

The Team Parish of Leek and Meerbrook

Annual Report of the Parochial Church Council for the year 2007

Reference and Administrative information

Name of Charity

The Team Parish of Leek and Meerbrook

Addresses

All Saints, Compton, Leek
St Chad's House, Southfields, Leek
St Edward the Confessor, Church Street Leek, ST13 6AB
St John the Evangelist, Belle Vue, Leek
St Luke's, Fountain Street, Leek
St Matthew's, Meerbrook, Nr Leek
St Paul's, Novi Lane, Leek

Correspondence Address

St Edward's Vicarage, 24, Ashenhurst Way, Leek, ST13 6AB

Membership

For the year ended 31st December 2007

St. Edward's with St. John's

Rev. M Parker (Chairman and Incumbent)
Revd Linda Duckers
Mr P Chatwin
Mrs Carol Lownds
Mr Brian Hartley
Mr S H Slatcher
Miss J S Wrathall
Mrs B Tunnicliffe
Mrs B Lovatt
Mrs R Deere
Mr R Worrall
Mr L Torr
Mrs S Taylor (St Chad's)

All Saints'

Rev. C R Peters
Mrs R. Hinton
Mr R. Bennett
Mr J M W Davis
Mr P Hambleton
Mrs C Oades
Mr G N Hyde
Mrs H. Cook
Mr A. Baldwin

St. Luke's & St Paul's

Rev. R Woods
Mr J. Alexander
Mr. K G Oliver
Mrs A Alexander
Mrs H.Henshaw
Mrs S Taylor

Mr A Lockett (Hon Team Treasurer)
Mrs P Lockett
Mrs J. Craddick

St Matthew's

Mr R N Hine
Mr B H Wainwright
Mrs W M Kenny
Mr J B Kenny
Mrs R J S Sherratt (Hon Secretary)
Mr R. Bourne
Mrs D. Morris

Warden of Leek

Mr R McGuinness (Lay Co-Chairman)

Bank

Team Account: Lloyds TSB, Leek

Auditors

Howsons, 50 Broad Street, Leek, ST13 5NS

Team Rector

Revd Matthew Parker

Structure, governance and management

The Parochial Church Council of the Team Parish of Leek and Meerbrook is a corporate body established by the Church of England under the Pastoral Scheme brought into effect in 1979 and operates under the Parochial Church Council Powers Measure and Rule 18 of the Church Representation Rules. The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity excepted by order from registering with the Charity Commission.

Recruitment

Appointment of PCC members is governed by the Church Representation Rules. Members of the PCC are elected for a 1 year period by agreement of the AGM. PCC members are recruited from the congregation through the notice of the APCM, weekly newsletters and though announcements during services of the churches.

Induction and Training

There is currently no formal process of induction and training for new members of the PCC. Individual PCC members have attended training organised by the Diocese.

Organisation

The Pastoral Scheme provided for the creation of four District Church Councils of St Edward's and St John's, St Luke's and St Paul's, St Matthew's and All Saints. Each of the DCCs is answerable under the Scheme to the PCC but each has delegated responsibility under the authority of the PCC to the promote of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England in their own district. Each church produces their own accounts which are then aggregated into the Team Account.

There is a standing committee comprised of the treasurer, secretary, team clergy and a warden from each district. The Warden of Leek, an ancient and honorary title, is now by tradition but not by law the Lay Chairman of the PCC.

The Maude Trust

Attached to St Edward's Church is the Maude Trust that was established as a separate Trust vested in the Diocesan Trust at the at the end of 2006 to administer the proceeds of the sale of the Maude Institute. The objects of the Trust Deed can be varied by the AGM of St Edward's Church and the trustees are appointed

by the AGM of St Edward's Church. The Maude Trustees are currently reviewing the status of the Trust and intend to draw up a new Trust Deed for approval by the Charity Commissioners.

St Chad's House

St Chad's House is a centre of spirituality, healing and retreat in the Parish. The house is maintained by the Hermione Warren Trustees. The Warden of St Chad's (currently Mrs Susan Taylor) is a PCC appointment and the warden is accountable to the PCC. There is no salary with the post of Warden.

