

St. Matthew's Church, Salford Priors
2010/2011 Annual Report
of the
Parochial Church Council
With financial reports for the year ended
31 December 2010

Administrative Information

St. Matthew's church is situated in the village of Salford Priors, Warwickshire. It is part of the Diocese of Coventry within the Church of England. Our group, known as the Heart of England Parishes, came into being in 2009, and includes the parishes of Salford Priors, Temple Grafton, Exhall, Wixford, Binton and Bidford on Avon.

The correspondence address is:

Mr Roger Huggins, Group Administrator,
Birch House, Grange Lane, Harvington, WR11 8NL

The PCC is a charity excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served from 1st January 2010 until the date of this report was approved are:

<i>Chairman</i>	Revd Peter Walker (from 27th July 2010)
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	Malcolm Spriggs
<i>Readers</i>	Mr Ray Stanley Mr Michael Cocker Mr Andy Martin
<i>Wardens</i>	Mr Peter Penney (until APCM April 2010) Mr Roger Huggins Mr Kevin Harrison (from APCM April 2010)
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Vacancy
<i>Elected Members</i>	Mrs Wendy Shaddick, Secretary (until APCM 2010) Mrs Eira Willatts, Secretary (from APCM 2010) Mr Malcolm Spriggs, Treasurer Mr Mark Shaddick Mr Gavin Reynolds Mr Kevin Harrison (until APCM April 2010) Mrs Kay Latham Mrs Sheila Penney Mrs Julie Hallett (until APCM April 2010) Mr Peter Penney (from APCM April 2010)

Structure, governance and management

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

Objectives and activities

It shall be the duty of the incumbent and the parochial church council to consult together on matters of general concern and importance to the parish.

The functions of parochial church councils shall include—

- co-operation with the incumbent in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical ;
- the consideration and discussions of matters concerning the Church of England or any other matters of religious or public interest, but not the declaration of the doctrine of the Church on any question ;
- making known and putting into effect any provision made by the diocesan synod or the deanery synod, but without prejudice to the powers of the council on any particular matter ;
- giving advice to the diocesan synod and the deanery synod on any matter referred to the council ;
- raising such matters as the council consider appropriate with the diocesan synod or deanery synod.

In the exercise of its functions the parochial church council shall take into consideration any expression of opinion by any parochial church meeting.

It also has maintenance responsibilities for St Matthew's Church and Churchyard.



Vicar's Report: (Revd Peter Walker)

As the recently appointed minister of this church, it gives me great pleasure to write this introduction to the 2010 Annual Report for St Matthew's PCC, Salford Priors.

The Licensing Service on 27th July 2010 marked an exciting new beginning for so many of us. My wife (Revd Ruth Walker) and I had spent the previous 11 years in Keresley, North Coventry: for us these Heart of England parishes are a fresh challenge and a chance to put into practice some of the lessons learned elsewhere. Members of the local church have spent much of the last 2 years running the church without a full-time minister, for many of them this new chapter provides hope of new things

and a fresh impetus to the life of the church. For us all, the coming together of these 6 churches (the Group) under a shared leadership means that we must explore new ways of working together.

The fact that 6 churches now have 1.5 ministers instead of the 2 they were used to, means that change is inevitable. There is a sense of grief – different in different churches – because some cherished custom or unspoken assumption has been adapted, but there is also an opportunity to do new things and to grow. We have begun a process of discussions with church leaders, looking at how we can use people’s gifts to release more ministry in all 6 churches. In the Summer this discussion will be widened when the 5 PCCs are invited to a day conference considering how we need to organise ourselves to achieve our goals.

Another challenge we face in many of our churches is in Stewardship. We have grown used to spending a little more each year than we actually received, and we have funded this by taking money from our savings. This cannot continue. Now the Church is not a commercial organisation, we cannot sell more services! So the responsibility falls on those of us who belong to the church – alongside our prayerful support and practical assistance, we need to give more money.

