

**ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR'S CHURCH,
BARNSELY**

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL
CHURCH COUNCIL
INCLUDING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31ST DECEMBER 2009

Bank:-

**Barclays Bank
25/27 Church Street
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 2AJ**

Independent Examiner:

**Mr A Bower
35 Locke Avenue
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S70 1QH**

Administrative information

St. Edward the Confessor's Church is situated in Racecommon Road, Barnsley. It is part of the Diocese of Wakefield within the Church of England.

The correspondence address is:-

St. Edward's Church, Racecommon Road, Barnsley S70 6JY.

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2009 until the date this report was approved are:

<i>Priest in charge:</i>	Revd Mark Poskitt	(from 6 th July 2009)
<i>Reader:</i>	Mr Fred Thompson	
<i>Wardens:</i>	Mrs Patricia Adcock	Secretary (until 31 st December 2009)
	Mr Gordon Fletcher	

Representatives on the Deanery Synod: (Until APCM in 2010)

Mr Gordon Fletcher
Mrs Heather Fletcher

Elected members:

Mrs Renée Burton(A)	
Mrs Margaret Cooper(A)	(until June 2009)
Mr Arthur Darren(B)	(until 28 th July 2009)
Mr John Gostelow(C)	Treasurer
Mrs Margaret Gostelow(A)	Vice Chair
Mrs Joan Moss(B)	
Mrs Lorraine Taylor-Kent(C)	
Mrs Julie Thorpe(B)	(until APCM 19 th April 2009)
Vacancy (A)	(from July 2009)
Vacancy (B)	(from APCM 19 th April 2009)
Vacancy (B)	(from 28 th July 2008)
Vacancy (C)	(Fred Thompson now as Reader)
Mrs Lynette Mace	(co-opted as deputy churchwarden from 28th July 2009)

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All Church attendees are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. St. Edward's PCC members are elected for 3 years with one third retiring and being elected each year. Deanery representatives are elected for 3 years.

PCC term of office ends at APCM in	A - 2011
	B - 2012
	C - 2010

Objectives and Activities

St Edward's PCC is responsible for promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church and grounds of St Edward's, Racecommon Road, Kingstone, Barnsley.

Achievements and Performance

Church attendance

There are 67 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 28 of whom are not resident within the parish. The average weekly attendance was 44, but this number increased at festivals.

In addition to Communion services on Sundays and Wednesdays, we held sung Evensong at our heritage weekend, a Memorial service in November, a Lessons & Carols service in December and three Christmas Carol services for local schools. The licensing service for the Revd. Mark Poskitt and the installation of Revd. Steve Race as the new Rural Dean was held in July.

Review of the year

After 4 years of interregnum the Revd. Mark Poskitt was installed as Priest in Charge on 6th July 2009. For the first 6 months of the year we were again indebted to Gordon Fletcher for all his hard work in obtaining cover for our services. Our thanks go to all the retired clergy who covered our Sunday services and to the Revd Steve Race from Dodworth for our Wednesday Communions during the long interregnum. A collection was held and cheques sent to them.

Tricia Adcock resigned as churchwarden on December 31st and we thank her for all her hard work as churchwarden and also as PCC Secretary and Child Protection Officer. Her responsibilities were redistributed to other PCC members until the Annual meeting.

The PCC miss Margaret Cooper who died in the summer and had been a loyal PCC member for a long time.

We thank Arthur Darren for his service on the PCC and in his role as Fire Officer until ill health forced him to resign from the PCC. We wish him well in his recovery and hope he will soon be able to take an active role again. We also thank Julie Thorpe for her time on the PCC which ended at the Annual meeting in April.

Our thanks go to Revd. Jean Naylor who again organised our Lent course as well as a Bible Study course in the autumn.

We would like to thank all the members of the congregation who help maintain the church and grounds, especially the Flower Guild for making the church so attractive. We also thank Zoe Glossop, Colin Rowlands and the choir for the music which makes such a difference to our services, and to Pat Black as sacristan.

We had a day retreat to Emley Moor in June led by Canon Michael Rawson and attended by several members of the congregation.

The Events Committee organised a number of very successful events over the year which have helped to raise funds and our profile in the local community. Events included the summer and autumn fairs, an autumn concert, a quiz night, various lunches, coffee mornings and a 'dessert' island disc evening.

Publicity: In addition to our calendar of events and parish magazine, efforts are made to encourage local people to attend functions and services by leafleting the whole parish, placing posters in local businesses and using the local press and radio station.

Unfortunately the vicarage, which is not the responsibility of the PCC but of Wakefield Diocese, remains unoccupied although we understand it will be rented out in the summer.

