

Unaudited Trustees Annual Report and Financial Report

The Parochial Church Council of the Ecclesiastical Parish of

St. Wilfrid, Bognor

St Wilfrid's Church, Ellasdale Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 2SG

Registered Charity no. 1142723

For the year ended 31st December 2019

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Website: <https://wilfrid.com>

Vacancy. The Rev. Andrew Wadsworth retired on Easter Sunday 2018. The Revd Joel Mennie was appointed in the Autumn of 2019, moved into the Parish on 16th December, 2019 and Inducted and became the Incumbent 16th January 2020 but predominantly under Apostolic Training for the greater part of 2020.

Independent examiner: Mr Ian Burrows FCCA, Kreston Reeves LLP
9 Donnington Park, 85 Birdham Road, Chichester, West Sussex, PO20 7AJ

Bankers: HSBC, 45 High Street, Bognor Regis, PO21 1RU

St Wilfrid's, Bognor

Trustees Annual Report for 2019

Our aims and purposes as a charity

The PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the incumbent (for 2019 the Churchwardens in what was an interregnum period) :

- To **expand** the church family through outreach and making a variety of worship, both traditional and new form, available to the present congregation, the people of Bognor and students of the town campus of the University of Chichester.
- To **grow** the congregation spiritually and in their practical daily worship.
- To **enable** the town to see St. Wilfrid's as a place of welcome and refuge, especially young families, students away from home; those seeking friendship, comfort and deeper meaning to their lives in a modern world.

What we planned to do to achieve our charitable objectives

To fulfil our objectives the following activities were planned:

- Working with Bishop Martin (Chichester) and the senior leadership team of the Diocese of Chichester to develop a strategic Apostolic Partnership with St Peter's Church, Brighton, with the intention of creating a strong platform by which the stated objectives above can be best fulfilled.
- Enabling opportunities for Eucharistically based worship and prayer on a Sunday and at other points during the week.
- Inviting people to attend services on other significant days in the year, such as during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter
- Re-introducing a choir
- Helping people to mark poignant and celebratory life events, such as offering baptisms, confirmations, weddings and funerals
- Offering home-based pastoral support and ministry, including to those in care-homes
- Encouraging the learning of gospel in the context of a house group
- Extending links with the organisation Family Support Work (FSW) to offer an after-school club to connect and offer support to local families
- Maintaining links with the local schools
- Developing communication channels by which the activities of the organisation are promoted to the congregation, the parish and a wider audience
- Operating a volunteer-led administrative base
- Maintaining the fabric of the church building.

Public Benefit

In accordance with our duties as stated in section 17(5) of the Charities Act, we have considered the guidance provided by the Charity Commission in regard to public benefit. This public benefit is demonstrated through our activities as detailed below.

What we achieved and how we affected beneficiaries' lives

Membership

The Church Electoral Roll was 105 at 31 December 2019.

Apostolic Partnership

Since the retirement of Fr. Andrew Wadsworth on Easter Day 2018, conversations took place about the possibility of an Apostolic Partnership at St Wilfrid's. Fr. Andrew had written to the Bishop of Chichester just before his retirement to propound the notion that St Wilfrid's needed a new direction. This was despite the fact that it was by no means a struggling parish. Through 2018 and 2019, conversations and consultations took place at a deanery and parochial level, led by senior Diocesan leaders, and included contributions made by civic representatives, and those from Chichester University.

The discussion highlighted significant openness to exploring this new direction, fully and urgently. Much of this exploration has now taken place, to the extent that a new priest (Revd Joel Mennie) was appointed in the Autumn of 2019; a significant financial commitment has been made by this organisation, St Peter's Church, Brighton and the Diocesan Board of Finance; a direction of travel has been prepared detailing some of the key changes, activities and initiatives that will begin in the next year; and some quantitative and qualitative outcomes have been established.

Whilst there is much to celebrate in achieving the objective of establishing an Apostolic Partnership, it must be recognised that these achievements have come at a cost to the organisation. This is true not only financially, but also in terms of the expected impact of Revd Joel Mennie being in post, yet needing to commit a number of months to not being present in the parish for a vast duration of time. The PCC are most grateful to the parish for their patience and understanding. Particular gratitude is given to those who have carried the weight of this. Mention should be given to the supporting clergy and the volunteer administrative teams.

Services

Sundays

Two Eucharistic services have taken place each Sunday (8am Said and 10.30am Sung). An average of 9 people attended 8am service, and 61 people attended the 10.30am each week.

An 6.30pm evensong has taken place on the second Sunday of the month. An average of 7 people attended this service each week.

Mid-Week

During the interregnum in 2019 with the reduced clergy, the previous daily Eucharistic services were reduced to three - Mondays average of 4 attendees, and Fridays 4 attendees, both at 10.00am and Wednesdays at 6.30pm an average of 7 attendees

Other Services during 2019

Other services that took place during 2019 were: Christmas Eve: Crib/Christingle (5pm), and Midnight Mass (11.30pm); Christmas Day (8am and 10.30am); Ash Wednesday Eucharist (6.30pm); Stations of the Cross reflections (Wednesdays during Lent, 6pm); Maundy Thursday Eucharist (7pm); Good Friday Liturgy (3pm); First Vigil Mass of Easter Saturday (7pm); Corpus Christi (June 20th, 7pm).

In addition a service of 9 Lessons and Carols took place during Advent, and a Pet Service, which was held in October.

Other

A choir was reintroduced during the Autumn of 2019.

Life Events

During 2019 there were:

16 Baptisms

5 Weddings

13 Funerals