

The Rectorial Benefice of Canton

Annual Report and Accounts of the Parochial Church Council for the year ended 31st December 2014

Description of the Benefice

The Rectorial Benefice of Canton is in the Deanery of Cardiff and in the Diocese of Llandaff in the Church in Wales.

It consists of the Churches of St John the Evangelist in St John's Crescent CF5 1NX, St Catherine in King's Road CF11 9DE and St Luke the Evangelist in Cowbridge Road East CF5 1BE; it serves the entire district of Canton and parts of Leckwith. The total population is in the region of 28,000.

Objects and Constitution

The Rectorial Benefice of Canton is part of the Diocese of Llandaff within the Church in Wales. The Church in Wales is a province of the Anglican Communion and, as such, exists to advance the Christian faith through world-wide mission. The object of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) is to ensure that the life and work of the Church in the Parish helps fulfil that mission, both locally and more widely.

The PCC is not a corporate body. Its composition, procedure and powers are regulated by the Constitution of the Church in Wales as amended from time to time by its Governing Body, set up under section 13(1) of the Welsh Church Acts 1914. Elections are held at an Annual Vestry Meeting which must take place on or before 30 April. All persons whose names are entered on the Electoral Roll are entitled to vote and stand for election. Before assuming office, every member of the Council must sign a declaration that he or she will be bound by the Constitution of the Church in Wales.

The Representative Body of the Church in Wales (RB) holds the land and property of the Church in Wales, including the Church buildings, their contents and the Church grounds. The RB is an exempt Charity as set up under section 13(2) of the Welsh Church Acts 1914. It acts on behalf of the Province in paying the stipends of full time clergy; and administers the Church in Wales scheme of covenanted giving.

The PCC is responsible amongst other things, for promoting the mission of the Church, managing and monitoring the parochial budget and caring for and maintaining the Church fabric and grounds. It also takes action on any other matters referred to it in accordance with the Constitution of the Church in Wales. The Council is the normal channel of communication between the parishioners and the Bishop of the Diocese.

The Benefice is a Charity, registered with the Charity Commission with the number 1131153.

Ministry Leadership Team

Incumbent: The Reverend Canon Mark Preece
Canton Rectory, 12 Thompson Avenue, Canton, CARDIFF CF5 1EY

Team Vicar: The Reverend Phelim O'Hare
Canton Vicarage, 3a Romilly Road, Canton, CARDIFF CF5 1FH

Honorary Team Members *(all in retirement from full-time ministry)*

The Reverend Canon Colin Wilcox, The Reverend Keith Kimber, The Reverend John Webber.

Independent Auditor: Paul C Williams FCA
Davies Williams Chartered Accountants
21 St Andrews Crescent, CARDIFF CF10 3DB

Architects: Alwyn Jones & Partners
Y Banc, Cardiff Road, Taff's Well, CARDIFF CF15 7RA

Martin J Killick, 31 Churchmead, Bassaleg, NEWPORT NP10 8NA

Parish Officers

The Churchwardens

Representing St Catherine's: Sue Parsons and Lyn Rudeforth

Representing St John's: David Morgan and Jean Williams

Representing St Luke's: Susan Jones and Beryl Cooke

Parochial Church Councillors

The Churchwardens plus.....

Elaine Hillard, Martin Peters, Sue Bainton, Sandra Meyer, Colin Rossiter, Hilary Westwood, Gillian Winton, Paula Yates, Alan Dunster, and Sarah Paxton (*ex-officio, Safeguarding Officer*).

District Church Committee members

The Churchwardens and PCC members plus.....

Lynda Banks, Joanne Barrow, Sylvia Burden, Mike Dickie, Diana Fletcher, Cynthia Fowler, Jean Gorey, Ruth Honey, Graham Jones, Linsay Jones, Louise Jones, Paul Jones, Delphine Monnier, Gareth Parsons, Fiona Robinson, Nic Robinson, Eileen Tariq, Jan Wainwright, Christine Ward, Sylvia Watkins, Alf Williams, Margaret Williams.

Eucharistic Ministers

Eucharistic Ministers are licensed by the Bishop on the Rector's recommendation, the following people are licenced to administer the Sacrament across the Benefice:

Kathryn Blake, Jennifer Evans, Cynthia Fowler, Ruth Honey, Susan Jones, Marion Milton, Diana Morgan, Sue Parsons, Martin Peters, John Plow, Michelle Preece, Lyn Rudeforth, Karen Wheeler, Hilary Westwood.

Marion Milton is also licensed to administer the sacrament to parishioners in their homes.

The Annual Benefice Report

Annual Reports are necessarily selective. The pages that follow give an overview of life centred on our three Churches.

