St Peter’s Church, Roborough

Annual Report and Financial statements

of the Parochial Church Council

for the year ended 31st December 2022

**

Rector: Reverend Gary Owen

Focal Minister: Jacqueline Ward

Bankers: Nat West PLC

5 High Street Bideford Devon EX39 2AD

Independent examiner: Jane Ashton

R S J Farm Business Services LLP

Lower Buttermoor

Milton Damerel. Holsworthy EX22 7PB

Website: [www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org](http://www.tworiversmissioncommunity.org/)

The Parochial Church Council is an Excepted Charity

**The Parochial Church Council of** St Peter’s Roborough

**Annual report**

**For the year ended 31st December 2022**

**Aim and Purposes**

St Peter’s RoboroughParochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Rev Gary Owen, 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 building.

**Objectives and Activities**

St Peter’s Church, Roboroughis part of the Two Rivers Mission Community, an area of 56 square miles between Barnstaple, Bideford, Torrington and Atherington. The Mission Community aims to build a Christian community in each village, which will worship, pray, grow and reach out with the Gospel.

We recognise that we exist to serve and bless the whole parish and to grow and make visible the kingdom of God. Our building and churchyard are valuable community resources and we value the support of parishioners in maintaining and utilising these for the benefit of the community.

**Achievement and Performance**

There were19 entered on the electoral roll at the 2002 AGM, all of whom live in the parish. The average Sunday attendance was 5. The number of participants was 7.

**Churchwarden’s Report**

**Church Attendance & Electoral Roll**

We start from April 2022 when we are getting over the pandemic, we have moved on and our church services are at a weekly basis, the attendance for us varies a little, some Sundays are better than others but, on an average, we have 5 a week, which is very good. It would be nice to see some more people in the congregation but what we have we all help each other. I would like to say that every month I take a service which I have very much enjoyed doing, but there are certain times of the year it is harder for me, so I thank you for your understanding.

The Electoral roll up to now is at 19 people

**Church events through the year 2022/ 2023**

Church events for this pass year did come off which was encouraging to see, so we started with Easter when we were able to have the church decorated with flowers and a service of Communion took place with Jacque Ward. APCM then took place but we all went to the New Inn in April of 2022 which was different but very enjoyable, all business took place and all were re-elected as before. Madeleine Challacombe, (Churchwarden) Jacque Ward, (Secretary and Focal Minster) Verlie Hookway, (Treasurer) Michael Folland (PCC Member)

Rogation Day in May2022 was a lovely day the weather was good to us. We were all invited to East Villavin, the home of the Hookway family. After our walk around and a talk given by Verlie Hookway, we all sat down to a Ploughman’s Lunch in the parlour or just outside. It was delightful to have around 30 people there chatting about the mornings walk.

The summer months of 2022 we the PCC put on hold our fund raising for the church, as there were celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee for Her Majesty the Queen in the village, on Sunday June 5th in the church we had a service which was taken by Rev Gary Owen to celebrate the Queen’s service to this country, commemorative mugs were given out by Jim Hancock to all the children, it was lovely to see so many in church, a very special day, sadly the Queen passed away very peacefully in September 2022

In October 2022 our harvest festival did take place, the church beautifully decorated with much gifted produce of fruit, vegetables and flowers, afterwards all went up to the hall for a roast beef lunch with puddings when we had the pleasure to serve 70 people. Our auctioneer Derrick Challacombe then did the sale of the produce. All monies that day went to the church fund and the incredible sum of over £1000 was made.

November the month of Remembrance, the church was decorated in the windows and outside, silhouettes of a soldier were put out at different places and wooden poppies along the edge of the church yard. Monies collected went to the Royal British Legion.

December the month of looking forward to Christmas, we had our activity afternoon when it was a delight to see so many children and adult’s come, after all the activities were done tea was served, we would like to thank all involved in this church activity, without their help it would not come off. Our next one for the Christmas month was the Christmas Tree service when stars were put on the tree in remembering all that had pass on, then came our Nine Carols and lessons led by Madeleine Challacombe. The Two Rivers Mission Choir, under the direction of Rev Tracey Doyle, came to our church to take part and sing. We had a full church which was lovely to see. I would like to thank all our readers for taking part, we then finished off with mince pies and mulled wine. Our Nativity scene was once again put up outside by our volunteers of men in the parish, so thank you to them. Then finally Christmas eve when Jacque Ward took the service, we were so pleased to see so many come to this special Christmas service.