Regular Activities (all held in the vestry)

Social Crafts – Unfortunately the Social Crafts Group (parchment group) was unable to attract sufficient members to remain viable and was forced to disband in the summer.

Keep Fit – Held on a Monday evening from 7pm until 8pm. The group is lively & friendly and costs £2-50 for a session.

Residents Meeting – monthly business meetings.

Vestry Lunch – Held every Thursday at 12 noon where a three course meal is served for £3-50 including tea and coffee. This is widely supported and includes non church members. There is a friendly atmosphere and everyone talks to each other.

St Edwards Guild – Meets every third Tuesday at 2.00pm (except August). There is an annual subscription of £5. Meetings have a guest speaker and light refreshments are served afterwards. In January the Guild organises a lunch at Barnsley College and an AGM is held in February where donations to charities are decided.

Heritage Inspired have used the vestry for a number of meetings and plan to hold their AGM in it this year.

PCC Report.

The PCC met on ten occasions in 2009.

Issues Considered:

Church finances: please see separate report

Church fabric: please see separate report.

Memorials in church: a new policy has been agreed. The PCC has agreed in principle to add the names of our Readers to the Readers' Chair and a faculty will be sought.

Church policies: Finance, Child Protection, Health and Safety (including Fire & Asbestos) & Lettings policies were approved in April 2009 and will be reviewed in April 2010. An Evacuation Policy is being developed. Arrangements will be made to ensure that these policies are accessible in the vestry and are used appropriately.

Reports from Committees: the Events, Worship and Pastoral Committees report to the PCC on a regular basis.

Links with Mara: Fred Thompson is our Mara link and we are hoping to be able to sponsor him to visit Tanzania.

Informing the congregation: this is done via the pew sheet and magazine and by putting minutes of meetings at the back of church. A meeting with the congregation was held in February.

Links with St Thomas's Church: there are good informal links and an exchange of information about services and events.

Parish Transformational Plan: The process of developing a plan was started in the interregnum and a small group will be set up to carry the work forward.

Fabric report

Churchwardens are required to make an annual inspection of the fabric and furnishings of the Church under the Jurisdiction Measure of 1991. We try to keep St Edwards maintained to a reasonably good standard, and this is right as we have to secure our heritage for, we hope, future generations.

The perimeter walls are in good condition. Looking from the roadside, Park Road and Racecommon Road, the building is in good condition, weathering of the stone work is quite normal for a building of one hundred and eight years. The roof and ridge tiles are all in good order. The gutters and down pipes are all clear and at present the building is water-tight. This position can of course change overnight with heavy rain. So I remind everybody that regular maintenance is essential.

The Church paths as I reported last year are showing signs of wear, due to cars using the grounds as the paths were not built for this type of use. The Church interior is looking shabby and is in need of redecoration, as it is twelve years since it was last decorated. Damage to the lamp out side the south door caused by vandals has been repaired. On September 9th our Quinquennial Inspection was carried out by our architect Mr Parry. He recommended that open joints in the tower be repointed, that we install vented caps to the tower pinnacles and renew damaged slates on roof. These items have been done. He also suggested that we blank off the nave ventilation duct in the roof space; the cost would be small and the saving in the heating bills should be noticeable, and the nave, would be a

lot less draughty. This has also been done. However there is work still to be done on his recommendation on a planned basis. The south transept upper gutter and fall pipe have come adrift and need fixing with new clips. (While this is being done all the top gutters could be resealed and painted. This would be bringing forward another of the architect's recommendations). We must keep our gutters soak ways and drains maintained on an annual basis.

The toilets are in need of up-grading to bring us in line with the Disability Discrimination Act. The whole vestry area, including the vestry steps, is in need of redecorating as it is ten years since this section of the church was last decorated. Some work is required on the safety valves on the three heating boilers, and grills need to be fitted to the outside flues; this can be done during the summer. On the whole, our building looks and is in a good state of repair.

Gordon Fletcher Churchwarden March 20th 2010

Deanery Synod report

The Synod has met twice during the last year since the June meeting was cancelled when there was a change of Rural Deans from the Revd Alan Briscoe to Revd Stephen Race, Vicar of Dodworth.

The Synod meeting on the 4th of November was held at St Pauls' Church, Monk Bretton, when the Revd Mark Poskitt was welcomed to his first synod. A presentation was given by Megan Ward from Barnsley Primary Care Trust about swine flu and what the church could do in an epidemic. Kathleen Bell gave an update about the Barnsley Drugs Project moving from St Mary's to St Peter's. The Rural Dean presented the Deanery Plan up to 2013; there then followed a very noisy, lively debate, mainly among the clergy.