One area where we are very fortunate already is in Administration. I would like to record my thanks, and the thanks of our group of churches, to Roger Huggins who has taken on an increasing number of administrative tasks for our churches. Without his voluntary work, the PCCs would be paying thousands of pounds for administration.

Next I would like to note the successful launch of our “First Steps” group for Parents and Carers with pre-school children. This group draws its contacts from all of our villages and slightly beyond; it is slowly growing into a really important church contact with young families – a vital part of our outreach strategy for the coming years.

Finally I would like to thank all those who contribute in any way to the life of our churches, we wouldn’t be the church we are without you. If you, the reader, would like to be involved too please speak to a minister or churchwarden, there are always many opportunities.

Church Attendance

There are 79 parishioners on the Church electoral roll, 50 of whom are not resident within the parish. The CofE have chosen the month of October to determine average church attendance numbers. In 2010 the average weekly adult attendance at St Matthew’s was 60. This number increased at festivals and Christmas services.

Both Salford Priors and Dunnington schools hold special festival services in church at Easter, Harvest and Christmas when the church is filled to overflowing with excited children and parents.

Staff

After a year's interregnum, in February 2010, Revd Peter Walker (Priest in Charge) and Revd Ruth Walker (Associate Minister) were appointed to the Heart of England Parishes group and were licensed at a service held at St Laurence, Bidford on 27th July 2010.

Mrs Dawn O'Neil was contracted to clean the church with effect from February 2010. However due to ill health she has had to stand down. Her duties are now undertaken by Mrs Joan Philpott.

We continue to offer thanks to our Sacristan, Ray Stanley and Administrator, Roger Huggins for their conscientious and untiring efforts in the service of St Matthew's.

During the year Andy Woodhouse started working with Ray Stanley in the churchyard and worked hard to ensure the paths were clear of snow for our services. Much appreciated.

PCC

The full PCC met 8 times during the year with an average attendance of 65%. Committees met between meetings and their deliberations were received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

MLT

The Ministry Leadership Team continued to work together as an effective team, initially during the year, planning and leading the church services and planning the programme of events during the interregnum. With the licensing of Revd Peter Walker as our Priest in Charge in July, we began to work with him and Revd Ruth Walker, supporting and encouraging them in their new ministry and exploring different models of leadership across the 6 churches. The MLT has continued to meet monthly on a Monday evening for business and a Saturday morning for prayer.

Interregnum

In February 2010, following interview, we were very pleased to announce that the Revd Peter Walker had been appointed as the new Priest-in-Charge for the Heart of England Parishes and his wife, Revd Ruth Walker as part-time Associate Minister.

They were licensed by the Bishop of Coventry, Rt Revd Christopher Cocksworth, at a service held at St Laurence Parish Church in Bidford

on Tuesday 27th July. During that same afternoon, together with the bishop, they visited all churches in the Heart of England group of parishes, holding a short service at each.

They moved into the Vicarage in Bidford after the diocese had undertaken some much needed structural modifications, and their new home was made ready for them by a group of volunteers, who cleaned and painted.

Peter and Ruth took up full duties from the beginning of September after enjoying a summer holiday.

Fabric Report

The 2009 Quinquennial Inspection Report issued by Brown Matthews Architects Ltd identified a number of items requiring attention. We are pleased to say the most urgent of these have been attended to. We must now consider major and costly work to many of the leaded light windows and the re-pointing of external stonework and the verge of the north slope of the nave roof.

As most will be aware, our church clock was out of action for some time as it was removed to works for major repairs. During this time advantage was taken to replace manual winding with automatic electrical winding. Our indebted thanks go to Ray Stanley who, over very many years, has ensured the clock was wound and keeping good time for the benefit of all local parishioners.

As reported last year, work was undertaken to revamp the Church room kitchen and all the light fittings were replaced early in the year.

