

ST GREGORY THE GREAT, MORVILLE

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2018

Aim and Purposes

Morville Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector, the Reverend Prebendary Simon Cawdell, in promoting the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical, in the ecclesiastical parish.

Objectives and Activities

The PCC is committed to enabling as many people as possible to worship at our Church and to being part of our parish community at Morville. The PCC maintains an overview of worship throughout the parish and makes suggestions on how our services can involve the many groups that live in our parish. Our services and worship put faith into practice through prayer and scripture, music and sacrament.

When planning our activities for the year, we have considered the Charities Commission's guidance on public benefit and, in particular, the supplementary guidance on charities for the advancement of religion. The PCC seeks to enable people in the parish to live out their faith as part of our parish community through:

- Worship and prayer; learning about the Gospel; and developing their knowledge and trust in Jesus.
- Provision of pastoral care for people living in the parish.
- Activities that bring the community together.

To facilitate this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St. Gregory the Great and its surrounding churchyard.

During the year the PCC prepared a Mission Action Plan (MAP) which identified strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges. The Plan determined a vision for the next five years and set priorities to be achieved. These priorities included continuing to hold weekly services and encouraging greater involvement in the community through activities with Morville Primary School and events associated with the 900th anniversary of the church in 2018. The MAP is displayed in the church.

Achievements and Performance

Morville PCC is keen to offer a range of services during the week and over the course of the year which our community find both beneficial and spiritually fulfilling. There is a weekly service at 11.00 am on Sunday. At the start of the year we held two Holy Communion Services and two Family Services each month and four times each year there was a Healing Service. A healing service is held on one Sunday each month. Our services are led by Reverend Hugh Patterson who has supported Morville Parish for many years. Music is provided by our organist Mrs Alison Foxall who is an active member of the church community. Mrs Angela Jones also provides the music in Mrs Foxall's absence. Morning coffee is provided after service on the second and fourth Sunday of each month by members of the congregation on a voluntary basis.

The church is cleaned weekly, brasses are cleaned and flower arrangements provided. All these tasks are carried out by the members of the PCC, congregation and the local community for which we are very grateful.

In addition there are several special services which include Lent, Easter, Christmas, St Gregory's Feast Day (Evensong), Harvest Festival and Remembrance Sunday.

The Church has also been used by Morville Primary School for special services and assemblies during the year. Morville PCC has supported the school by providing free refreshments for the children and their families at the various assemblies, Harvest Service and Christmas events.

St. Gregory's Church does not hold a Sunday School at the present time but hopes to re-establish this in the future. To achieve this we need to encourage families with children into the church, and the school assemblies and services are the first steps towards this.

Morville PCC sub committees had a very busy and successful year in 2018. These committees organised events to raise money for St Gregory's church and for some events, the churches within the Morville Group of Parishes as well as a number of charities. Events this year included:

- May Day Weekend (a two day event with Morville Hall Gardens Open/Flower Festival and a May Day Fete)
- Teas in church in support of the Morville Gardens open day for the National Garden Scheme.
- Teas in church to support the National Trust opening of Morville Hall (eight days in total).
- Teas in church to support local gardens opened for Shropshire Historic Churches Trust (SHCT).
- Harvest Supper (Morville with Aston Eyre with proceeds going to a local charity)

We also held a number of events to celebrate the 900th anniversary of our church. These included:

- Medieval History Lectures.
- Morville 900 Evensong service.
- Haydn Concert in church.
- Music & Poems for Summer Solstice (Dower House Gardens)
- St Gregory's Day Evensong service with Rt. Rev. Alistair Bishop of Ludlow.

The PCC is extremely grateful to all the local people who donate their time and energy to organising and managing all our fundraising events, and in particular the generosity of the many bakers in the parish who provide a continuous supply of cakes for the regular teas in church.

There is a regular bell ringing team, led by the Bell Tower Captain Ian Rowe, which supports the weekly service and holds other bell ringing events. Bells are also rung for weddings and funerals on request. The bells of St Gregory's Church attract Bellringers from other areas which also helps to raise funds for the church.

All are welcome to attend our regular services. There are 29 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll, 10 of which are not resident in the parish. The average weekly attendance, counted in October, was 12 but this number increased significantly at special services held during the year.

