

# **Report and Accounts for the Parochial Church Council of St Chad's Church, Ladybarn, for the year ending 31 December 2019**

## ***Aim and purposes***

St Chad's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Mark Hewerdine, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Church, Community Hall and the Community Wildlife Garden and Community Orchard of St Chad's, St Chad's Road, Manchester M20 4WH.

## ***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 community at St Chad's. The PCC maintains an overview of worship and also the social, fund-raising and study activities which the church community provides. The PCC makes suggestions on how these can best involve as many as possible of those who live in our exceptionally diverse parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities we have considered the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. In particular, we seek to enable church members to live out their faith as part of the parish community through the Anglican Communion's Five Marks of Mission:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church and the Community Hall as well as providing for access to the Community Wildlife Garden and Community Orchard.

## ***Achievements and performance***

### **Worship and prayer**

The PCC is fully supportive of the Revd Mark Hewardine in offering a range of services during the week and over the course of the year that our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. In this he is helped by Dr Helen Reid who was licensed as a reader at St Chad's in 2013 and continues as Reader Emerita. We also continue to greatly appreciate and value the ministry of our retired clergy, as well as all the many practical and caring ministries offered by many of the congregation. We are particularly saddened to report the death of the Revd Colin Powell on 28 July 2019. There is an obituary on the Church Times website at <https://tinyurl.com/Rev-Colin-Powell>.

In May 2018 the Bishop of Manchester announced the Lifting of Suspension of Presentation at St Chad's so that in due course the Revd Mark Hewardine would become Rector of St Chad's, replacing his status as Priest-in-Charge. The formalities were completed by Bishop Mark (Davies) and Archdeacon Karen on Thursday 21 February 2019 at the regular mid-week service of Holy Communion.

The heart of the church's worshipping life is the Sunday morning Parish Eucharist. St Chad's now has the Bishop's permission to admit children to Holy Communion before Confirmation. This permission was exercised for the first time at a Deanery Confirmation Service on Sunday 16 June 2019. Bishop Mark (Davies) admitted four children to Holy Communion before Confirmation and confirmed XXX members of St Chad's congregation and ... *details of numbers here*

Evensong on the first Sunday of each month and the weekly Holy Communion service on Thursday mornings continue to attract small but faithful congregations, as do the evening services on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

Sunday 15 September 2019 saw the first meeting of the revived Sunday School, which had been in abeyance for several years. Children's work had been continuing by means of appropriate activities in the Children's Area during the Parish Eucharist, supervised by members of the congregation. The numbers of children involved had been growing and the activities provided more attentive to their spiritual growth thereby creating the basis for a Sunday School. "Sunday Table", an innovation in 2017 which also provided some impetus for the Sunday School initiative has been discontinued.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. It is gratifying to report that the increased number of young adults attending the Parish Eucharist noted in last year's Annual Report has been maintained. The notice boards continue to provide up-to date information about occasional church activities, as well as advertising the regular services and special services at festivals. We feel this gives an important message to the

community and passers-by that St Chad's is an active and out-going congregation. The church website ([www.stchadladybarn.org.uk](http://www.stchadladybarn.org.uk)) is maintained with up-to date information; Twitter and Facebook @stchadsladybarn are increasingly used to promote special services at festivals and occasional church activities. The PCC has adopted and publicised a Data Privacy Notice conforming with the Church of England's recommendations regarding the General Data Protection Regulation.

During the year the PCC supported the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Fairtrade Fortnight, the World Day of Prayer and services during Christian Aid Week. Increasingly special services such as these are arranged in collaboration with or held at other local churches. The same is also the case for services offered in Holy Week. A service for The Commemoration of the Faithful Departed provided an opportunity for many people from the local community to remember, mourn and celebrate those who gave us life, or who nurtured us in faith. The Memorial Chapel continues to remind us of the continuing value placed on our of Remembrance Sunday service by many in the parish. Although the First World War Centenary commemorations have been brought to an end, the long-standing Parish Eucharist and Act of Remembrance on the Sunday closest to 11 November continues.

As well as our regular services, through the Occasional Offices 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 to commend the person into God's keeping.

### **Mission and evangelism**

*Church for a Different World* continues as the watchword of Diocese of Manchester's strategy for a growing, nurturing and serving Church of the future. *Mission Action Planning* is the key activity by which parishes contribute to this. The PCC has continued to use its agreed Mission Action Plan (MAP) to guide PCC and parish decision making. An updated version was tabled and agreed to at the PCC meeting in November 2019 showed that we have made good progress towards meeting our MAP targets.

