

St Mary's, Hardwick

Annual Report

of the

Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December, 2012

Team Vicar

The Reverend Alison Myers
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PCC Secretary

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PCC Treasurer

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St Mary's Hardwick is part of the Lordsbridge Team of 11 parishes.



Purpose of the PCC

St Mary's PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Vicar, the Revd. A Myers, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, socials and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the Church building and Churchyard.

Organisation of Church and PCC

PCC members from APCM 2012

Team Vicar & chair: Revd. Alison Myers
Church Wardens: Thelma Westbury (Treasurer)
Chris Ford
Deanery synod rep: Thelma Westbury
Lois Frettsome
Team Council rep: Vicki Farmer
Elected members: Michaela McNeill (until APCM 2014) (Secretary)
Lois Frettsome (until APCM 2013)
Sue Cornwell (until APCM 2013)
Karen Wight (until APCM 2015)
Vicki Farmer (until APCM 2013)
Helen Harding (until APCM 2015)

PCC members to APCM 2012 (Jan - Apr 2012)

Incumbent & chair: Revd Alison Myers
Church Wardens: Thelma Westbury (Treasurer)
Chris Ford
Deanery synod rep: Thelma Westbury
Lois Frettsome
Team Council rep: Vicki Farmer
Elected members: Michaela McNeill (until APCM 2014) (Secretary)
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Helen Harding (until APCM 2015)

The method of appointing the 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 on the PCC.

The Local Team

The local team consists of Alison (the vicar), Chris and Thelma (churchwardens). The team meets every 2-3 weeks to oversee the week-by-week running of the church: primarily organising services, pastoral care, and the coordination of other church-run activities; and to pray together for church and community.

The Events Committee

The Events Committee consists of Anne Jones, Caroline Edgley, Mary Skipper, Thelma Westbury, Sue & Peter Cornwell and Lois Frettsome. As vicar, Alison is an ex-officio member. It meets around 5 times a year to plan fundraising and social events.

The Standing Committee

This is the only committee of the PCC required by law and consists of the Team Vicar, the churchwardens and two representatives of the PCC. It has the power to transact the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to any directions of the Council. Meetings of the standing committee are called only when required. The Standing Committee did not meet in 2011.

The Team Council

This new body of lay and ordained people from across the Lordsbridge Team now meets about three times a year in the Coton parish room. It has responsibility for communicating best practice and as a council of reference for whole team projects. Coton is represented by the Team Vicar and a lay person.

The Bourn Deanery Synod

Bourn Deanery Synod meets three times a year, and is made up of clergy and representatives from the parishes in the Deanery. The business part of the meeting consists of a Treasurer's report, the Rural Dean's notices, Team updates and a report from the Diocesan Synod representative. This is followed by a speaker on a topic of common interest. This part of the meeting is open to others.

PCC Meetings

In 2012 the PCC met 5 times for a full evening meeting, and once immediately after the annual meeting. Business included regular review of worship, and updates on finance, Sunday Club activities, local church & community events, and the maintenance of the building. Major discussion topics during the year included the replacement of the Portacabin, tidying up of the car park area and the noticeboard being installed.

Worship and prayer

During 2012 we changed our worship pattern. Our All Age Worship service switched in the spring from the 3rd Sunday in the month to the 2nd to match Coton's pattern and enable children from Coton to come to the Sunday Club here. Other Sundays in the month are usually Holy Communion (with Sunday Club running alongside). On 5th Sundays we joined again with Coton and Dry Drayton at the north end of the Lordsbridge Team for a united celebration service of All Age Holy Communion at 10.30am.

Alison continues to lead and preach at the majority of our services with support from Rebecca Fardell (a Ridley ordinand), Revd. Leslie Manderson (a retired member of the Lordsbridge clergy, Revds Adrian and Jill Chatfield (both staff at Ridley Hall and members of the Lordsbridge Team), Revd Corin Redsell (Team Curate) and Jennie and Derek Tombs and Philip Dean (all Lordsbridge LLMs).