As well as our regular services, we enable our community to celebrate and thank God at the milestones of the journey through life. Through baptism we thank God for the gift of life, in marriage public vows are exchanged with God's blessing and through funeral services friends and family express their grief and give thanks for the life which is now complete in this world and to commend the person into God's keeping. This year we have celebrated 2 baptisms and 4 weddings at St Gregory's church. We also held 5 funeral services and 2 burials of ashes.

A newsletter is produced and delivered to all the homes in the four parishes within the Morville Group of Parishes. 370 copies are printed and distributed to local homes each month with a further 31 copies provided by email including one to the USA. The number printed increases at Easter, Christmas and special events when we have more visitors. The newsletter provides details of services to be held at Morville Group churches together with messages, local news and events. The aim is to include everyone, not just churchgoers. It is produced by Mrs Carol Skinner and distributed by local volunteers and is self-financing, relying on local advertising and the occasional donation. The PCC would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Carol Skinner and all concerned for the continuing production and distribution of the newsletter.

The PCC has continued to carry out Health and Safety requirements including risk assessments and emergency evacuation procedures when major events have been held in the church and churchyard, as required by Ecclesiastical Insurance.

Deanery Synod

Two members of the PCC sit on the deanery synod and report back to the PCC at the following meeting. This provides an important link between the parish and the wider structures of the Church.

Bridgnorth Team Ministry Team Council

We also have two PCC members who sit on the Bridgnorth Team Ministry Team Council having an input into the decision making of the Bridgnorth ministry. The council is involved in the selection of clergy for the benefice of Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry and receives regular reports on the progress of the Ministry. One area of particular interest is the working party looking at PCC costs, potential areas for savings, best practices and the pooling of information on suppliers and local trades people. This work is ongoing.

Pastoral Care

Some members of our parish are unable to attend Church due to sickness or age. Reverend Hugh Patterson has visited all Church members who have requested it to celebrate communion with them either at their homes or in hospital.

Church Fabric

St Gregory the Great Church is a Grade 1 listed building (List Entry Number: 1053840) dating back to 1118. There is a medieval cross in the churchyard which is scheduled under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Act 1979 (List Entry Number 1015292). The next quinquennial inspection is due in 2020.

A major project to restore the nave windows and undertake stonework repair was completed in the early months of the year having received the appropriate faculty and archdeacon's permissions. Ark Stained Glass and Leaded Lights Ltd successfully restored the original nave window frames both at ground and clerestory levels, replacing broken quarries and installing a number of ventilation meshes to improve air circulation. Weathered stonework, notably on the south east of the building, has been replaced by McMillan Masonry with matching stone and mortar work made good in a number of areas. The tower parapet stonework was also repaired. The completed work was inspected by the church architect, Richard Lamb of Hook Mason Ltd, who identified the repair requirement at the 2015 quinquennial. The project has cost over £25,000 and the PCC is grateful for the grants, provided by the Morville Church Building Trust, Shropshire Historic Churches Trust and the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme, that enabled the work to be undertaken. The result of the work is very pleasing and put the building in good order for the 900 celebrations later in the year.

Annual servicing of fire extinguishers and organ was completed as well as a service to the water heater in the vestry.

Churchyard Maintenance

Grass cutting has been undertaken very effectively throughout the year by Mr Martin Gretton in his first year as groundsman. The standard of upkeep has drawn many compliments. In April some remedial work was undertaken on the driveway within the churchyard to deal with poor drainage.

Three churchyard working parties took place during the year. These dealt with a series of tasks including leaf clearing, clearing ivy from old gravestones, path work etc. A gravestone stability check was undertaken in April. Thanks to everyone who helped out.

It was found necessary to fell a dead sycamore tree in the NE of the churchyard. In November, following confirmation from Shropshire County Council that it was a safety hazard and Archdeacons permission, the tree was felled. The remaining tree stump has been formed into a seat and a decorative panel has been cut into the back to commemorate 100 years since the WW1 armistice. The PCC are grateful to Mr Joffre Watson who undertook the carving for no charge.

