**HOLY TRINITY, COLEMANS HATCH**

**TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT for 2019-20**

​**STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT**

​​PCC Members 2019-20

​​​Ex Officio

​​​Rev Julie Sear  - Chairman​

​​Wardens

​​​Mr. Paul Double

​​​Mr. John v Maurik (on sabbatical leave)

​​Elected Members

​​​Mr. Donald Clarke  - Hon. Treasurer and Giving Officer

​​​Mrs. C J Payne - Hon. Secretary

​​​Mr. Keith Luckhoo - Synod Rep​

​​​Mr. Robin Meyer  - Synod Rep

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​        ​Mrs. Sheila v Maurik

​​​Mrs. Angela Ogle – Choir Director

​​Lay Reader. Mrs Donna Dewar.

​​Side persons

​​​Caroline Daszewska

​​​Mike Jones​

​​​Liza Jones

​​​Keith Luckhoo

​​​Jane Luckhoo

​​​Frances Stuttaford

​​​Maggie Higton

​​​Roger Cowsill

​​​Donald Clarke

​**OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES**

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The year was overshadowed by Coronavirus pandemic which caused the cessation of services and general church activity in March.   Before that, there had been ongoing  discussion about the life of the church and how the services and activities for which it is responsible might increase the engagement of the local communities which the church serves.  There was a continuing appetite to secure real progress in this endeavour.

The Mission Action Plan remained.  It considered the following three areas of Church life as the vision statement.

**Vision Statement and commentary**

Recognising the importance of our role as the Parish Church. Holy Trinity seeks to be at the heart of the community by being a welcoming and inclusive presence through worship, teaching, care, service and social activities.

The three main areas were Worship; Trinity Hall and hospitality; Grounds and Churchyard extension.

Before the disruption caused by the pandemic the service pattern was for a Sunday  Praise service on the first Sunday of the month (with an Evensong), Holy Communion on the second, Matins led by Donna on the third and Holy Communion on the fourth Sunday.   The fifth Sunday of the month was conducted on a joint basis with Saint Mary’s.

There were plans to extend the first Sunday services to include a variation of format with the possibility of external within a Sunday Praise service.

There had  been some other special services including a sunrise gathering on Ashdown Forest and the pet service in the grounds, held in September rather than after the Vintage fete.    Christmas Day service attendance was good, though slightly down on the previous year.  Holy Trinity also hosted an Epiphany carol service, crib service and Festival of nine lessons and carols.

The relationship with Ashdown House School grew, with a charming concert and the end of term carol service being held at the Church with the prospect of future engagements before  the school’s permanent closure in June of this year.The future of the school site and whether there will be a successor establishment is not currently known.

Particular thanks are owed to Donna Dewar who conducted many services in the period covered by this report while Julie was having medical treatment and convalescence.

The use of Trinity Hall by both the congregation and a range of external hirers and the activities of the Trinity Cafe  continued, and there was an active discussion about both the charging policy to be applied to the hire of the Hall and the nature of the events which might be appropriately held there.   As with church services, the operation of Trinity Hall was curtailed as a result of the pandemic, but these issues will be re-engaged as normal life returns.

Work on Trinity Hall and the grounds continued during the year with active consideration of architects plans.   Question of the extension of the churchyard remains on resolved at the time of writing. Work was undertaken to provide disabled access to the old tennis court and the area adjacent to Trinity Hall was grassed.

A specific difficulty encountered during the year was in the heating of the church, with a defect in the oil boiler installation which resulted in a period without central heating for church services.   An improvised system of local heating was applied while remedial work was carried out.

The new frontal for the altar  of the church was a splendid addition for which the generosity of some congregation was, and is, much appreciated.

A particular reference should be made to the late Ray Parsons who was so instrumental in the general oversight applied to all matters involving the maintenance of Holy Trinity and its grounds for so many years. He is greatly missed.

**ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE**

There are now 85 on the Church Electoral Roll, of whom 20% live in the parish of Holy Trinity and a further 20%] live in the Joint Benefice.  The remaining number live outside these boundaries.

About a third of  church community is drawn from a catchment to the west and north of the joint benefice.   Music remains a strong link, evidenced (until March and the cessation of services) by the Choral Evensong choir, many travelling a distance for that service, special occasions and rehearsals.  Holy Trinity’s  morning attendance ranged from the low 20s to the high 30s with an average of 29.   Numbers are relatively static although the continuation of regular attendance by two families at the Sunday services was welcome    The congregations of Holy Trinity and St Mary’s came together for joint services, house groups and special occasions.  There is a continuing need to strengthen  links.

     The Service Booklets provide those new to the services a guide to the services. Sunday Praise is still in its infancy and the format of this service will continue to be assessed and revised.

    Trinity Café continues to draw up to 100 people, many of whom have had no previous link with Holy Trinity. The atmosphere is vibrant with conversation and we welcome mothers and children warmly. Thanks should be extended to the Café team for all their hard work in making it such a success.   As noted previously the lawn area next to the Hall has been completed and the gardener cares for it on a regular basis.

     Health and Safety A safety rope was fitted on the tower stairway to provide a more secure passage for access and egress for the bell ringers.   The need to take account of the (welcome) new presence of small children in Church when assessing health and safety issues has been recognised and needs periodic review

Safeguarding in a standing item on the PCC agenda in recognition of the importance of this subject.  Safeguarding policies are on display in the entrance to the Church.

     The Church grounds are extensive and include the original graveyard, a large site for graveyard extension a tennis lawn and car parks. As noted above, plans for Trinity Hall and the churchyard are ongoing.

     Helpers and Volunteers  are needed to meet, greet and welcome people -particularly those new to the Church.  They number undertaking this task is low. The ideal would be three volunteers per service.

      Reserves and Expenditure Policy

          [Donald to provide]

​Quinquennial

         The five-yearly report on the state of the Church fabric – the quinquennial review – will require full implementation.  Matters arising will be considered by the PCC on a continuing basis to ensure full implementation of matters requiring attention.