Also at the November 2019 meeting, Helen Reid reported on the Diocesan proposal to reduce the number of deaneries from 20 to seven. Each of the new deaneries would have a full-time area dean with no front-line parish responsibilities so able to focus on mission and growth. Under these proposals Withington Deanery would be amalgamated with the Hulme and Stretford Deaneries to create a new Deanery of Manchester South and Stretford. The proposals have been commended to (existing) deanery synods for consultation until February 2020 with the intention of launching the new structures at the beginning of 2021. A response to the consultation from St Chad's was made.

St Chad's is a registered supporter of Sabeel Kairos UK, a small and energetic advocacy based human rights Christian charity promoting a just peace in Israel and Palestine <http://www.sabeel-kairos.org.uk>.

Following last year's debut, St Chad's again participated in the Manchester Whit Walk on Monday 27 May 2019. Thanks are due to Shannon and Lewis Oliver for the new banner which received its first outing then.

Helping those in need is a demonstration of our faith. We have maintained our commitment to charitable giving with donations to The Children's Society, Christian Aid, Wood Street Mission and the Greater Manchester Winter Night Shelter appeals. Church members support and are involved in the running of the Fallowfield and Withington Foodbank, where, regrettably, over 300 local people were supported in December 2019 alone.

Our monthly parish magazine is distributed to around 90 subscribers to promote the mission of and disseminate news about St Chad's. The magazine keeps our parishioners informed of the important matters affecting our Church and articles that help develop our knowledge of our faith and our life as disciples of Jesus.

St Chad's has an important mission to the three retirement homes in the parish so members of the congregation arrange visits to them to chat to residents and make ourselves a little better known there. Evenings spent carol singing in each of the three homes is a regular feature of the Advent season. We have received a warm welcome from residents and staff alike.

*Occasional Science and Religion Evenings* aim to encourage a scientifically literate congregation at St Chad's and to stimulate the interest of the wider community.

## **Inclusive Church**

Inclusive Church is an organisation founded in 2003 that advocates for the full inclusion of all people, regardless of ethnicity, gender and sexual orientation, in the Christian churches, especially the Church of England. More broadly, it seeks "to raise awareness about the ways that people feel excluded by the church". The PCC had become a member in May 2018, coinciding with the announcement that Withington had become the first inclusive deanery in the Church of England. The PCC has continued to discuss the implications of inclusivity, recognising that much needs to be done in this area, and members of the PCC have attended local training events. The future of Withington's "Inclusive Deanery" status under the new deanery proposals, given that some of the parishes in the proposed amalgamation are of a much more conservative tendency, is undecided at the time of writing.

## **Occasional offices**

In 2019 there were 5 baptisms, 3 weddings and 5 funerals. A small Baptism Team follows up baptisms in church with a baptism card, candles and birthday cards up to the age of four.

## **Pastoral care**

Some members of our parish are unable to attend church due to sickness or age. The Revd Mark Hewerdine and Dr Helen Reid visit church members who have requested it, to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital. Two further members of St Chad's congregation have begun the Diocesan training to authorise them to administer home communions by receiving General Authorisation as a Eucharistic Minister.

A pastoral care team has been established to coordinate the variety of pastoral activities already carried out by members of the congregation, to ensure that the necessary formalities are in place and to identify pastoral needs within the parish and congregation which are not being met.

## ***Ecumenical relationships and cooperation with neighbouring parishes***

The mission and ministry of St Chad's church and parish continue to be interlinked with the church and people of St Nicholas Burnage in recognition of the formal relationship entered into 2017. Members of St Chad's congregation regularly attend the monthly Taize Evening Prayer at St Nicholas and opportunities are taken to collaborate whenever possible.

The church is a member of Churches Together in Fallowfield and Withington. Representatives of the Churches have not met together formally during 2019; however we cooperate with other churches during Christian Aid Week, the World Day of Prayer and the local food bank.

## **World War One Centenary Commemorations**

December 2018 marked the end of our commemorations of the centenary of World War I. In January all the items lent for our exhibition by members of the congregation were returned to their owners.

In 2019 an exhibition was arranged in one of the display cases to mark the eightieth anniversary of the beginning of World War II in 1939. A number of photographs of soldiers of the parish were kindly lent. The display was open to the public at the Heritage weekend.

## **Church and Hall**

The PCC takes seriously its duty of proper stewardship of the church building, church hall and grounds. Members, especially the churchwardens, work hard to maintain the fabric of the buildings and the grounds. Internal cleaning is carried out every week by a contractor and a volunteer team. Routine maintenance of the grounds is carried out by a team of volunteers.

Among the maintenance matters attended to in 2019 were

- Re-pointing the wall of the south aisle;
- Running repairs to rainwater goods including drainpipes above the cellar steps and the flat roof above the vestry porch plus waterproofing the flat roof. Repair of the Baptistry roof and netting of the guttering and drainpipes there;
- Routine checks of the lightening conductor and renewal of the Gas Safety Certificate;
- Updating of the church inventory was a major task carried in 2018, including the creation of digital records.