During the year the National Trust requested that the PCC contribute to the cost of repair work to Morville Hall driveway, the sole access to the church, which had deteriorated with large pot holes. It was agreed by the PCC that a 50% contribution be made and an ex gratia sum of £632 was remitted on a without prejudice basis.

Morville School

After many years of uncertainty, advice is being sought by Preb Rev'd Simon Cawdell from the Registrar to Hereford Diocese concerning his responsibilities as Incumbent and those of the Church Wardens, who it is thought collectively have overall responsibility for the Morville School Trust, which owns the property comprising Morville School, by virtue of a trust deed dating back to 1855 when the property was generously donated by the Acton family for school use.

In the absence of adequate protection being forthcoming for the benefit of the Church Wardens in the form of an undertaking from Hereford Diocese, the previous Church Wardens declined to stand for re-election at the 2018 Vestry meeting.

It has been suggested that responsibility for the Morville School Trust can be assigned to Hereford Diocese directly thus removing what currently amounts to an open-ended burden upon the office of Church Warden. Confirmation of this advice from the Registrar is awaited; meanwhile the Incumbent is the sole trustee there being no Church Wardens in post currently.

Financial Review

Total receipts of the General fund for 2018 amounted to £44,321 (2017 - £20,392) and are detailed in the Financial Statement for the year. The significant increase year on year was mainly due to grants received for the windows and masonry repair work carried out early in the year.

- Shropshire Historic Churches Trust grant £8,000.
- Morville Church Building Trust grant £12,427.
- Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme - VAT refunded £3,383.

In addition -

- Regular giving of £7,271, a decrease of £317 from 2017 (£7,588).
- Donations to the church of £1,412, an increase of 70% from 2017 (£827).
- Church fees totalled £3,584 (2017 - £3,131), an increase of 14.5%.
- The net income from fundraising events, including the Morville Festival share, increased by £1,415 to £5,728 (2017 - £4,313).
- £ 1,691 of gift aid was recovered this year (2017 £1,759).
- Sale of mower £100.

Total payments for the year were £42,895 which was an increase of £22,937 on the previous year:

- Work on church fabric (windows and masonry) £24,512.
- The parish offer increased to £10,000 in 2018 (2016 - £9,500).
- Church running costs were reduced to £3,774 from £5,002 in 2017 (exceptional payments in 2017).
- Churchyard maintenance costs increased by £1,106 to £2,220 (Tree work £960).
- Charitable Donation payments for the year totalled £1,757.
- An exceptional payment to the National Trust of £632 towards the cost of the drive repairs.

The PCC met its full commitment for parish offer payments of £10,000.

PCC Fundraising: In total £12,392 was raised during the year (Festival Committee £7,614 plus PCC fundraising £4,778 net of £468 costs). Included in this total is:

- NGS teas - £710
- Harvest Supper - £448
- £2,980 for teas provided for National Trust visitors to Morville Hall.

- SHCT – the event raised £736 and the PCC received £368
- Plant sales at various events raised £272
- Morville Festival share to Morville PCC £950.

A proportion of the May Day Festival monies was given to the three other churches within the Morville Group, Morville Church Building Trust and a donation of £500 to Morville School (total £6,650).

Charitable Donations: Our increased fundraising allowed the PCC to donate more to other charities. Our charitable donations for 2018 totalled £1,757 and included:

- Morville Primary School (£50) to buy Nativity costumes.
- Bridgnorth African Appeal (£107) – collection taken at the Harvest Festival service.
- Royal British Legion (£275) – Remembrance Sunday collection,
- Hereford Diocesan Bell Fund (£32),
- Morville Village Hall £200 to help with floor repairs.
- Bridgnorth Food Bank £200
- Crowsmill Craft Centre CIC £200 (an organisation who work with people with various physical and mental issues).
- Bridgnorth Bathing Project £235.
- Profits of £458 from the Harvest Supper was also donated to Crowsmill Craft Centre CIC,

Bank Balances: In summary, the bank balance for unrestricted funds carried forward at 31st December 2018 totalled £28,935 (£5,366 current account; £19,885 deposit account, Morville Festival Committee Fund £1,084 the Bellringing Fund £1,484 and the Morville 900 Fund (designated) £1,115). An amount of £1,250 budgeted for in 2018 for churchyard path repairs was not fully utilised this year but is expected to be spent in 2019.

