

Brimpsfield with Birdlip Parochial Church Council

Annual Report 2020-2021

General

This Report covers the period from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Legal and Administrative

Legal and administrative details, including details of the Parochial Church Council (PCC) members who served during the year, are shown at the end of this report.

Aims and Organisation

The main purpose of the PCC is defined in the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956 as “to co-operate with the minister in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical.”

The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of our two churches: St. Michael’s, Brimpsfield and St. Mary’s, Birdlip.

The PCC members are responsible for decision-making on all matters of general concern, including all matters financial.

The PCC maintains an overview of worship within our churches and makes suggestions as to how our services can involve as many people as possible.

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) held on 31st March 2021, the electoral roll stood at 40 members.

The PCC normally meets four times a year, unless further meetings are required. There are currently no subcommittees. There are currently eight members of the PCC of whom four are lay members in addition to the Rector, Churchwardens and Deanery Synod Representative. Since the Electoral Roll is fewer than 50, the PCC can accept six lay members. We have therefore two vacancies.

Pattern of Worship

Typically, services alternate between Brimpsfield and Birdlip, using Common Worship Holy Communion or Morning Prayer or BCP Evening Prayer, and Benefice services are hosted some four times during the year. However, the pattern of worship within the Parish and the Benefice during the last year has been affected somewhat by restrictions imposed by the Government and by the CofE because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Festival services were held at Easter, Harvest, Remembrance and Christmas (a Carol service, Midnight Mass and Christmas Day). Special services included Mothering Sunday and a Thanksgiving service for the easing of Covid restrictions.

There was one baptism, one marriage, two funerals and one interment of ashes during the year, all at Brimpsfield.

The Benefice has held regular monthly services, often of holy communion, using the Zoom software, broadcast from one Parish church or another, and these have been well attended. Attendance at our home Church services has been noticeably smaller than pre-pandemic.

The Annual Statistics for Mission, Financial Reports and the Archdeacon's Articles of Enquiry have been returned to the Diocese in accordance with their instructions.

Financial Affairs

We are fortunate to have a substantial Reserved Fund for the maintenance of the fabric of our church buildings but it cannot be used for our regular expenditure. The General Fund is used for this and the state of this fund continues to be of concern in that our regular expenditure is not covered by our income and we often experience a deficit. We need to raise some £18-20,000 every year to keep our two churches going and we rely on our regular donors, collections at services and special fund-raising events to try to achieve this. We receive no financial support whatever from either the Diocese of Gloucester or Brimpsfield Parish Council.

During this year the reduced collections at regular services, at special "seasonal" services, baptisms, marriages and funerals has been felt. Furthermore, the Covid restrictions have also meant that fund-raising activities have also been curtailed. In a typical calendar year we might have expected a church fête in the summer and a parish walk and lunch in the autumn, although a Christmas fayre was held most successfully in December and generated a significant sum.

We are enrolled on the Parish Giving Scheme and there has been some modest success in recruitment of donors, thanks to the efforts of members of our PCC. Our treasurer and members of the PCC continue to work hard to sustain or improve the level of regular giving.

We provide a parish burial ground for the benefit of both the ecclesiastical Parish and the secular parish of Brimpsfield although this latter (Brimpsfield Parish Council) continues to decline to offer any financial support to us for the maintenance of the ground.

The PCC records its appreciation to The Honorary Treasurer for his meticulous care of our accounts and accounting procedures throughout the year, and for his preparation of the annual accounts and financial report.

Safeguarding and Health & Safety

There have been no untoward incidents through the year and the historical record is also completely clear. The PCC has complied with its duties under Section 5 of the Safeguarding and Disciplinary Measure 2016 paying due regard to the House of Bishops Guidance on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults as required. The PCC records its appreciation to Elaine Lavington for her stewardship of these policies.

Church Fabric

This has been a challenging year, principally at Brimpsfield, and is the subject of a separate report. The report draws attention to a burglary and theft at Brimpsfield in the autumn which led to the loss of a wall safe, collection moneys and most of our church keys, and the inevitable changing of many locks.

In maintaining the fabric of our two Churches, the PCC records its thanks to the Churchwardens and volunteer parishioners for all the hard work that they put in, work which makes substantial savings in our outgoings.

Review of progress and achievements

Our Synod Representative Cathy Higgs has reported regularly on the activities of the Diocesan Synod and she is pursuing a Bronze Eco Award for our Parish.

The PCC also wishes to record its appreciation to the PCC's Honorary Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer and extends its warm thanks to the Sidesmen, the providers of refreshments at Services, the flower ladies, the Church cleaners and the distributors of the Benefice newsletter, Parish Connections.

The review for the year is contained within the separate report from our Rector, The Reverend Valerie Thorne. The PCC thanks her most sincerely for her energy and enthusiasm in what has been another challenging year.

Rev Valerie Thorne
Chairman of the Parochial Church Council
March 2022

Brimpsfield with Birdlip Parochial Church Council

Legal & Administrative Information

Name: Parochial Church Council of Brimpsfield with Birdlip

Location: St Michael's is located in the village of Brimpsfield
St Mary's is located in the village of Birdlip

Address for correspondence:

Mrs H. Eaton,
The Secretary,
Brimpsfield with Birdlip PCC,
Common Cottage,
The Common,
Brimpsfield,
Gloucester GL4 8LB.

Members:

Incumbent:	The Reverend Valerie Thorne (Chairman)
Church Wardens:	Mr Martin Smith (Vice-Chairman) Mr David Partridge (Honorary Treasurer)
Synod Representative:	Mrs Catherine Higgs
Elected Lay Members:	Mrs Heather Eaton (Secretary) Mr Charles Tippet Mrs Elaine Lavington (Safeguarding and H&S Officer) Dr Joe Neary

Status: The PCC is a charity, exempted from registration under the Charities (Exception from Registration) Regulations 1996

Independent Examiner: Mrs Judith Lonsdale
The Old Rectory,
Brimpsfield,
Gloucester GL4 8LD

Bankers: National Westminster Bank, 31 Promenade, Cheltenham, GL50 1LH