February 2023 the start of a new year our Plough Service took place where it was led by Jacque Ward; a plough was kindly brought by the Hookway family, afterwards it was up to the hall for Sausage and Mash followed by desserts, it went very well when around 65 people were there to enjoy the meal. Monies raised that day over £600

**Repairs and Maintenance**

The repairs and maintenance to the church were done in what we could afford this year. I have checked all through and all seems well, the interior has been painted now by Tim Hodges through March, we do have a small issue with rain coming in the belfry but that is being sorted. Shaun Bealey now through the Spring and Summer will be making good in places. In October2022 he made alterations to the Lych gate and new pillars were built but in November one of the pillars collapsde so that will be made good again. We had a QI inspection in September which went well but there are a few issues to the church which need to be sorted.

The organ was serviced this year by Michael Farley, there is not to much wrong a few problems with it but our organist Rachel Nudds who plays for us is pleased with how it plays, that is nice to know.

It was with regret that Michael Baker had given up on maintaining the church yard but we were lucky to fine Andrew Bailey a local man from nearby who has taken on the job. Thank you to Danny Ferentz for doing all the small jobs for us, in what he does makes the church inside and out a better place to be, we do depend on all the help we can have from people in the village.

Bell report from the Bell captain Michael Folland, are as follows the bells at present are not being rang regularly on a Sunday but special occasions they will be, we are at present going through in getting a faculty application to get them repaired, this will be a great cost to us but with the help of Liz Martin we are hoping to be able to get some grants.

**Thank you**

I ,on behalf of the PCC, would like to thank Rev Gary Owen, Jacque Ward, Caroline Strudwick and Paul Baggott and to anyone else that has helped us in the services we have had at Roborough Church this past year. We have got through with the support of many people from the parish; our finances are coping but at times it is hard going, we will survive as hopefully the coming year we will be having more church events to help us. I would like to thank all the flower people in decorating of the church at Easter, Harvest, Christmas and the Platinum Jubilee in June of 2022, to Pat Warminster who, as our cleaner, is doing a wonderful job in keeping our church clean and all the brass polished. I would just like to say that without all the help we get from people in fund raising, maintenance and general looking after the interior and exterior, this parish church would not be so good;. Thank you all.

Madeleine Challacombe.

(Churchwarden)

For information about achievements and performance as part of the Two Rivers Mission Community see appendix 1.

**Deanery Synod**

Rev Tracey Doyle is the Rural Dean and co-chair of the Deanery Synod. Mr Derek Birch is the other co-chair. The synod met three times during the year and heard presentations about parish nursing (February) and rural mission (September). A meeting June facilitate discussion about the joys and challenges of ministering as the Church of England.

The possibility of holding a festival of faith was discussed but insufficient support meant it could not proceed.

The deanery chapter of clergy normally meets every month on Zoom for mutual support and sharing of information.

**HEALTH & SAFETY**

**CHURCHYARD.**

We keep the churchyard cut now on a regular basis which is a very good thing, we have now employed a new Groundsman who is Andrew Bailey. The trees at the back will in a years’ time need trimming back more but at the present all is good. The churchyard will at some time need another working party so debris can be carried away. The gravestones are looked at regularly and are monitored some are leaning which was pointed out in the QI report for 2022, we can only keep an eye on them The Path around the church is clean and safe for people to walk on. The Lych gate had some knocks this has been sorted but one pillar needs rebuilding owing to accident that happened in the autumn but for safety reasons it is all good at the present time.

**PATHWAY**

The pathway up to the church as a few cracks in where people might catch afoot, so I will suggest we look into that at some point.

**INTERIOR**

All appliances are checked yearly and certificates are pinned on the inside notice board, the interior now has been painted so all is looking very good, so for safety reason all looks very well.

**TOWER**

The tower is looking very tidy steps, clean floor, the tower on the whole as been checked and all in very good order.

This is account of the Health and Safety of Roborough Church**.**

**Madeleine Challacombe.**

**Financial Review**

Although this year we saw an increase in income of £1700, we have ended up with a deficit of £2528.91. Gift Aid through Parish Giving increased by £480 & collections by nearly £400. As always when food is involved, the village came out to support as seen at Rogation & Harvest where we made a combined profit of £1584. We also received a refund of £500 from the Mission Community Team Expenses. However, this must be used for the benefit of the community!