During the course of the year we explored three themes from the book of Galatians, a series on the Five Marks of Mission, and an Advent series on key parts of the story of the 'God with us' through the Bible culminating in the communal creation of a Jesse Tree at a carol service with standing room only. Seasonal services – Easter, Harvest,

Remembrance and Christmas were well attended. One of our All Age services in the autumn involved collecting Christmas Child shoeboxes.

With the departure of Nicky Lee one of our regular organists (and with many thanks to her for her work) we have been experimenting with some different approaches to music, including CDs. Thank you to Sharon MacMahon for regularly leading us in song with her guitar and for the involvement of Roseanne and Kristina too from time to time. We continue to be grateful to Sue Cornwell for playing the organ.

A small group continue to meet for a short, semi-formal service of Morning Prayer on Wednesday mornings at which we read from the daily lectionary and pray together for the world, the nation, our community, our church and individual needs.

Thank you to all those who play a part in our worshipping together – preparing the church, reading, leading intercessions, providing music and undertaking other tasks.

Community

Our families' activities continue to be a key part in the way in which we related to the wider community – the seasonal fun mornings and the summer afternoons. Summer afternoons this year included an outdoor element – firing pots, building a teepee, baking bread – which was well received by the more adventurous, although the weather made things a challenge.

The churches in Hardwick worked together to support the school. Alison, Vicki and Steve and Kate Gaze variously took yr 6 leavers' lessons and autumn assemblies. During the summer term, we held a mock wedding in the church complete with 'bride' and 'groom' and assistant vicar along with all the other roles. Since it was pouring with rain, instead of visiting the church at Christmas, we took the Christmas assembly to the school!

Our website although still a work in progress now has up to date information about services and events, and general information about the church building and the church community. www.stmaryshardwick.org.uk. Thank you to Vicki for getting this up and running.

Baptisms, weddings, funerals and pastoral care

We continue to welcome families for baptisms, which are usually held at our All Age services. Alison gets to know each family beforehand meeting the parents up to 3 times to explore with them their own life journeys and the role of faith, their hopes as parents, and the symbolism of a service of baptism. Each family is given two books - for the parents to help them think about the significance of baptism and the journey of faith, and for the child, about a teddy bear who goes to a baptism.

In 2012 we hosted a number of weddings in Hardwick, most of which Alison conducted and for all of which she was responsible for the legal administration. Most couples attended the day's workshop offered jointly by the Lordsbridge Team and then Alison worked with them on their order of service and, with Kathma's support, on the administrative and legal aspects.

Alison continued to conduct funerals at St Mary's (some with burials) and at the crematorium, and a number of interments of ashes. She has also been supported in this by other clergy and LLMs in the team.

Ecumenical links

Over the course of the year a few take place jointly with 'Hardwick Evangelical Church'. Work in the school is run jointly as is visiting the pre-school. Young people from a range of churches regularly met on a Friday evening through 2012 to 'hang out' together. Morning Prayer was attended by members of both churches. The Good Friday prayer 'stations' was jointly put together. The biggest ecumenical event was the annual area wide service, held at Comberton Leisure, which was particularly well received in 2012. Alison is continuing to chair the organising team.

Children, Families and Young People

Children

We value the part our children and young people play in the life of the church. In 2012, Sunday Club continued to take place every Sunday except for the second Sunday in the month when there was an All Age service, and Sundays when there was a fifth Sunday in the month. The Young People continued to take an active part in leading discussion groups and helped the younger children with art and craft activities. The Young People also took part in leading prayers and music. Numbers attending Sunday Club varied each week; we have a regular core and our maximum number so far has been eighteen children and Young People. We had our first Sunday Club Christmas party last year which was a great success and very well attended and enjoyed by children, Young People, adult helpers, and parents alike.

During Lent 2013, the Sunday Club decided to raise money for the children in Vellore, a town in Southern India, details of which can be found on the Diocese of Ely website.

Families

During 2012 we continued with our activities for families and children which have included: A pancake party, an Easter Fun morning, 'Summer Afternoons' during August, a Saints Alive party, and an Epiphany Fun morning in January. During the fun mornings we organise various activity tables around the church, refreshments and cakes, we have a short Bible story, and usually end the morning with singing. These are community events, open to all, and are usually very well attended. We plan to run similar events for the 2013, and have already had our Easter Fun morning.

