

# Church of St Mary, Sarnesfield

## ∪ Parish Annual Report 2008 – prepared by Roger Marshall, Secretary

### Executive Summary

- Overall, a steady year for the Church of St Mary (CofStM).
- The financial health of the church remains stable, with money in the savings account, and this health owes much to a generous legacy, continuing enthusiastic fund-raising support, and sound management by the PCC.
- The PCC is mindful that a deficit of c. £860 on the day-to-day costs of running the church in 2008, contrasts with a positive balance (£538) for 2007.
- Sunday service attendance numbers have remained stable, with the occasional positive upturn. While numbers attending the Harvest Festival and Carol Service were a little disappointing, the overall feeling was that they were excellent services, much enjoyed by those attending.

### PCC Meetings - 2008

#### **Vestry and APCM Meetings 17.04.08** – at Sarnesfield Court

- Roger Marshall was elected Secretary; Hilary Havard and Viv Leech were re-elected Church Wardens; Viv Leech was re-elected Treasurer and Gift Aid Officer, Roger Marshall was re-elected Fabric Officer, and Anne Morton was re-elected as Deanery Synod Representative. Dr Rebekah Cutler was elected Lay Co-Chair. Joanna Bright was elected Electoral Roll Officer.
- The PCC was unanimously re-elected there being no new nominations in the meeting. It was proposed that Dr Andrea Williams be co-opted and invited to join the PCC. In the event she would wish to do so, her election was approved by the Council.
- The Electoral Roll remained un-changed – there are 26 on the Roll.
- Treasurer Viv Leech (VL) presented the 2007 year-end accounts. These showed an accumulated fund of £11,233. £9,000 had been transferred to the CBF Acct. VL advised the meeting that the DPS for 2008 would be £2,390 – a sizeable increase on 2007 when it was £1,736. On the matter of expenses incurred by supporters of the PCC while providing services or goods for fund-raising activities, it was agreed that a draft expenses form be designed for future consideration.
- Roger Marshall, Fabric Officer, updated the Council on the outcome from an overdue meeting with a lighting expert to consider the provision of lighting that would be self-managing in order to facilitate unaccompanied visits. Also considered was the wiring in of heating as recommended in 2007. A proposal for the introduction of a new altar rail, designed by a local man, Richard Putland (who could make the rail also, being an outstanding joiner), was well received and copies of the proposal forwarded to the Diocesan Office by Reverend Lynn Money.
- Reverend King (BK) described 2007 as a 'very good year', and he welcomed Reverend Lynn Money's priesting. After some debate it was agreed that the pattern of services at St Mary's was satisfactory. BK wondered if St Mary's might

like to purchase a new chalice, and create a 'wish list' of things the church would benefit from introducing – a small lectern for example.

- RM presented a schedule of days and times when the church would be open; this met and exceeded the English Heritage requirements.

#### **17.07.08** – at the Vicarage, Weobley

- Viv Leech, Treasurer, reported that a legacy of £10,000 from Miss Josephine Marshall had been received, and added to the CBF Deposit Acc't which was thereby increased to £19,747. The June Cake Stall raised £300..
- The Fabric Report focused on the most recent accident at the churchyard – a car having crashed through the roadside fence, once again. Estimates for repairs had been received and submitted to the insurers. It was agreed the Secretary should write to the Parish Council to ask what might be done to appraise the Highways Department of these regular accidents – and to see if lobbying for traffic claiming measures was a possibility.
- There was some conversation, but no decision on the possibility of a permanent closure of the layby and path to the churchyard from the A4112, and RM advised the Meeting that he was investigating the provision of a dedicated car park on Sarnesfield Estate land which might then allow this to happen.
- RM presented a draft expenses form. It was considered and amendments recommended. A revised draft to be presented at the next Meeting.
- It was agreed that the 2008 Harvest Festival would be held in the morning, of October 11<sup>th</sup>, as it was believed a daylight time might make it easier for parishioners to attend. There was a Harvest lunch in the church after the service.

#### **23.10.08** - at the Vicarage, Weobley

- Viv Leech, Treasurer reported the Current Acct in credit, £18,022 in the CBF Deposit Acc't and c, £485 in the John Abel Account. She reported that church insurance was renewed with Ecclesiastical Insurance Group (EIG) at £580 for 08/09 with a discount for committing to a five-year term.
- Roger Marshall presented a further revised expenses form and this was accepted. Copies to be distributed to all PCC members.
- RM reported that the DAC had recommended the petition for the introduction of the new altar rail.
- RM reported that the roadside fence was successfully replaced. On the back of this there was further lively debate re: the possible closure of the A4112 layby access to the church. RM reported some progress on the ways in which a car park might be provided but pointed out the need for a contract between the Sarnesfield Estate and the PCC. BK emphasised the need for water-tight rights of way to be established. It was recommended that the Secretary should ask John Clark at the Diocesan Office to advise on the possible closure of the layby, and whether there are any procedures to follow.
- Although the Harvest Festival had been disappointingly attended, it was uncertain whether the new time – traditionally it had been on a Friday evening – had been the cause of the poor numbers. However, it was agreed that PCC members could work more actively to promote the date of this service as it is a service that lies at the heart of the community's activities.

- It was agreed that a daylight time for the Carol Service should be tried out and the service was scheduled for 3.30pm on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

## **Fund-raising**

Without the benefit of a concert in 2008, fun-raising figures were down, but nevertheless four cake stalls raised over £1,030 – a significant contribution towards the DPS, and gift-aided donations were still positive contributors to the overall income of the church. £274 had been refunded from tax.

## **Church Newsletters**

During the year, Roger Marshall wrote and circulated four CofStM newsletters. There are now over 100 addresses of supporters of St Mary's on the list.

RPTM 012009