**THE PARISH CHURCH OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN, BURY**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

**Administrative information**

The Parish Church of Saint Mary the Virgin is situated in the centre of the town of Bury. It is part of the Diocese of Manchester within the Church of England. The correspondence address is: The Rectory

Tithebarn Street

Bury BL90JR

The Parochial Church Council, henceforward referred to as the PCC, is registered with the Charity Commission as The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of Saint Mary the Virgin Bury – registration number 1133863.

**PCC: members who served from January 1st to April 30th 2014 are:**

**Incumbent:** the Rector Revd. Dr John C Findon

**Clergy:**  Associate Rector Revd. Rhiannon Jones

**Wardens:** Mr Eric Duckworth

Mr Roger Thompson

**Representatives on the Deanery Synod (ex officio members of the PCC)**

Mr John Ankers

Mrs Hilary Ankers (Secretary to the PCC)

Mr Steven Clark (Synod Lay Chairman)

Mr Preston Hulse

Mrs Pat Sedman

Mr Keith Sedman

Mrs Pat Uden (Chair of Finance)

Mr Lawrence Yarwood

and

Mr Ken Bowden Mr Mark Brody Mr Derek Calrow Mr David Clarke

Mr Terry Clarke Mrs Diana Hampson (Chair of fabric) Mrs Chris Hughes

MrsFlo Leeming Mr Nigel Rushworth (Treasurer) Mr Keith Smith

Mrs Marilyn Smith Mrs Susan Sugden

Mr David Swinnerton Mr Peter Temple Mrs Sarah Temple Mr Owen Thomas

Mr John Uden (Chair of Publicity) Mrs Caroline Wardle Miss Amy Webber

Mrs Pat Webber (Chair of Social) Miss Dawn Wight

**Members who served from May 1st to December 31st are:**

**Incumbent :** the Rector Revd. J C Findon

**Clergy:**  Associate Rector Revd. Rhiannon Jones Revd Robert Findlow

**Wardens:** Mr Eric Duckworth

Mrs Pat Webber

**Deanery Synod members: ex officio on PCC**

Mrs Hilary Ankers Mr John Ankers Mr Steve Clark (Chair of Deanery Synod)

Mr Preston Hulse Mrs Kath Pollard Mr Keith Sedman Mrs Pat Sedman and Mr Lawrence Yarwood

**PCC:**

Mr Graeme Bigg (Youth Worker) Mr Ken Bowden Mr Mark Brody

Mr Derek Calrow Mr David Clarke Mr Terry Clarke

Mr Stephen Davies Mrs Diana Hampson Mrs Chris Hughes Mrs Flo Leeming

Mrs Tracy Owen Mr N Rushworth Mr Keith Smith Mrs Susan Sugden Mr Peter Temple Mr Owen Thomas Mrs P Uden Miss Amy Webber

**The Church also has a Standing Committee** consisting of: The Rector, the Vice Chair and Secretary of the PCC plus the Chairs of Finance, Fabric and Worship.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointing the PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. All church attendees are actively encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and to stand for election to the PCC.

**Objectives and Activities**

The PCC has the responsibility of cooperating with the Incumbent, the Revd. Dr John C Findon, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish and that of our sister church St Paul’s, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. It also has maintenance responsibilities for the church building and the Church House complex.

**Achievements and Performance**

**Church Attendance** There were 484 on the Electoral Roll at December 31st the majority of whom are not resident in the parish.9 names have been added during 2015 and 10 removed. The average weekly attendance, counted in October was 274 adults and 92 children. This figure includes Harvest Festival and two large baptismal services services and an average of 160 adults and 33 children do not worship regularly ( i.e. they attend less than twelve times a year).

**Review of the Year**

The PCC met six times during 2015 with an average attendance of 63%, the number of members being 32 to April 2015 and then decreasing to 31. The sub committees have once again continued to meet during the year according to need. This has reduced the number of full PCC meetings deemed to be necessary.

Once again we have had a very active church life as the attached reports from the many organisations bear witness.

During the year, after a lot of prayer, deep thought and work within the Worship committee we have introduced new service sheets for the seasons of the church’s year.

Robert is now a deacon and is in his final three years of training and Sheila Beattie is starting out on her road to ordination.

After last year’s successful weekend at Grange over Sands members of the parish returned this year. A number of our younger parishioners went along and were awarded a “gold star” for their keenness to be involved in all activities, something much appreciated by the older members. Sunday saw some of our young choir members helping out in the Cartmel Priory choir – Bury Parish Church gets everywhere these days!

The Rector instigated a Proms Week in August and this proved to be a highly successful and enjoyable week – so much so that there are plans to repeat this next year (2016).

More and more people of the town, and from further afield, are discovering the House on the Rock as it continues to provide a space for friendship, contemplation and prayer. Not to mention the best cup of coffee in Bury.

As ever our congregation proves itself to be very generous, donating to several charity appeals and helping to send nearly 100 shoeboxes overseas for Christmas.

Parish lunches are another successful string to our bow and give members of the congregation the chance to meet others and have a pleasant Sunday lunch once a month.

A very busy 2015 has shown that we are a happy and active congregation with many, many people working to ensure this continues to be the case. It is not possible to mention everyone so apologies if there are omissions.

We are sure that 2016 will prove to be an equally successful year of activity and worship.

Rev. Dr J C Findon Hilary Ankers

Incumbent Secretary to the PCC