Young People

In 2012 on Sunday evenings through the month, the young people continued to be able to choose from Illumin8, Lordsbridge's own youth café, the Thirst youth service and Ignite, a creative event. Illumin8 is growing with a group of 10-15 young people (yr 6+) meeting regularly for film, discussion and games. Thirst and Ignite are area wide events where the Lordsbridge group is a good proportion of the whole, particularly at Thirst. There was a youth weekend in January - 3 of our young people joined with others from across the area for learning, worship and fun. One of our young people was confirmed in the autumn at a service in Barton. Several continue to go to the Crossover lunchtime Christian discussion groups run in the village college by church youth workers. As well as helping at Sunday Club, the young people also take part in Sunday services leading prayers and music.

Tuesday Link Group and the School of Theology

The Link Group is now very much a permanent part of the life of the three churches which include Hardwick, Dry Drayton and Coton. A steady group meet regularly during term time to discuss various areas which have included Bible study. One term we discussed the Book of Acts. There have been various Lent and Advent Courses running at the relevant times of the year as well as a session on prayer. More recently Rebecca Fardell, our ordinand from Ridley Hall, gave us a talk on her travels to the Holy Land which proved interesting.

The School of Theology has proved very popular in its first year and was started by Corin Redsell. This meets once a month, ten times a year, in the Parish Room in Coton. The subjects have included God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Salvation, Resurrection, God's Kingdom, The Church and the Sacraments and Being a disciple. Mike Booker, Team Rector and Alison Myers have led some sessions as well as various theological speakers. This is a good basis for those of us who have very little or no knowledge of theology. It now continues throughout the following year with particular emphasis on the Bible.

Events during 2012

We held a number of successful events during the year, as can be seen from the listings below, some raising money for funding the day to day running of the church, and some for the fabric fund (restricted)

	<u>Fabric Fund</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
Quiz	£612	
Pampered Chef	£127	
Fete		£1,312
Safari Supper	£500	
Harvest Supper		£ 295
Bazaar		£ 98
Coffee Morning	<u>£298</u>	
	<u>£1,537</u>	<u>£ 1,705 = £3,242</u>

This year we purchased a new notice board from money raised in 2011 (£953) and we are hoping to update the sound system in the near future.

We also need to allow for repairs that have been thrown up by the quinquennial (five yearly) report from the architect.

Details and Bank balance of the fabric fund account can be found with the financial report-under Restricted Funds.

Lordsbridge Team and Team Council

The Lordsbridge Team consists of eleven Church of England parishes covering an area of approximately ten square miles, just west of Cambridge, with three stipendiary clergy. These are:

Lordsbridge North: Hardwick, Coton and Dry Drayton (Rev Alison Myers)

Lordsbridge Central: Comberton, Toft, Caldecote with Childerley (Rev Mike Booker)

Lordsbridge South: Barton, Great Eversden, Litle Eversden, Harlton, Haslingfield (Rev Michael Matthews)

Lordsbridge Team Council

The Lordsbridge Team Council is made up of representatives from each of these eleven parishes. Members include the three stipendiary clergy of the Lordsbridge Team, Alison Myers, Mike Booker and Michael Matthews, our curate Corin Redsell, representatives from the retired clergy, readers and other lay representatives. At present Vicki Farmer, is our lay representative from St Mary's Hardwick.

We meet each term in the Coton Parish Room and it is a good opportunity to meet with those from other parishes, share good practice, learn from one another and see where we can support each other.

Vicki organises the Lordsbridge Life, a bimonthly newsletter which is distributed electronically, and gives details of news items within the Lordsbridge Team. We also have a website in progress.

We look to see what we can do better and more efficiently by pooling funding at team level, such as Youth work. The team has produced a document giving details of gifts and resources we can share between parishes. Our AGM to which all are invited to attend is on Thursday 15 May.

Bourn Deanery Synod 2012

Bourn Deanery Synod meets three times a year, and is made up of clergy and representatives from the parishes in the Deanery.

The business part of the meeting consists of a Treasurer's report, the Rural Dean's notices, Team updates and a report from the Diocesan Synod representative.

After coffee, speakers have entertained us on topical and very interesting topics followed by lively discussions.