The only restricted fund, the Bell Maintenance Fund, ended the year at £6,591

Financial Policies: It is PCC policy to invest the balance of our funds with the CBF Church of England Deposit Fund whenever possible.

Morville PCC remains in a sound financial position due to regular giving and fundraising activities. It is PCC policy to maintain a balance on unrestricted general funds (if possible) of £20,000 as a hedge against emergency situations.

Morville 900

The celebration of the 900th anniversary of the consecration of the Church in 1118 made 2018 a very special year for the church. A programme of events throughout the year enabled the celebrations to involve the Morville village community and included a visit by Rt Rev Alistair, Bishop of Ludlow who led a choral evensong service on St Gregory's Day in September.

The Church has benefitted from a series of lasting reminders of the anniversary year funded through amounts raised previously for the 900th anniversary and a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded for a heritage interpretation project. As a result the carpet at the north of the nave has been replaced, we have a new display board for the Morville Memories, three internal free standing interpretation boards, an oak noticeboard in the churchyard, a very fine banner depicting St Gregory, a set of kneelers embroidered with the anniversary dates, a booklet on the history of the village and a framed list of vicars and incumbents since 1118. Thanks to all those who have put so much time and effort into the programme of events and the project including the pupils of Morville Primary School who illustrated a timeline of events impacting Morville village over the centuries. The year concluded fittingly with a village firework display held at Aldenham Park courtesy of Mr and Mrs J. Fenwick.

Structure, Governance and Management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation rules. At Morville, the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent, Team Clergy, Churchwardens and members elected by those members of the congregation who are on the electoral roll of the Church. All those who attend our services/members of the congregation are encouraged to register on the Electoral Roll and stand for election to the PCC. The PCC members are responsible for making decisions on all matters of general concern and importance to the parish including deciding on how the funds of the PCC are to be spent.

The full PCC met five times during the year with an average attendance of 62%. The Standing Committee (Churchwardens, Deputy Lay Chair, Treasurer and Secretary) has also met several times to discuss more detailed matters including the ongoing issues relating to Morville School ownership and the work to be carried out on the fabric of the church. The Standing Committee has also met to plan the forthcoming events for the 900th anniversary of the church and village prior to discussions with the full PCC.

The Morville Festival Committee deals solely with the May Day Festival weekend and met monthly prior to the event for planning purposes. The PCC are very grateful to the Festival Committee for all the work that they have done to raise funds for St Gregory's church and the other parishes within the Morville Group of Parishes.

Both sub committees are responsible to the PCC and report back to it at each meeting.

Administrative Information

St Gregory the Great Church is situated in the village of Morville, Shropshire near Bridgnorth. The church comes within the benefice of Bridgnorth and Morville Parishes Team Ministry which in turn is part of the Bridgnorth Deanery. The Deanery comes within the Archdeaconry of Ludlow of the Diocese of Hereford. Rev'd Prebendary Simon Cawdell is Team Rector of the Team Ministry.

The Morville Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2011) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2018 until the date this report was approved are:

<i>Team Rector</i>	Rev'd Prebendary Simon Cawdell – Chairman
<i>Church Wardens</i>	Mr B Jenkinson, Mr T Morris (until 31 st July 2018)
<i>Representatives on the Deanery Synod</i>	Mrs G Medland, Mrs J Sirr
<i>Bridgnorth Team Council Representatives</i>	Dr S Dunmore, Mrs K Renshall
<i>Secretary to PCC</i>	Mrs H Smith
<i>Treasurer to PCC</i>	Mrs K Renshall
<i>Elected members</i>	Rev'd H Patterson (Vice Chairman) Mr T Heatley (Deputy Lay Vice Chairman) Mrs J Brick, Dr S Dunmore, Mrs A Foxall, Mrs C Heatley, Mrs J Jenkinson, Mrs F Dunmore, Mrs G Medland, Mrs K Renshall, Mrs H Smith, Mr S Wadlow, Mrs J Sirr and Mr B Jenkinson, Mr T Morris (from 1 st August 2018)

Approved by the PCC on 24th April 2019 and signed on their behalf by Rev Preb Simon Cawdell

----- (PCC Chairman)