The main large expenses that contributed to the deficit were the Architect fees for the Quinquennial Inspection of £1036 and church yard expenses of £2295, mainly relating to work done on the Lynch gate and pillars as well as grass cutting.

The rise in interest rates has helped boost the return on our savings slightly, however the value of our Investment shares dropped considerably from £53,373 to £47090

The Bell Fund was boosted by a donation of £278 from the funeral of Matthew Petherick & the wedding fee of Vicky Morrish.

The PCC would like to thank everyone who contributed to church finances. Regular donations by the Parish Giving Scheme or standing order are particularly appreciated as they provide a regular income regardless of whether the building is open for worship and enable the PCC to manage a budget effectively.

**Safeguarding**

The PCC has complied with the duty under section 5 of the Safeguarding and Clergy Discipline Measure 2016 (duty to have regard to the House of Bishops’ guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults).

The safeguarding officer is Mr Derek Birch.

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. The council comprises the incumbent, licensed clergy, churchwardens, readers appointed by the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, those elected to the deanery synod and other members elected at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting by those on the electoral roll.

The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish and for all financial matters.

A new legally constituted Joint Council came into existence on 1st January 2022. The focal minister of each church and up to two elected representatives from each PCC represent each PCC on the council. The PCC has delegated various responsibilities to the Joint Council in accordance with the Joint Council Scheme.

**Administrative information**

The church is situated on West Road, Roborough. The parish is in the deanery of Torrington, archdeaconry of Barnstaple and Diocese of Exeter. The correspondence address is The Rectory, High Bickington, Umberleigh, EX37 9AY.

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956 and the Church Representation Rules 2020) and a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served since 1st January 2021 until the date this report was approved were:

*Ex officio*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| The incumbent | Rev Gary Owen | Chair |
| Licensed clergy | Rev Tracey Doyle |  |
| Curate (and parish nurse) | Rev Julia Halpin |  |
| Focal minister | Jacqueline Ward | |
| Deanery synod rep | Jacqueline Ward | |
| Churchwarden | Madeleine Challacombe |  |

Elected

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Michael Folland | Elected member | |
| Jacqueline Ward | Secretary |  |
| Verlie Hookway | Treasurer |  |

**Approved by the PCC on date and signed on its behalf by:**

**………………………………….. Madeleine Challacombe**

**Rev Gary Owen Vice chair**

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**ROBOROUGH PCC BUDGET 2023**

**INCOME**

GIFT AID DONATION 250.00

PARISH GIVING 1291.00

PARISH GIVING GIFT AID 293.00

PROJECTED WEEKLY COLLECTIONS 800.00

PROJECTED FUND RAISING 1500.00

INVESTMENT INTEREST 1400.00

**INCOME £5534.00**

**EXPENSES**

COMMON FUND 2840.00

INSURANCE 2074.00

ELECTRIC 450.00

GRASS CUTTING 1000.00

CLERGY EXPENSES 1140.00

DECORATING CHURCH 7000.00

**EXPENSES 14504.00**

**Appendix 1**

**Two Rivers Mission Community Annual Report for the year**

**ended 31st December 2022**

2022 has been a year of consolidation and growth. On Sunday 9th January Bishop Jackie led a mission community service in Tawstock to launch our mission action plan, and commission our new joint council and focal ministers. As the year has progressed, we’ve worked hard on building the mission and ministry of the church in each parish, as well as strengthening our collective work as a mission community. The removal of the last covid restrictions and increased confidence of people to mix has helped tremendously.

Sundays are the main focus of our lives together as Christians. Seven churches have met weekly and two others twice per month. Sunday services give us chance to worship together, pray, grow as disciples, and plan outreach. Importantly they are also a time for fellowship as Christians and mutual support. We normally follow the lectionary readings from Advent to Trinity Sunday, to focus on life of Jesus and then take a more flexible approach for the remainder of the year. At the beginning of the year, we preached a series looking at our Mission Community values of love, faith, Word and Spirit, generosity and joy. During the season of Trinity, we preached sermon series on the biblical books of Colossians and Esther, and a short series on Psalms quoted by Jesus. Seven of our churches now hold a monthly family service, including a new café church service in Yarnscombe which makes use of the warmth and facilities of the village hall. Festivals and ‘special’ services are used as an opportunity to invite people to church and agricultural festivals are important in many parishes.