The speaker in March was Ms Louis Walker, County Development Officer, for volunteering. She explained her role as liaison officer for over the 10000 Voluntary and Charitable Organisations operating across Cambridgeshire. She also explained how a register would be developed and the importance of sharing resources and expertise between the various voluntary bodies and churches.

Our speaker in July was Mrs Ruth Bond, National Chair of the W.I, and Reader in our Deanery. Ruth gave a brief history of the WI stressing the importance of the grass roots of the organisation. Some of the recent issues raised by the members was the price of milk paid to farmers, the environment, domestic violence and the psychiatric care of those in prison. The voice of the WI are heard at the highest level within the government. As a committed Christian, Ruth felt that the church should be prepared to take a more prominent position on such issues, referring to their relevance to Bishop Steven's five **T's. TELL, TEACH, TEND, TRANSFORM, AND TREASURE.**

In November we heard from the Acting Co-ordinator of the Cambridge Food Bank. The food-bank network is part of the Trussell Trust a Christian charity committed to community action against poverty in the UK and Bulgaria. He explained the huge demand for basic foodstuffs to feed families in crisis, and encouraged us all to be generous with donations of food for those less fortunate than ourselves. A number of villages in the deanery have been collecting.

There was also a press release in November expressing the Bishop of Ely's deep sorrow about the failure of the General Synod to pass the draft legislation to consecrate women as bishops.

St Mary's New Church Hall

A committee of seven local residents was set up in May 2012, to assess the viability of building a new church hall to replace the portacabin. We await approval for a new retrospective planning application for the portacabin which was made in January 2013.

Planning application for a previously approved church hall expired in 2008. New plans are being prepared for a less ambitious building (Potton Design) that will meet our requirements. Outline and detailed plans should be available late March from which more accurate costs for both labour and materials can be made. A usage list has been produced to give guidance of space requirements on new building.

A list of local tradesman is being prepared to support the project. It is hoped that many will contribute their time to aid the build. Any cost savings in labour may be matched with grant funding.

Whitfield Estates Ltd. has agreed that we can use their name to gain supplies of materials at greater discounts. Local tradesman could also help in this area. A list of grant funding organisations prepared to match funds is on-going, and will be further developed when actual costs for the build are known. Details of fundraising activities ideas continue to expand, although a more commercial approach may be necessary to meet the level of funding required.

Committee members: Malcolm Farmer, Alison Marcus (secretary), Chris Bell, Peter Cornwell, Jeff Jones, Helen Harding, Iain Hayman.

Fabric and the Quinquennial Report

The church architect, Henry Freeland, inspected the church in 2012 and prepared a list of repairs that are needed, and the timescales within which they should be carried out, together with rough estimates of the cost. Some items (clearing away leaves etc) can be done ourselves, and the team that is now looking after the churchyard has already started work on these. Within the next couple of years we need to spend about £8000 (cleaning and pointing of the roof tiles, repointing and conservation of stonework, improvements to gutters). The internal crack above the window does not seem to be a priority, though the crack outside the window is. Within five years some windows need stone conservation, the chancel floor needs pointing and the path immediately outside the lych-gate needs to be resurfaced (total cost £8000).

Work on the fabric carried out in 2012 included a church noticeboard outside the lych-gate, car-parking signs, and small DIY jobs.

Lots group*

September 2012 to March 2013, the jobs done so far by the group



They have cleared and manured the rose garden and cleared the memorial garden. Hawthorn sucklings have been planted in the boundary hedge. The limes have been cut and cleared leaves and rubbish around the boundary. The hedge has been cut to the side of the drive. Algae has been cleared away from the outside of the Portacabin. Part of the car park has been weeded. The fence has been and the boundary has been cleared. They have put down bark clippings around the Sunday Club Jubilee walk, removed dead trees and suckers and pruned trees along the Sunday Club garden. The team has also trimmed the two evergreen shrubs and raked the grass through the churchyard. And they have transplanted three hundred clumps of snowdrops

In the near future we hope to clear around the outside of the boundary hedge, mend the Portacabin door, clean windows and paint the outside of the shed and Portacabin and to work more on the car park and tackle the jobs mentioned in the Quinquennial Report.