A specialist contractor is still being sought to repair the broken panes in the chancel windows. Problems with the lighting in the passageway between the hall and the church which arose again towards the end of 2019 have now been dealt with.

## **Report of the Remodelling Church Working Group**

Despite its recognised shortcomings, the church building continues to be used for events, both missional and secular, which bring in the wider community in significant numbers. On 6 April an Artisan Market was held in church with stalls provided by local artists and artisans. On 18 May St Chad's hosted a *Big Brekkie* as part of our support for Christian Aid Week which attracted more than 80 people, including local councillors. On 23 November the church was used for the Christmas Fair. On the second Saturdays of the months January to May, Cafe Concerts were held in church as part of the organ restoration project.

Accordingly the PCC Remodelling Church Working Group, established in 2017 to examine the possibilities for remodelling the church building, continued its work progressing the consensus for refurbishment, namely

- Disabled access through the main door;
- Glass or partly glass doors and an inner lobby for the main entrance;

- Discreet toilets, including disabled provision;
- Kitchen facilities, including sink with hot water, dishwasher, power points and storage with scope for extension if and when this becomes necessary;
- Meeting space;
- Comfortable chairs;
- Improved lighting, specifically up-lighting.

Toward the end of 2018 the PCC was advised to commission a Measured Survey, an Options Appraisal and a Cost Appraisal at an expected cost of around £7,700. Application was made to National Churches Trust for one of its Gateway Grants to cover half this cost. Unfortunately this was not successful.

## **Organ restoration**

Following the completion of fundraising efforts and securing the necessary grants, work finally got underway of the restoration of the instrument in July 2019. The organ was taken out of use immediately and we were fortunate in being supplied, on long term loan, a Broadwood Boudoir Grand Piano, which met our musical needs for the period in question.

The work was expected to be completed by the end of the year but this proved not to be the case. The job proved to be more complex than originally anticipated by the contractor, in addition, because this was the penultimate restoration job to be undertaken by the contractor, there were labour problems which resulted in the number of hours worked each day being less than expected.

The job was finally completed in mid March 2020, subject only to the fixing of a small metal nameplate on the organ console.

The first half of 2019 saw a number of fundraising events. 'Cafe Concerts' were held on the first Saturday morning of each month, and these proved to be popular. Grateful thanks are due to those artistes who gave their services without charge to put these concerts on, to the many St Chads people who helped with refreshments, and to those who patronised the concerts and helped the fundraising. They were good events, well appreciated by all.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund scheme remains incomplete in financial terms and will remain so until we can hold the final celebratory recital with Paul Hale, our organ advisor and former Organist and Rector Chori of Southwell Minster.

## **Community Hall**

We have attended to the care and maintenance of the exterior of the Community Hall. The renovation of the hall – provision of new toilets, improved lighting and

re-decoration – has now been completed. The substantial grant offered by the Diocese in October 2015 did not cover the full cost; however, a grant of £8,000 received from the Theodore of Tarsus Trust enabled this work to be carried out during April 2019. In recognition of the generosity of the grant givers, the newly renovated toilets are now registered with Toilet Twinning.

The hall continues to be heavily used for both casual and regular bookings for community and charitable events. Fees from hire of the hall make a vital contribution to the financial health of St Chad's. During the week the hall is used every school day by an after-school club and each week by three (non-overlapping) yoga groups, a mother and baby fitness group, karate groups for both children's and adults and a Saturday study session for children.

## **Community Orchard and Wildlife Garden**

In striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth, during 2019 we have continued with our environmental projects with on-going work in the Community Orchard and Wildlife Garden. We are grateful for the help of more than 20 student volunteers from the University of Manchester who did many hours of sometimes heavy work during two visits to St Chad's in November 2019.

The Community Orchard and Wildlife Garden provides an excellent starting point for St Chad's becoming an eco-church. To improve our application for recognition as an Eco Church the PCC has agreed to

- participate in the Diocese's pilot project to calculate our carbon footprint;
- to pursue an offer from Parish Buying to subsidise measurement of our energy use and, possibly, reduce or energy costs;
- to investigate how a wildlife survey of our grounds could be undertaken.

A fourth step – to "twin" the Hall toilets – was agreed at the January 2020 meeting.

## **Volunteers**

The PCC would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively and vibrant community it is. In particular we want to mention our churchwardens Mrs Jenny Black and Mrs Trena Radcliffe, who have worked so tirelessly on our behalf. A consolidated report of the work of the numerous groups associated with the church is presented to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting each year.