The Education Trust (St Matthew's)

The said trust is a combination of once separate charities which were set up to help the poor and needy of the Leekfrith Parish, especially in areas of education. Education needs are presently the agreed purpose of this charity. The Education Charity is served by three trustees.

The Reverend J. Turner Trust (St Matthew's)

This trust was established by the said incumbent of St Matthew's Church to help the poor and needy in the Leekfrith Parish. It is also served by three trustees.

Risk Assessment

Currently there are sufficient funds in the DCC accounts to meet our commitments. Regular monitoring of the DCC accounts is undertaken by the relevant DCCs through finance or standing committees and appointed Treasurers. All major expenditure is planned and approved by the appropriate DCCs.

The PCC has agreed and implemented the child protection policy as set out in the House of Bishops' report *Protecting All God's Children*.

There are procedures in place for ensuring that the church buildings are kept in good repair, are secure, well maintained and safe. The churches have been inspected under the Diocesan scheme for asbestos and a report is available to contractors. No major problems were identified.

There is a Fabric Group at **St Edward's** to monitor the use and safety of the premises.

There was a Quinquennial inspection of both St Edward's and St John's in 2006. St Edward's and St John's DCC has adopted a health and safety policy.

At **St Luke's and St Paul's** the Development Advisory Panel (DAP) acts as a buildings/premises/fabric sub-committee and meets regularly to keep both buildings in good order and reports to the DCC. Health and Safety Officers have been appointed for both church buildings. There was a Quinquennial inspection of St Luke's in 2005.

All Saints have a Fabric Committee that monitors the use and safety of the premises.

St Matthew's DCC are constantly monitoring the safety of the church and churchyard through a dedicated working group.

Objectives and activities

Objectives

The primary objective of the PCC is the promotion of the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the doctrines and practices of the Church of England. The PCC works in co-operation with the Clergy Team in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.

The main objectives of the PCC are to seek ways of:

1. Engaging with the wider world
2. Belonging to the world church
3. Growing the local church
4. Forming disciples for the 21st Century

as identified in the in the Mission Action Plan.

In addition the PCC is responsible for the good maintenance of the fabric of six church buildings, a function delegated to the DCCs.

Activities to meet these objectives

We seek to fulfil these objectives through:

1. Offering a rich pattern of worship that is both traditional and contemporary
2. Providing a range of activities for children and young people
3. Participating in the wider life of the town.

4. Actively supporting our church schools
5. Working with other churches in the town through Churches Together in Leek and District .
6. Supporting for our Mission Partners from a variety of Mission organisations and development agencies.
7. The creation of networks of pastoral care for the congregation and parishioners
8. Small groups for learning and fellowship

Volunteers

We have a considerable number of active volunteers. Volunteers support the work of the PCC through:

1. Leading worship as lesson readers, intercessors, flower arranging, musicians, preachers, servers and chalice assistants.
2. Sharing in the mission of the church through planning, enquirer's courses, leading work for children and young people and in new expressions of church.
3. Taking responsibility for the strategic vision and forward planning of the church
4. Undertaking pastoral care through teams for visiting the sick, bereaved and those to be baptised.
5. The management of the buildings and some regular maintenance and cleaning tasks.
6. Undertaking fundraising activities as necessary
7. Leading small groups such as home groups and the Mother's Union.
8. Serving as foundation governors on our church schools.

Grants and Donations

In addition to occasional donations for special appeals, the DCCs have each agreed to give donations to the following organisations annually: The Church of England Children's Society, the Church Mission Society, World Vision and Christian Aid. As a PCC we give an annual donation to USPG. In addition, for the past five years all DCCs have made grants to the Ecumenical Youth Worker Project.