Thanks to everyone involved: Iain Hayman, Dave Muncie, Jeff Jones, Ian Giddings, and Roger Worland

* Affectionately know as the last of the Summer wine group!

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Vicki and Malcolm Farmer, Michaela McNeill, Thelma Westbury, Chris Ford, Peter Cornwell and Alison Myers for their contributions to this report.

Treasurers Report
Year ending 31st December 2012
General Funds

The first full year of contributions from our TRIO appeal in October 2011, certainly bore fruit. Many of you raised your monthly direct debit amounts, and many more now use weekly envelopes. This enables us to reclaim much more tax by way of gift aid, (which is now 25p for every £1 we raise), and not miss out when anyone is absent, for any reason. Also it helps with estimating what funds will be needed for the coming year.

The planned and unplanned giving, including non gift aid contributions is up over £3,700 and the tax refunds by £730.

We were able to pay our parish share amounting to £14,696 in full for 2012 and are going into 2013 with a reasonable working balance. The parish council generously again paid our Insurance costs and 50% of the grass cutting bills. Hopefully they will continue to do this for the foreseeable future.

We have a working balance to carry forward into 2013 of £2,643 plus cash & cheques in hand of £199

Fabric Fund

The sum of £953 cost of the notice board, was paid out of the Fabric Fund during 2012, the sums of £57 interest, and £1,538. from events, were credited to the account. The balance of the account £8,208 has been kept at a reasonable level by the injection of funds from events. The report from the quinquennial inspection indicates that there is renovation to be done on the exterior and interior of the church, though nothing that is causing immediate concern. We are working on prioritising what we can afford. The trees around the churchyard will need attending to, there is a lot of dead wood that needs removing. We also have a group of dedicated volunteers clearing up the churchyard, and working on the church building, where possible.

Sunday School

Interest of £20, was credited to the account during the year, there were no deductions and the balance stands at £2,235.00.

Financial outlook for 2013

We began 2013 in a reasonably healthy financial position, with the knowledge that the income from gift aided giving was of enormous importance each year. Though the cash flow is still predicted to be tight this year, the PCC have committed to paying an annual total of £15,418 for our parish share, this is an increase of £978., but means that we are now paying our fair share.

The forecast for 2013 is that we realistically need an income of about £20,000. to cover our expenditure, this would rise by about £2000 if the Parish Council do not refund the cost of the insurance and 50% of the grass cutting, and for which I have already applied for. Most of the income will come from weekly collections, planned and unplanned giving, tax refunds, Fees, and fund raising.

I would ask you all for your prayers, that we and all those parishes affected by the financial constraints of these worrying times may find the resources to carry us through this financial year.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURE AND INCOME FOR 2013.

Income

	<u>£</u>
Collections from Plate	1.800
Planned Giving	11.000
Other planned giving	200
Gift Aid Tax recovered	2.600
Fees	2,650
Events Fete	1,300
Events Bazaar, Harvest .etc.	<u>500</u>
	<u>20,050</u>

Expenditure

	<u>£</u>
Parish Share	15,278
Rectors expenses	1,200
Admin expenses(Dawson)	1,200
Grass cutting	350
Electricity/fire extinguishers	850
Church supplies	140
Running costs	440
Giving	120
Music license	100
Sunday Club	100
Publicity/Mission	160
Fire Extinguishers	<u>112</u>
	<u>20,050</u>

Giving and mission support

We were able to keep up our support for Action Aid by a monthly direct debit of £10. We also donated £50 to Scripture Union.

*£ 75 25 was donated at Grace Atkinson's funeral to the animal shelter at Wood Green plus a number of donations sent directly to the shelter, on her behalf.

*£ 67.75 was donated to Embrace (a charity for the education and feeding of children in refugee camps, especially Palestine.)

* these sums are shown under "NOTES" on the statement of assets and liabilities.

A sum of £65 was collected at the Carol singing (this should have been around the village sign, but due to bad weather was held in Caroline Edgely's house) and sent directly to the society.

We were also delighted at the response we received to a request for donations to the food bank, and which we were able to deliver to their Cambridge warehouse in time for Christmas.