Worship

As we consider the implications of being part of a wider group, consideration has been put to bringing the early morning (9am) Holy Communion service in line with our other churches, but, after consultation, it has been decided to bring it forward just 15 minutes (8.45am). This will allow that extra bit of time for the church to be prepared for the main morning service at 10.30am.

To encourage us to get to know our neighbours from the other churches, the fifth Sunday now hosts a Unity service for all six churches, being held at a different church each time.

We are hugely grateful to those who lead and preach at our services, Readers, MLT members and others. We are grateful too for the enthusiasm and dedication of Phil Mottram in leading our music group, for the way they have encouraged the younger members of the band and for producing such high quality musical accompaniment Sunday by Sunday. We give thanks

for all who have played a part in the worship band, playing or singing. We hold a monthly Village Praise service in the Memorial Hall in an attempt to reach out to the 'other' end of the village. This is not without some sacrifice on behalf of the team who transport and set up the equipment each month. Our thanks.

Sadly a number of services had to be cancelled over Christmas due to the severe weather, including the Carol Service.

Mission

Having been fired up by going to the Colour Conference in London, a group of ladies have embarked on running a Cup Cake Café as a way of reaching out to our local community. Cup Cake coffee mornings are held on the first Saturday of each month at the T.O.P.S building. (The other place) behind the school.

We have run a small Credit Union operation for 4 years with South Warwickshire CU, with a weekly session of one hour each Saturday morning at the Memorial Hall. In January the effectiveness of this activity was reviewed and it was decided to move to T.O.P.S. and link up with Cup Cake Café, opening only on the first Saturday of each month.

Four members of St Matthew's have attended CAPMoney training to enable them to run financial advice training as money coaches. One course was held in March 2010 with 6 attendees.

The Cyber Café has been discontinued.

A group of keen Christian sportsmen have engaged with non-Christian sportsmen in challenges at a series of different sporting events, including, badminton, cricket, indoor bowls and five aside football with varying degrees of success. Thanks to Greg Hallett for organizing this outreach opportunity.

A successful 'Strictly Come Dancing' evening was held at the Crawford Memorial Hall in November which attracted a large number of non-church folk enjoying an evening of fun and fellowship.

Several members of the church serve as foundation governors in our village church schools.

"Open the Book" has completed two years performing Bible stories portrayed in dramatic form in our four local junior schools. Quite a challenge as they go each month with some highly sophisticated

'technical', drawing on all their imagination as they try to illustrate some of the miracles portrayed in the stories. The ensemble of some 15 folk includes those from our other five churches as well as one representative from Harvington Baptists. Wendy Shaddick provides the organisation, inspiration and writes the scripts, based on the Lion Story Teller Bible. The feedback from the schools, and children has been most encouraging.

Dianne Huggins has ensured Tuesday Tots continues. Numbers are down a bit but mums and their children...and one Grandmum and occasionally a Granddad, enjoy a happy and a spiritual time in a toddler-friendly way.

The Community Group, which started meeting after the pilot outreach in 2009 to residents of Garrards Close and Banbrook Road, continues to meet weekly at the Memorial Hall. Our thanks to Stephen Foster who oversees the project, and to Cliff Hayward and Fran Foster who facilitate the meetings. Further homes were visited in the Spring.

Youth

Chrissie Goodwin has continued to work with the group of 11-14s on two Sunday mornings a month. "We continue to have about 11 regular members and another 5 or so who come to periodic social events and occasionally dip in for our main teaching sessions on Sunday mornings. Kick off plan to take more part in services over the next 12 months, having enjoyed leading the prayers in their own special way at the unity service."

Younger Children

Sadly the number of children has fallen away for various reasons, but teaching is offered on two Sundays a month. We owe much to the dedication and energy of Pam Lee, Kay Latham, Fran Foster and all who have helped in this valuable area of our church life.