Opportunities for adults to grow as disciples have been provided by homegroups, with 6 running during the year. An Autumn weekend away at Lee Abbey proved inspiring for the 15 adults and 2 children who attended. In the Autumn two church members commenced the Diocesan Foundations in Christian ministry course.

Our commitment to helping children respond to the gospel and grow as disciples as part of the church has been worked out in a number of ways. The out of school club in High Bickington and youth group in Newton Tracey continued and a new youth group and kids club launched in Beaford in May and September respectively. We still have no provision for pre-school children, but our parish nurse is a regular visitor to most local toddler groups and a Christmas visit to church was enjoyed by the toddler group in Beaford and at Christmas and Easter to St Giles. There is scope for more work with this important group, especially as we baptise 10 – 15 babies or young children each year.

We are blessed with a good working relationship with our four local primary schools; with collective worship conducted weekly in High Bickington and approximately twice per half term in the others. Open the Book collective worship runs in High Bickington and has recently restarted in HNTPS. All the schools make use of the clergy and churches for RE lessons when appropriate topics allow.

Evangelism, sharing the good news of Jesus and inviting people to enter a relationship with God through him, remains a priority for us. We encourage church members to share the Gospel with friends and neighbours and to invite them to church services and events where they can learn more and experience Christian community. We ran two Alpha courses in the Autumn, one in Beaford and one in Tawstock, with around a dozen guests in total. We also ran a youth Alpha course during the Autumn in Beaford village hall.

Our churches have continued to help members care for each other, largely through informal relationships and through the pastoral care offered by ministers. Care for the wider community has been expressed through coffee mornings and other opportunities to gather, and increasingly as the cost of living has risen, the provision of free meals, food banks and warm spaces. St Giles church are operating a much-valued pastoral care team, which offers friendship to those who need it.

Julia, our parish nurse, and now deacon, provides more specialist pastoral care, visiting the sick and housebound, accompanying parishioners to medical appointments and offering support on medical issues. She visits toddler groups and offers baby weighing and general advice. Julia has begun to officiate at funerals for those she has been supporting through end of life care.

During the year we conducted 14 baptism, 15 weddings and 34 funerals/burial of ashes across the mission community. 22 weddings are booked so far for 2023. These pastoral offices are a wonderful opportunity to share God’s love and the good news of Jesus with people at both the high and low points of life.

During the year Rob Pearce was appointed as focal minister for Beaford and joined the Leadership team. As the church in Beaford has grown and church members stepped further into ministry, Rev Gary has been able to step back a little. He has begun to work with the parish of Huntshaw to see if progress can be made in re-establishing a regular worshipping community there.

We seek to play an active part in the life of the Diocese and wider church. Rev Tracey has served throughout the year as Rural Dean. She and Derek Birch have served as co-chairs of deanery synod and other church members have served as deanery synod officers. We have provided a placement for a licenced lay minister trainee, who in turn blessed us with her enthusiasm and ideas.

We are delighted that a new curate has been appointed to join us in July 2023. We failed to appoint a new team vicar during 2022 and this has put a certain amount of pressure on the clergy. We continue to pray that someone will join us in 2023.

All our churches have maintained their common fund payments throughout the year – a wonderful achievement. Our common fund request will increase in 2023 due to our increasing participant numbers. This is only fair, not least because we remain heavily subsidised by the Diocese. Church members giving regularly and generously (ideally by direct debit or the parish giving scheme) helps ensure that we can meet our bills. Churches have worked hard to maintain their buildings and to improve them to better serve the mission of the church and local community.

As a mission community we are blessed with many people who play their part in making the mission and ministry of our parishes possible. We thank our focal ministers, wardens, PCC members and all who contribute their gifts of time, talent and money to our churches. Retired clergy have been invaluable in ensuring that priestly ministry has been available in each parish. Janette has provided administrative support. We are what we are because of you all.

We do not know what will occur during the year ahead, but we look forward to joining in with God as he fulfils his promise to build his church and kingdom. “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

Rev Gary (Rector)

**Appendix 2**

**Mission Action Plan**

A picture containing table

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