Our Synod meeting on March 17^h took place at Lundwood where this debate on "Working towards 2013" continued. Shelagh Hopkinson from the Children's Society thanked everybody for their support and help as £9,000 was raised through the collection boxes; she then gave a short presentation about her work.

The Rural Dean told the meeting that the licensing of the priest for St Mary's would now be on 10th May due to the possible election date being on the 6th May.

He told the meeting that the cancelled Boundaries Commission meeting would now meet at Monk Bretton on May 25th.

The Common Fund (parish share) was discussed at great length. Wakefield is the lowest payer in England of the parish share. Since 2004 it is £1.1 million below budget and £689,000 in arrears. The event to mark Transforming Lives is to be held at Nostell Priory on June 13th.

A very heated debate about this and the parish share and the paper Working towards 2013 followed between the members of the Synod. "It is a waste of time and money; the diocese could find better ways in which to spend money; they are not out at grass roots level and are not in touch with the parishes. We should be Gospel based and not obsessed with money all the time", were just some comments made. The Rural Dean thanked every one for their efforts in paying what they could of their parish share. The meetings with parishes about to take place with the Archdeacon about not meeting the full amount would serve no useful purpose and only get people's backs up, said one vicar. The Rural Dean said new proposals were being put in place to make the parish share more fair to all.

The next meetings are in June at Cawthorne, and at St Edward's in November.

Gordon & Heather Fletcher March 19th 2010

Financial Review

As can be seen from the attached financial statements we were able to balance the books in 2009, however our finances are far from healthy as explained below.

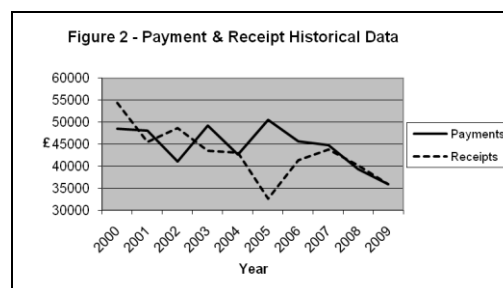
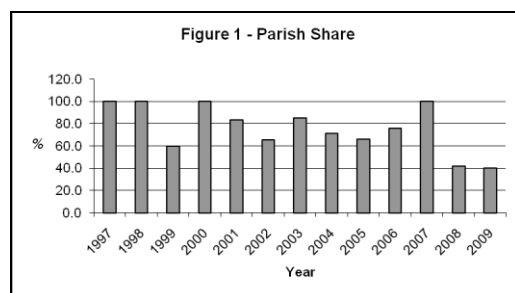
Our income was considerably down (~£4000) from the previous year in spite of an increase in the giving from the congregation. This was because of a reduction in our income from interest on our investments as well as there being fewer weddings and funerals.

Our expenditure on church activities was also much greater (~£5000) than anticipated due to a number of extraordinary expenses (e.g. tree lopping, new notice board, Patronal flag, licensing costs and greater than expected utility costs from the new heating system).

The consequence of this is that in order to balance our income and expenditure we were only able to pay £11500 towards the Common Fund (previously known as the Parish Share). This was just over 40% of what was asked of us by the diocese. Previously we have been able to pay around 70% of the Common Fund which is still considerably short of what the diocese is asking.

We are now nearly £90,000 in arrears with our Common Fund payments and if we were to pay our share in full then, like many other churches, St. Edward's would no longer be financially viable.

The sum that the churches in the diocese have to find is shared between the churches according to a formula that is based mainly on a head count of the congregations. A trend of our Parish share contribution is shown in Figure 1 and a trend of Payments & Receipts is shown in Figure 2.



The net result for the year was that we are not in deficit and that we had an excess of £48 of receipts over payments. After adding bank and deposit balances brought forward at the beginning of the year, the balances carried forward at 31st December 2009 in our general fund (cash, current and deposit accounts) totalled £9879.

We have set a budget for 2010 which maintains our income and reduces our expenditure which should set us on a track to increase our common fund payment. It is unlikely that we will be in a position to pay 100% of the common fund unless we are given a more realistic target or we embark on activities which significantly increase our revenue.

Reserves policy

It is PCC policy to maintain a balance in the General Fund which equates to approximately six months expenditure. The balance of £9879 on these funds still falls short of this target.

It is our policy to invest our designated Fabric Fund with the CBF Church of England Deposit and Share Funds, which total £100381, for the upkeep of the fabric of the church and future modifications. We also have a smaller investment with Treasury Stock.

Approved by the PCC on 22nd March 2010 and signed on their behalf by Revd. Mark Poskitt (PCC Chair)