When analysing the life of any Parish from within, there is a risk that we can draw very easily one of two conclusions: either we can think we have everything right and need do little more than press on for another year, or we can think that nothing is really happening that is worth rejoicing over. The report presented here, certainly prevents us drawing the second of these conclusions - there is work going on in across the Benefice with which we *can* be very pleased. However, we cannot be complacent: as always there is much that can be improved and developed.

Perhaps the biggest issue facing us during 2014 was the need to re-register the Benefice with the Charity Commission, addressing the reporting and recording issues that had led to our being unable to file reports with the Commission for the previous four years. We were faced with a large amount of unplanned accounting and auditing, as well as a need to appoint a suitably qualified person to manage the accounts. Our thanks go to Alan Dunster for his diligent work with the Church Officers in addressing all of the outstanding issues. We are delighted to report the Charity Commission was happy to register the Benefice one again.

Over the past year a whole host of people have been involved in Parish life. The major change to our Clergy Team was the departure of Father Martin Colton. Fr Martin had been Team Vicar in the benefice since 2006 and, in March 2014 was appointed Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Reigate in the Diocese of Southwark. Fr Martin and his wife Christine, left us in May with all our good wishes and blessings.

We were delighted that in September Fr Phelim O'Hare, our non-stipendiary assistant Curate was appointed Team Vicar in succession too Fr Martin. Fr Phelim, his wife Annette and their two boys moved into the Vicarage during the Summer holiday. Fr Phelim was licensed as Team Vicar at the start of September.

One ongoing and vital issue needs our constant attention and that is financial giving. This needs to be increased in all three Churches. It also needs to be more realistic. There will be much to say, think about and do in this respect in the coming months.

In the work that lies ahead we shall need the continued help and involvement of as many people as possible. There may well be members of our congregations who just need an invitation and some encouragement to be involved. Here is the invitation and the encouragement: the Church in Canton needs you – God is calling all of us to work together with Him and for Him, here and now!

We would like to thank Canon Colin Wilcox, who regularly leads worship during holiday times and when other duties prevent the Clergy from being available in the Benefice. He is assisted by Fr Keith Kimber and Fr John Webber. We also thank all those in appointed positions and our volunteers, particularly members of District Church Councils and the Parochial Church Council, those who organized or helped at social activities, worked with our children, provided pastoral care to those in need, helped to maintain our physical property, and contributed to our worship.

Administration and structure

The churchwardens, together with the Rector, are responsible for the operation of the parish: finance, insurance, buildings, church services, and appointments. Two wardens are appointed/elected to each church – the appointed warden is the Rector's warden; the elected warden is the People's warden. Our churchwardens are named in the Officers' list at the beginning of this report.

The wardens must strike a balance between their responsibility to maintain the buildings in a state of good repair, (a challenge with listed buildings), and addressing concerns identified in Quinquennial Inspections, but not spending large sums unnecessarily when alternative means of maintenance may be appropriate. A Fabric Report identifies work carried out later in this report.

Parish Life

The Sunday Schools/Club continue to thrive in each church, with the children also taking part in all-age worship such as Harvest, Crib Service and Mothering Sunday. Children's Areas have been created in each church which are equipped with soft toys, books, paper and pencils for use during the service.

Messy Church held its inaugural meeting in September. The response has been overwhelming with over 100 people attending each session. The Messy Church team is made up of people from across the Benefice. Messy Church is an All-Age event and allows the whole family to experience worship and the presence of God together. It provides an opportunity for families to join together for crafts, meditation, stories, songs, prayers and food on a religious theme. It is a fun and sociable way to share God's love with people who might not ordinarily come to a Sunday service. Messy Church takes place on the 4th Sunday of each month and has become one of our primary modes of outreach. It is important to acknowledge that this is because our volunteer team give of their time to make it work. The team meets once a month to plan. Thanks to all who continue to support this, everyone seems to enjoy it!

Another new worship initiative, in the form of *eXplore*, was established in September. It takes place on the 2nd Sunday of each month at St John's Church. The worship is led through alternative means including café church, a labyrinth and a communion service based on the music and lyrics of *Les Miserables*. Worship sessions end with refreshments and an opportunity to chat.

Fellowship activities have been very successful this year, with the Mothers' Union, the womens' group, and new initiatives organized throughout the year, including fundraising concerts, table top sales and seasonal fairs. The Benefice hosted the Women's World day of Prayer at St Catherine's.

We have a legal responsibility to ensure the **Safeguarding** of children and vulnerable adults: a DBS check is required for those dealing with children or vulnerable adults, and training is offered to the responsible person. Some DBS checks were completed or renewed this year.

