

St Augustine's Thorpe Bay



Annual Parochial Church Meeting 2020

Report on the activities of the Parish and the PCC

There was a certain sense of marking time in 2020, because the extension project was held up by the planning department of Southend Borough Council and indeed was turned down by one of the officers for reasons which on the face of it could have been dealt with simply by a telephone call. Our grateful thanks are due to Peter Barron for his persistence in the face of frustration, and it seems that progress is once more being made.

Usual Sunday attendance remained constant around 80 – 100 at the main service, with a gradually increasing number of teenagers, the fruit of children coming up through the ranks from junior church, which itself maintained its ministry every Sunday of the year apart from family and parade eucharist. The parish continued to benefit from the ministry not only of a vicar but a curate, two retired clergy and an authorized lay preacher as well as numerous junior church leaders and Eucharistic ministers. The PCC met five times and notes the tireless work of the wardens and treasurer in particular. The Men's Fellowship continued its regular meetings. There was a smaller number of recitals owing to changes in the personnel at Trinity College of Music, ministry in schools developed with the use of the church by Shoeburyness High School for a carol service, while the clergy continued their work in Thorpedene, Bournes Green, Alleyn Court and Thorpe Hall schools. 2019's trips to Gdansk and Windsor went well. A visit from our young people took place to Sweden, and the vicar attended the licensing of the Rev'd Mr and Mrs Brakenhielm as Swedish chaplains in Paris in November, though they expect to continue their own link as they are keeping a house in Ostra Amtervik. The vicar organized a national conference for the Church of England's link officers with the Church of Sweden, and also continued his work with the diocesan Romanian link, visiting Iasi in the autumn, a visit which seems to have renewed the link.

Baptisms were well up in 2019 at 41(2018 – 23, 2017 - 24, 2016 - 18, 2015 – 26), though there was no confirmation during the year (2018 – 5, 2017 - 4, 2016- 17, 2015 - 5) and there were 26 funerals (2018 – 25, 2017 - 21), 7 in church (2018 – 7, 2017- 8), 19 at the crematorium or cemetery (2018 – 18, 2017 - 13), 6 weddings (2018 – 7, 2017 – 7). At Christmas the total number of people attending the various carol services etc totaled as last year over 3,600 (2017 -2,700). The website continued to be an invaluable instrument of information and outreach. The bell ringers were joined by a number of new faces, and a new youth choir *Voces Novae* sang a choral evensong in honour of the vicar's birthday.

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

The work to the church fabric is dealt with by the report of the churchwardens, but it would be wrong not to express gratitude to our anonymous donors who paid for the complete restoration of the bells, the lighting of the bell chamber, the polishing of the vestry floors and the refurbishment of the doors at the west end of the church.