Groups

Cell groups (home groups) usually met twice a month during the year, although there was a brief break as evangelistic training was given using the 'Just 10' material written by J John. Thanks to all the leaders and hosts for their dedication over the last 12 months. These groups are also on a duty rota to provide people to read lessons, lead prayers, and provide and serve refreshments at our main Sunday services. Our thanks to all who participate in these roles.

The Ladies' fellowship continues its monthly meeting.

Communication

Grapevine has continued to thrive and attract compliments. A special colour issue was produced in August to welcome our new ministers and their family. As a new group of six parishes, ways of combining our magazine with that of Bidford are being explored. The nature of the two current magazines are quite different making an easy merger difficult.

Our website is the place to go for all the up to date information on St Matthew's, whether it be for the time of Sunday's service or "am I on sidesperson duty?" It is also populated with photos of recent events:

www.stmatthewssalfordpriors.org.uk

Prayer & Retreats

The life of our churches is undergirded with prayer. Monday evenings, Thursday mornings and Friday evenings see regular weekly prayer. Edna Philpott continued to offer her home for the Friday night prayer meeting until her unfortunate accident in the autumn, but thankfully has now recovered to continue again to offer her home hospitality. Individual private prayer is offered after our main Sunday services by a small team of nominated people. Many have used this opportunity. As we see blessings among us, it is surely linked to these times of prayer.

Once again a party of us journeyed to Lindisfarne for a week of prayer, reflection and fun. We enjoyed fantastic weather too! During the week we studied a small but significant prayer hidden in the book of 1 Chronicles 4, the Prayer of Jabez.

A group of ladies attended a two day 'Colour' conference hosted by Hillsong church at the Royal Albert Hall, London and also a Phyllia day held in Chipping Campden, run by the Baptist church.

'Soaking Prayer' evenings were held regularly, where you are encouraged to relax and pray as you listen to music. Thank you to Rebecca and Gavin Reynolds who host these evenings.

Thankyous

After an extended period of 7 years serving as churchwarden, Peter Penney has stood down. His term of office was marked by the exciting time when we were considering a major extension to the church. Sadly this never came about, but his experience and expertise as he supervised the various quinquennial works was invaluable. Roger Huggins, our other Churchwarden, has not only been our efficient administrator but has taken a lead role on the MLT. Our thanks to Gavin Reynolds and Kevin Harrison,

our deputy Churchwardens, and for their assistance on Sunday mornings. Kevin has now been appointed churchwarden to replace Peter.

One of the key things many folk say when they visit St Matthew's is the warm welcome they receive. Thank you to all sidespersons and others who make folk feel comfortable at our services.

Sunday mornings are not complete without being welcomed by the sound of church bells calling us to worship. Thanks To Kay Latham and her team.

Special thanks to those who work behind the scenes; who open and close the church, lay out for worship and clear up afterwards, wind clocks, clean brasses and make ready for Sunday worship. For all those unseen hours, thank you.

Many gifts are being exercised in the above and we thank our Lord God for each one.

Glory to God.

*Malcolm Spriggs
Vice-Chairman Salford Priors PCC
23rd February 2011*

Treasurer's Report

St Matthew's has been blessed with a generous gift arising from the sale of a property in 1988. This has enabled the PCC to maintain the church, a Grade I listed building to a high standard and over recent years to make generous gifts to Dunnington and Salford Priors schools, the Memorial Hall, and many missions and charities. In 2007 the PCC designated that £380,000 of this fund be held as reserve for ongoing maintenance and development of the church building. In 2010 the church clock underwent major repair work and a modern electric winding system was installed at a cost approaching £10,000. I am pleased to report that all the urgent items raised at the 2009 Quinquennial inspection have been completed but that we shall soon be embarking on expensive work to make safe our leaded windows. Thankfully, because of this fund we have not, and should have no need to approach church members or the local community to help meet these costs. HOWEVER—whilst the fabric of the church is well catered for, we are failing to meet normal running costs from our income. In

simple terms, it costs the church £1000 per week to run. This pays for the cost of heat and light (a delivery of oil now costs over £1200), church services and activities and our contribution to Coventry diocese towards our ministers' costs. The PCC failed to agree a budget for 2011 as the projected deficit exceeded the unrestricted funds available. A small team has been set up to consider how best to manage this situation. As the country, and households face economic tightening of belts, the church is not immune! Please consider your own response and ask yourself the these questions: -

- Is my giving to St Matthew's planned?
- When did I last review my giving?
- Is my giving tax efficient?
- How can I respond to this present situation?

