaining the Silver Eco Church Award.

Sub committees

Finance Committee considers financial matters and makes recommendations to PCC. Meets as necessary.

Stewardship Working Group considered the ways in which church members could be encouraged to give financially to St Mary's, and made recommendations to PCC

and coordinates a yearly fundraising campaign. This group was chaired by Andrew Tunks.

Standing Committee: has power to transact the business of the PCC between meetings. John Philip, Andrew Tunks, Rosalyn Philip as Secretary, the Vicar, Rev. Carol Newnham and the Churchwardens meet as necessary.

Mission Committee: Supports the work of Christian Mission at home and abroad, particularly of CMS, IPASC in D.R.Congo and Alison and Mozi Kotroci in Albania and promotes awareness of the wider mission of the Church. Chaired by Robyn Marsh.

Events Committee: Organises social and fund-raising events to support the Church, chaired jointly by Philip and Amanda Simmance

Churchyard Committee: Meets as necessary; under the leadership of Trevor Brough. The PCC is grateful to the team of volunteers who meet each Thursday morning to work in the churchyard.

Church Hall Committee: manages the business of the Church Hall on behalf of the PCC. Ross Penman, Eleanor Isaac, Philip Crombie, Mary Gill, Andrew Tunks, Lisa Debenham and Linda Hammond served during the year.

A/V Working Group: continues to work to develop proposals to bring to the PCC for final approval for the installation of an audio-visual system in the church. Liz Douglass, Rosalyn Philip and John Philip served during the year.

Employees

The mission and ministry of St Mary's Theydon Bois is supported by a part-time Benefice Administrator, and the PCC supports 64% of her salary, although her employer is the PCC of All Saints Theydon Garnon. During 2023, Sarah Bowen and Daria Emery were employed in this role.

Church Services

The regular pattern of services in the church building from April 2023 was as follows:

Sunday

8am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
	10.30am	6pm
First Sunday	All Age Worship	Sung Communion
Second Sunday	Family Communion	Sung Evensong (BCP)
Third Sunday	Family Communion	Sung Compline
Fourth Sunday	Morning Worship	Sung Evensong (BCP)
Fifth Sunday	Joint Benefice Service at 10am, rotating between churches in the Benefice.	

The organ was played by visiting organists on a rota arrangement.

Wednesday

10am Morning Prayer /Holy Communion with the Mothers' Union on the second Wednesday of the month (available on Zoom)

Thursday

Midday Holy Communion

Children's groups took place during the 10.30am Sunday service in the church hall. All children's ministry is provided by local volunteers led by Sarah Twitchett from the Red Balloon Family Foundation. On average, 8 children attended each week.

Church Attendance

As of April 2023, there were 151 people on the Church Electoral Register; average Sunday attendance was 85 unique adults and 20 children each Sunday. As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services, friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and commend the person into God's keeping. In 2023, 7 baptisms took place, 3 weddings were celebrated and 8 funerals were held in St. Mary's.

Key events in 2023.

17 th January	Quinquennial inspection carried out
22 nd February	Sung communion service for Ash Wednesday
25 th March	Safari Supper
February to April	Lent Soup lunches in aid of charities selected by the Mission Committee
6 th April	Sung communion service for Maundy Thursday
9 th April	Easter Day services
23 rd April	Presentation of new font bowl
4 th May	Rev. John Fry, Vicar of the Theydon Parishes licensed as Interim Cathedral Missioner at Chelmsford Cathedral. He served on a half-time secondment basis there until 31 st December in addition to remaining as Vicar of the Theydon Parishes.
7 th May	Service commemorating the coronation of Charles III
18 th May	Sung communion service for Ascension Day
18 th June	Open Gardens
16 th July	Farewell service of Choral Evensong for Victoria Hay, organist
30 th July	Pet Service in the churchyard at 6pm
24 th September	Mission Sunday
19 th October	Rev. John Fry licensed as Area Dean of Epping Forest & Ongar, in addition to his role as Vicar of the Theydon Parishes.
November	Soup Lunches
6 th November	Confirmation service at Chelmsford Cathedral
11 th November	Quiz Night
12 th November	Annual service of Remembrance at the War Memorial
19 th November	Choral Evensong to celebrate St. Cecilia's Day
2 nd December	Christmas Fayre
3 rd December	All Age Service with Scratch Nativity play
7 th December	Crofton Singers concert
17 th December	Traditional service of Nine Lessons and Carols
24 th December	Christingle Services with collection to support the Children's Society