Achievements and Performance

Statistical information	2007	2006
Number of Baptisms	73	111
Number of Marriages	22	20
Number of Funerals	150	179
 Average Sunday Attendance		
Adults	332	330
Children	53	57
 Electoral Roll as at AGM 2007	476	
Electoral Roll as a AGM 2008	525	

www.leekparish.org website hits since the beginning of 2008

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits
Jan 2008	437	622	2646	7800
Feb 2008	374	512	1780	6147
Mar 2008	427	608	1648	6392

2008 represents a less busy year in respect of occasional offices with significantly fewer baptisms in 2007. It is encouraging to see a (modest) increase in adult attendance which reverses what has been for some time a downward trend. The "autumn of mission" may have contributed to this slight growth in USA figure. The Parish website contains information about the churches and our work, sermons, reflections and contact details. In the 21st century it is an important tool of communication. www.leekparish.org.uk.

Review of the Year 2007

The life of a church is not only to be measured in figures.

The Team

This year we have made real progress in events we have organised as Team most notably the Lent Course, Deepening Faith Course, Reach! Mission (with regular Team prayer meetings) and an Alpha course to be delivered in 2008. The Team have also employed Becky Guerrard as our Team Children's Worker. We have explored the possibility of becoming a mandated ministry Parish but without any clear decision being yet reached.

St Edward's and St John's

1. Along with the whole Anglican Team, St Edward's and St John's have been part of the REACH! Mission.
2. We welcome Becky Guerrard to be the new Children's worker across the Team. The particular focus of Becky's work with us has been through Sunday Club and YPF.
3. The Organ Appeal continued as a focus in 2007 with some excellent fundraising events including a spectacular concert with internationally famous opera singer Rebecca Evans. In October, Paul Hale, organist of Southwell Minster, gave a concert to celebrate the restoration project.
4. We thanked Susan Taylor for ten years service as Administrator and for the vital work that she undertook in that role. We were glad to welcome Annette Walker as our new administrator to work alongside our excellent Verger, Jayne Baxter, in the Parish Office.
5. This was the year St Edward's went to court! With a member of our congregation, Mr Graham Stow, becoming High Sheriff, our choir sang at the service for the opening of the High Court in Stafford in April and October. We also hosted the North Staffordshire Magistrates annual service in October. Our grateful thanks go to our choristers.
6. St John's continued to run its activity clubs and in November held a very successful wine and cheese evening.
7. We continued our support for St Edward's School. Governors were part of the recent OFSTED report which yielded the verdict "good"! Members of St Edward's have been going into school to hear children read. We continue to welcome the school for end of term services and the year 5 visits.
8. This year the Vicarage in Church Street was sold by the diocese and a new Vicarage bought at 24 Ashenhurst Way.
9. We record with sadness the death of the following members of our congregations on 2007: At St Edward's Haydn Thomas, Bob Whittaker and Doris Goodwin and at St John's George Belfield, John Brassington and Fred Ballington

St Luke's and St Paul's

1. One of the main things that we as a District, along with the whole Anglican Team, have been involved with in 2007 was the REACH! Mission.
2. Another key event during this year was the arrival of Mrs Becky Guerrard (along with her husband Dan!) to be the new Children's worker across the Team.
3. We participated as usual in the annual Club Day service and held another children's Holiday Club in August and another Christmas Tree Festival, in December!
4. As part of our regular worship we have had Sermon Series studying the Book of Jonah, looking at the growth of the early church from the Acts of the Apostles, the person and the work of the Holy Spirit, and in preparation for the launch of our new prayer groups a series on Prayer and praying together.
5. As is our custom we record that amongst the funerals which have taken place since the last AGM were those of 4 members of our Electoral Roll, 2 with St. Luke's connections Kathleen Turner and Willa Sheldon, and 2 with St. Paul's connections Robert Burnett and Margaret Waite. Also we record the passing of the Reverend Bill Goldstraw, originally from this Parish/District prior to going off to train for ordination, and in retirement a place where he continued to minister and worship, and a friend and counsel to many of us. We give thanks to God for our memories of all of them, and for their lives and faith and service in His name.