We are indeed thankful to all who give generously to the church, and for those who use tax efficient ways, St Matthew's has recovered over £6,500 though gift aid. Unfortunately as you are no doubt aware the Chancellor is removing the transition relief, and our recovery will be somewhat lower in future years. My thanks to Greg Hallett who submits these claims. We also recovered £2,869 of VAT paid on work carried out on the church through the Listed Places of Worship Grant scheme.

As in past years the accounts, which are prepared on a Receipts and Payments basis, meet the requirements of the Charities Act 1993, church Accounting Regulations 2006 and have been seen and agreed by our Independent Examiners, Guard D'Oyly of Stratford.

Reserves policy

In Nov 2006 the PCC set out to determine the likely costs needed to maintain our Grade One listed church and churchyard for the future. The outcome of this research was presented to the PCC in March 2007 when it was agreed that of the present invested capital, £380,000 be set aside for future maintenance. It was agreed that this designated fund be reviewed annually and would be flexible and responsive to needs as they arise. This fund currently is valued at £404,011

Malcolm Spriggs, Honorary Treasurer

**Financial Summary
to end December 2010**

General Fund	2010	2009
Voluntary Receipts		
Tax efficient Planned giving	19918	22296
Collections and other giving	7672	9655
Income Tax recovered	6907	8,664
Other voluntary receipts - donations/wall safe	190	183
Other Receipts - Grapevine, Field Rent	1882	1915
Insurance Claim/Youth w/e receipts	3837	2051
Fees	2641	1757
Interest	156	151
TOTAL	43203	46671
Payments		
Diocesan Parish Share	23940	23857
Administrator	0	0
Church running Costs	13065	8408
Ministry expenses	1794	557
Cost of Services	1458	1290
Printing the Magazine		
Administation costs including IT support	2343	4240
Training		
Youth & Children's work	984	2311
MLT		
Outreach	3469	2340
Churchyard	4277	3895
Interregnum	253	2053
TOTAL	51,582	48,951
Excess Payments over Receipts	-8,379	-2,280

FUNDS	2010	2009
General Fund (Undesignated)		
Opening balance	22,141	28,442
Receipts interest/dividend/growth(loss)	2401	2979
Transfer to Vicars discretionary fund	0	-1000
Payments Payment to Appeals	-200	-6000
Payments Support of Day to Day deficit	-15,095	-2,280
Closing balance	9,246	22,141
Fabric Fund (Designated)		
Opening balance	369,634	336,244
Receipts interest/dividend/growth(loss)	40,041	35,187
Payments	-12,326	-1,796
Closing balance	397,349	369,634
Fabric Fund (Endowment)		
Opening balance	6,423	6,139
Receipts interest/growth (loss)	410	481
Payments	-171	-198
Closing balance	6,662	6,423
FABRIC RESERVE	404,011	376,057
Vicar's Discretionary Fund (Designated)		
Opening Balance	1,000	0
Receipts	0	1000
Payments	-645	0
closing Balance	355	1,000
Vicarage Decoration Fund (Restricted)		
Opening Balance	3,977	3,977
Receipts	0.37	0.68
Payments	-251	0
closing Balance	3,727	3,977
EV Fund (Restricted Fund)		
opening balance	1,264	1,230
Receipts	35	34
Payments	0	0
closing balance	1,299	1,264
Glebe Land value at cost	8393	8393
St. Matthew's Closing Balance	433,747	412,833