



The PCC of St Mary the Virgin, High Halden
Annual Report
for the year ended 31st December 2021

Aim and Purpose

St Mary's Parochial Church Council (the "PCC") has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Reverend Sue Rose (Rector), in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish and benefice and the Diocese, and also at home and abroad the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is responsible for maintaining the church building, which is Grade I Listed.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church, and to become part of our parish family. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament. We try to enable ordinary people to live out their faith as part of our parish family, through:

- Worship and prayer: learning about the Gospel, and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Mission and outreach work.

To facilitate this work, it is vital that we maintain the fabric of the church building.

Achievements and performance

i) Worship and Prayer

The PCC is keen to offer a range of services on Sundays.

At the 2021 APCM (Annual Meeting) there were 36 on the Electoral Roll. The average Sunday attendance at the 11am Service on Sundays was 19, and the pandemic has affected our attendance at Christmas and Easter during the past year.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. During 2021 there were 2 weddings and 5 funerals and 2 burials of ashes during the year.

ii) Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the Romney and Tenterden Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with a link to the Churches around us, and also with the Diocese as a whole. It also receives reports from the General Synod.

iii) Church Fabric

We have recently had repairs to the roof following storm damage in February. We are currently evaluating a replacement heating system. We are looking at electric systems to improve our carbon footprint and to enable to reuse of the boiler room to house a toilet for the church. We plan to apply for grants and to fundraise locally for these projects.

We are currently awaiting our 5-yearly quinquennial inspection, which will help us to prioritise any other work needed. We are responsible all our repairs and improvements to the church as well as paying our parish share to the Diocese, which is in excess of £20,000. We are very grateful to The Friends of St Mary's who also undertake fundraising work and support us with repairs and improvements to our beautiful church building.

iv) Mission and Evangelism

The PCC agreed a new Mission Action Plan recently, which we will be consulting on soon. We work closely with High Halden CEP School, and after the disruption caused by the pandemic we are now looking forward to re-starting some of our family activities and youth work.

Financial Review

Overall there has been a deficit of over £12,000 this year. We have some funds set aside towards our project to install a toilet. We have a total of just over £48,400 in our bank accounts, and a further £57,000 in our investment accounts.

Reserves Policy

The PCC looks to maintain a balance on our General (unrestricted) Fund in order to cover emergencies. In 2021, we agreed a formal reserves policy:

"The PCC aims to keep approximately six months running costs in free reserves."

Safeguarding

The Benefice takes Safeguarding very seriously and in view of this, we follow the Church of England's national guidelines and the House of Bishops' safeguarding policy 'Promoting a Safer Church'.

Ann Tiplady in Woodchurch continues to act as Safeguarding Co-ordinator for the Benefice, and Sally Baldock is our co-ordinator in High Halden.

Volunteers

The members of the PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so tirelessly to make our church a lively and vibrant community. We are very fortunate to have a team of volunteer gardeners who are going to be supporting the council in looking after our beautiful churchyard, and we also have volunteers who clean and care for our church building. We are always grateful for offers of help.

Structure, Governance and Management

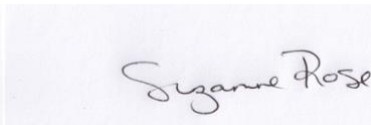
The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The Council comprises the Incumbent, the Churchwardens, a representative of the Readers, those elected to the Deanery Synod, and other members who are elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, by those on the Electoral Roll. Members of the congregation are always urged to join the Electoral Roll, and to stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance in the parish, and for all financial matters. The full PCC met six times during the year, with a good level of attendance at each meeting.

PCC members who have served during the year ended 31st December were:

The incumbent (chair)	The Rev'd Sue Rose
Reader	Mrs Vera Hopkinson (PCC Secretary)
Churchwardens	Christopher Rose (resigned September 2021) Pauline Rose (resigned September 2021)
Elected members	Mr Nik Le Marechal (Treasurer) Mr Marianne Ball (Deanery Synod representative) Mrs Sally Baldock (Messy Church Leader) Mrs Pat Appleby (Electoral Roll Officer) Mrs Pat Pluck Mrs Fran Chevis

Approved by the PCC on 31st March 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Rev'd Sue Rose(Incumbent/Chair)