All Saints

1. An Advent Group was held as was the ongoing Bible House Group.
2. We continue to hold our Holy Eucharist's on Tuesday's and Thursday's and we keep all the major feasts, high days and holy days. Our Rosary Prayer Group continues to be well supported.
3. Our Children's Church continues with a stable number of children who have recently played a bigger part in special Family Eucharist's. Once again they performed a nativity.
4. We continue to have visits from All Saints School, like Hot Cross Fun Day and other study days. The vicar continues to lead worship in school each week and the Holy Eucharist is celebrated in school once a term.
5. We took part in the Good Friday Walk of Witness.
6. Engaged with the Reach Mission and Back to Church Sunday.
7. We also fulfilled our pledge in the Mission Action Plan to employ a Children's Worker for the development of work with children and families at All Saints. This was undertaken with St Edward's and St Paul's and has now come into fruition.

St Matthew's

1. We continue our very good relationship with Blackshaw Moor First School with the vicar doing weekly acts of worship in the school and other members of St Matthew's being involved in different ways. The school in turn continue to contribute greatly to our special services.
2. Annually we hold a Rogation Service on one of the farms in the St Matthew's District. This proves popular in the community and includes members of Meerbrook Chapel.
3. We also fulfilled our pledge in the Mission Action Plan by inviting people in to address important local issues. For instance at Harvest the Diocesan Rural Officer was invited along to preach.

St Chad's

1. In 2007 the ministry of St. Chad's House has taken place in line with the objectives set out in our Mission Action Plan. We have continued to run the monthly Fellowship and Quiet Reflection days, each of which was followed by a short healing service and the number of people attending has remained consistently good.
2. The house has been used throughout the year by the team staff, by various groups wanting a venue for a quiet day or a planning day and also by individuals dropping in on a Friday to use the library or for a chat.
3. The Drug Support group has continued to meet with some new members coming along. Several Trustee meetings have taken place during the year, chaired by Rev'd Carl Peters. Rob McGuinness fulfills the role of treasurer. During the year we welcomed Rosa Hinton and Hazel Cook as new trustees, to join Barbara Brown and Pat Gayes as trustees of the Hermione Warren Trust.
4. The deepening faith / confirmation group met throughout the summer, with five adults being confirmed in the autumn at St. Edward's Church. Also in autumn we enjoyed a visit by Sister Elizabeth Rees who gave a very informative and interesting talk on St. Benedict, St. Catherine of Sienna and St. John of the Cross.

Fundraising

At St Edward's the main objective in fundraising was to raise money towards the £140,000 needed for the refurbishment of the organ.

Financial Review

Overview

Any charity with a balance sheet of two and half million has a positive financial outlook. A good deal, but not all of this sum is the recent Keyworth Bequest to All Saints.

To understand the full picture it is important to consider the particular situation in each individual DCC with reference to their individual accounts.

The major claim on our resources this year have been the payment of the Parish Share and the upkeep and maintenance of our church buildings.

Regular giving remained static which may be a cause for concern given the marked increase in parish share and utility bills.

The major increase in income from fund raising was a result of the St Edward's Organ Fund appeal. Increased income from interest on investments is largely accounted for by the money earned by the Keyworth Bequest to All Saints.

Reserves

There is no formal PCC policy on reserves. Each DCC has its own policy depending on their priorities and the nature of their assets. Much of what is held in reserve is either restricted or an endowment. Endowment capital cannot be spent. Restricted funds are generally concerned with the maintenance of the building and fabric. It is necessary with large and historic church buildings to hold reserves for emergencies as well as meeting ongoing costs.

It is only the money held in general deposit account that can be used for general purposes.

The "free reserves" of **St Edward's and St John's** were £44,320 at the end of 2007.

Most of **St Luke's and St Paul's** reserves are "free reserves".

All Saints: Keyworth Bequest

During 2007 All Saints Church received the final installment of The generous bequest from Mrs Keyworth. In total the bequest was £1,202,500. Currently approximately a third is in long term capital building investments to protect the church for the future. About a further third is in income providing investment which is paid into a deposit account (separate from the church's general funds) where the remainder of the capital accrues interest. The policy underpinning expenditure from this account is that it should further the growth of God's kingdom. The focus in the past year has been on upgrading the fabric of the church and parish room to make it more welcoming. The focus will now shift more to providing activities to further God's kingdom.