Mention has already been made of student volunteers from Manchester University who have worked in the Community Orchard and Wildlife Garden. St Chad's is registered on the University Volunteer Hub <https://www.find-volunteering.manchester.ac.uk> for occasional volunteering sessions.

## **Report from the Safeguarding Co-ordinators**

The Church of England, its Archbishops, Bishops, clergy and leaders are committed to Safeguarding as an integral part of the life and ministry of the Church. The Church of England affirms the 'Whole Church' approach to safeguarding. This approach encompasses a commitment to consistent policy and practice across all Church bodies.

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/safeguarding>

St Chad's is fully signed up to membership of thirtyone:eight (<https://thirtyoneeight.org>), the Churches' safeguarding agency and follows its recommendations and advice. Key members of the congregation have applied for and received the necessary DBS clearance. The Diocese of Manchester recommends that all PCC members should apply for DBS clearance; this was implemented from the 2019 PCC elections.

## **Policy Statement on Children and Young People of the Church of St Chad, Ladybarn**

This statement was agreed at the PCC meeting held on 1 November 2017

- As members of this church, we commit ourselves to the nurturing, protection and safekeeping of all, especially children and young people.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of children and young people and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- We recognise that our work with children and young people is the responsibility of the whole Church.
- Our church is committed to supporting, resourcing and training those who work with Children and young people and to providing supervision.
- Our church is committed to following the policy and procedures published by the Diocese.
- The parish will adopt good practice guidelines.
- Each worker with children and young people must undertake diocesan Safeguarding training, know the guidelines and undertake to follow them. Each shall be given a copy of the Parish's agreed procedures and good practice guidelines.
- As part of our commitment to children and young people, the PCC has appointed Judy Fletcher and Leslie Bell to be the Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinators.
- Children and young people are an important part of our Church today. They have much to give as well as to receive. We will make them welcome and listen to them. As we nurture them in worship, learning, and in community life, we will respect their wishes and feelings.

Leslie Bell and Judy Fletcher, as Safeguarding Officers, together with our PCC, registered St Chad's church with the then Church's Child Protection Advisory Service. This required the review of our Safeguarding Policy agreed at PCC on 1 November 2017.

### **Structure, governance and management**

The Parochial Church Council is a corporate body established by the Church of England. The PCC operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure.

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, churchwardens, and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the church. Those who attend our services or are members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC.

The PCC is responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met nine times for ordinary meetings during the year. The average level of attendance was over 75%. Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of committees each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These committees, which include grants, health and safety, hall lettings, remodelling, worship, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

In line with the requirements of the Church Representation Rules, the Church Electoral Roll was completely revised in the Spring of 2019. At the time of preparation of this report there were 55 names on the Electoral Role, of whom 16 live outside the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted during October 2019, was 57, mainly at the Sunday Parish Eucharist.

### **Deanery Synod**

Three members of the PCC sit on the Withington Deanery Synod. This provides the PCC with an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the church.

The Withington Deanery Synod met on the 29 March at Emmanuel, Didsbury, the 3rd July at William Temple, Wythenshawe, the 6 November at St. Michael and All Angels, Lawton Moor. The Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day on the 30 May was hosted by Christ Church, West Didsbury, and the preacher was the Airport Chaplain, George Lane.

Much work has been done throughout the year on our Deanery Mission Action Plan.

We continued to celebrate becoming the first Inclusive Deanery in the Church of England.

## ***Administrative information***

St Chad's Church is situated in St Chad's Road, Manchester M20 4WH. It is part of the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is The Rectory, St Chad's Road, Manchester M20 4WH.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1 January 2019 until the date this report was approved are:

### *Ex Officio members:*

Incumbent: The Reverend Mark Hewerdine (Chairman)

Reader: Dr Helen Reid, also Deanery Synod Representative from April 2019

Wardens: Mrs Jenny Black, Mrs Trena Radcliffe

### *Elected members:*

Mr Leslie Bell, Ms Laverne Condappa (co-opted until April 2019), Mr Cemil Egeli (from April 2019), Mrs Judy Fletcher, Mr Leslie Fletcher (Secretary), Mr Peter Knight, Mr Eric Leary (from April 2019), Mr Abhi Masih (from April 2019), Mrs Sheila Newbery (Deanery Synod Representative, until April 2019), Mr Robert Nicholls, Mrs Barbara Purvis (Deanery Synod Representative), Mrs Pamela Race, Ms Opal Walsh, Mrs Diane Wynn (until April 2019).

Approved by the PCC on 3 March 2020 and signed on their behalf by the Revd Mark Hewerdine (PCC Chairman)

The Reverend Mark Hewerdine, Rector