Conversation Days: The Church in Wales Review is challenging churches to re-think the way in which it works. The benefice held three conversation day – in each church, but open to members from all 3 churches. The conversations were recorded and shared with the congregations. The PCC is now re-thinking and re-organising its way of leading important aspects of the life of the Benefice and strengthening its role as the Trustee body.

Property (Fabric) Report

This report is based on work carried out in the three churches and touches on improvements or repairs made in 2014:

St Catherine's

- Front pews removed and platform extended;
- Gardens and grounds cleared and maintained by gardening team with help from Woodlands School students
- Lightning conductor installed;
- New caretaker appointed for the church hall;

St John's

- Quinquennial Inspection carried out;
- Voltage of lightning conductor lowered to prescribed level;

St Luke's

- Repairs to roof of church and hall following storm damage;
- Replacement bulbs to interior lights;
- Defunct lightning conductor removed and replaced with new;
- annual Health and Safety and Fire safety Inspections carried out;
- damaged trees removed from church grounds;
- drains unblocked and cleared (serving church hall);
- boilers serviced and annual inspection carried out in church and hall;
- PAT testing carried out;

The Lettings of the church halls at St Catherine's and St Luke's, and the interior space at St John's continued at a very satisfactory level in 2014. The majority of rentals are long-term repeating rentals. St Catherine's hall is let out to private hirers and it is fully booked across the calendar. At St John's, Recovery Cymru and Kumon Maths have long term contracts and private hiring of the church is made by choirs and concert groups. St Luke's leases its café to Innovate Trust while the Hall is used by DART, Weightwatchers, Slimming World, Hazel's School of Dance, Canton Townswomen's Guild and Brenda's Ballroom Dancing School. We also let our halls for some special events, such as family and private parties, funeral receptions, seminars and training conferences.

The Serbian Orthodox Church continues its longstanding use of St Luke's for their major festivals and the Bishop of Llandaff High School once again held its Lenten Reflection Evening at the church.

St Catherine's is able to maximise the use of its well-kept grounds in its regular fund-raising activities which in 2014 included a Bonfire & Bangers evening on the eve of All Saints' Day.

St John's has maintained its successful programme of monthly lunches, table-top sales and the regular concert and recital programme.

There is an online Google calendar which is used to track all the bookings and to provide information about events and about availability of our facilities. Despite the increased lettings activity, it has been possible to accommodate all our own parish events, including fairs, parish lunches, Living Faith study group, Messy Church, schools' concerts and other general social events.

Overall the lettings income has remained good, despite raising the hourly rate to hirers.

Outreach and Mission

With outreach we extend beyond the parish to help those in need in our community and the wider world through donations of money, clothing, food and various other needed items; along with volunteering our time and offering the use of our buildings. Over the course of 2014 the Benefice has supported the food bank, Ty Bronna, the Paradise Run and the Gateway School in India, Water Aid and the Archbishop's Fund for Children. Innovate Trust which provides training opportunities for those with learning difficulties, benefits from subsidised letting for Park View Café. There are regular donations to Christian Aid.

Schools

There are regular visits from primary schools to our Church buildings and the annual schools' concerts in St John's attract large audiences. Several members of our congregations serve as School Governors in Primary schools within and without the Benefice. There are particularly close links with

the Bishop of Llandaff High School, a Church Committee member is a Foundation Governor, the Rector is Chair of Governors, one of the churchwardens is Clerk to the Governing Body and the clergy lead worship weekly.

Electoral Roll

The number on the electoral roll of the Benefice at the time of printing this Report is 136.

Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings and Funerals

We celebrate the fact that 25 children and 5 adults were initiated into Christ's Body through the Sacrament of **Holy Baptism**.

We celebrate the fact that the following 14 parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation: Spencer Bowen, Johelle Bowen, Caitlin Brennan, Isabel Hegarty, Gwenllian Jenkins, Alice Kowaleska, Sophie McCabe, Lydia Morris, Isabella Paxton, Ellie Tarr, Fiona Vaidya, Helen Webb, Jonathan Webb, Jacqueline Young.

We celebrate the fact that 9 new relationships have been blessed through the Sacrament of **Holy Matrimony**.

We remember those who have died and now rejoice **in God's nearer presence**, “in a greater light and upon another shore”. During 2014, the Benefice clergy officiated at some 140 funerals of Canton residents. 31 of these took place in our Church buildings and included those of faithful church members: the late Mavis Street, Laura Street, David Guy, Frank Ward, Iorwerth Evans, Shirley Seagroatt, Hazel Ware, Dorothy White, William Impey. May they rest in peace.

On behalf of the Parochial Church Council I commend this year's report to the Annual Vestry Meeting.

Canon Mark Preece
Rector of Canton
Easter 2015

The Independent Examiner's Report to the PCC and the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014 now follow.