Funding Sources

Our principle sources of funding come from the regular giving of the congregation, some of which is gift aided, fees from occasional offices and interest and returns on our investments. There are occasional legacies or donations.

Most of our income in 2007 was dedicated to supporting the ordained ministry of the church through payment of the parish share. The ordained minister works with the DCC to fulfil its objectives as set out above. In addition St Edward's has two paid staff, an administrator and verger, who provide administrative support.

At St Edward's most of the fundraising this year was used to support the objective of restoring the organ. The DCCs of St Edward's and St John's, St Luke's and St Paul's and All Saints jointly contribute the sum of £24,000 per annum for the salary of our new Team Children's worker, Becky Guerrard.

Investments

At **St Edward's** the decision was taken in 2006 to move the investment portfolio from Fortis Investment Management to the CBF Investment fund. This process is nearing completion.

All Saints: CCLA manage the Curate's House Trust, an endowment trust from which we receive income but whose capital is not available; it also manages other restricted funds from older bequests and legacies from which we receive an income in the form of interest and dividends. There is also an investment portfolio with Fortis which will need to be looked at later this year with a view to perhaps amalgamating with other funds. There remains another Trust Fund (the Keyworth Trust Fund) which was set up a number of years ago, separate from the finances of the DCC but which under the new regulations will need to come within church accounting.

Plans for future periods

St Edward's and St John's intend to:

The DCC have reviewed the Mission Action Plan and wish to make progress on these previously identified aims:

1. Strengthen Congregational Care Groups and produce quarterly newsletter for groups.
2. Continue to develop links with Trinity Methodist/URC and work towards an ecumenical covenant and joint occasional DCC-Elders group
3. Expand faith@5 provision
4. Establish network of small groups for prayer, study and mission and identify appropriate groupings and approach individuals
5. Encouraging participation in wider Christian movements

In addition we have identified some new areas of work:

1. Make a conscious effort to encourage and train up leaders for all areas of the churches life
2. Continue the Reach mission initiative with regular mission events of good quality
3. Look at again at baptism preparation and follow up
4. Promote understanding of the work of the Mother's Union particularly in respect of the MU's international work
5. Renew the church heating and further progress on plans to convert the store shed to a meeting room at St Edward's.

St Luke's and St Paul's intend to:

1. to relaunch the office and keep it open for 5 mornings a week, and for it to be the hub of the District and a place where publicity can be co-ordinated and communications improved within the church family, across the Team and out into the community and also for a person or persons to take over the running of the church office. Another key pressing issues for the Vicar, Wardens and the Church Council is to find a new Caretaker for St. Luke's Church Centre.
2. to keep communicating our financial needs to church members as well as consider other means of raising funds. Although we are solvent as a church and have always paid our Share and also been keen to give to other Christian work/worthy causes, we do not have huge reserves.
3. to build on the number of small prayer groups/cells that have been formed after the launch of a new prayer initiative at the beginning of 2008 and we want deepen our prayer lives and build fellowship in the coming year.
4. play a full part in any ongoing REACH! Mission endeavours that might happen later in 2008.

St Matthew's will continue to engage with the Mission Action Plan and the objectives we set. This includes continued engagement with people and issues that are local and further development of opportunities between church and our church school. Already this year we have held our first School Eucharist at Blackshaw Moor First School and this will now be a regular feature once a term.

St Chad's

In addition to developing the existing work of the house there are plans for further publicising of the work of St. Chad's through Spark and by making leaflets to be put into the various churches in Leek, as itemized in the Mission Action Plan.

All Saints intend to

1. further develop of the work of our Children's Worker, especially in relationship of All Saints After School Christian Club to the life of All Saints Church. From June on a bi-monthly basis the children from the Christian Club will actively participate in our Family Eucharist which will be held on the fourth Sunday.
2. continue the opportunities for the congregation to be nurtured in the faith, that confidence may be achieved in sharing the Christian faith.
3. to play a full part in reflecting on and acting on the Team Mission 'Reach'.

On behalf of the Leek and Meerbrook Team Ministry PCC

Matthew Parker
Team Rector