



**The Parish of Kingston  
Church of St James the Less  
in the Modbury Benefice (Team)**

**Annual Report of the Kingston Parochial Church Council  
for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015**

**1. Administrative Information**

The Parish of Kingston was created in May, 2013 following the dissolution of the Parish of Ringmore with Kingston and the creation of two new independent parishes. The Church of St James the Less, is situated in the village of Kingston in the South Hams of Devon and was one of six churches in the Modbury Team in 2015.

**Address for correspondence:** St James the Less Parish Church % Dr B J Alloway, 6 Arnolds Close, Kingston, Kingsbridge TQ7 4QF

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) is a charity exempt from registration with the Charity Commission. Members of the Kingston PCC, who served from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015 until the date this report was approved are:

Team Rector:	Rev'd Neil Barker
Churchwardens:	Prof Brian Alloway & Mr Robert Beard (Mrs Jeanne Curtis Churchwarden Emeritus)
Treasurer:	Mr Graham Phillips
Secretary:	Prof Brian Alloway
Representatives on the Deanery Synod:	Prof Brian Alloway & Dr Judy Alloway
PCC Members	Mrs Margaret Birch, Michael Jarvis, Tim Kingdom, Mrs Jennie Stanley & Mrs Susan Williams (resigned in October)
Clerical advisor:	Rev'd Michael Wilkinson

**2. 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 to stand for election to the PCC.

**2.1 Bankers**

Lloyds Bank and CBF (Church of England Bank)

**2.2 Independent Examiner of Accounts**

Mr Paul Ellis, 'Pooh Corner', Arnolds Close, Kingston, Kingsbridge TQ7 4PL

**3. Aims and Objectives of the PCC**

The Kingston PCC has the responsibility of co-operating with the Team Rector in promoting the whole mission of the church: pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in the ecclesiastical parish. It is also responsible for the maintenance of the fabric of the Church of St James the Less, Kingston.

The PCC has been working to raise the profile of the Church in the local village community and to make the Church building more widely used by everyone. The Events Committee arranges an annual programme of community-based events, including Christmas and Spring Fairs, Village Harvest Supper, Making Easter Gardens and Egg Hunt etc. Non-religious activities such as concerts, art and historical exhibitions are also held in the Church. Following a successful 'Open Church' day a newly formed "Friends of St James" has been established for village residents but are not necessarily regular churchgoers. Local interest in the clock on the church tower resulted in donations being made to cover the cost of a new chiming mechanism. The Church and Church activities are promoted through the regular Church News section of the monthly Kingston Parish Newsletter, which is circulated free of charge to all houses in the village, and also on the regularly updated Church page of the Parish Council website ([www.kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.kingstonparishcouncil.co.uk)) and the Kingston Church page of the Modbury Team of Churches website, ([www.modburyteam.org](http://www.modburyteam.org)).

### **3.1 Risks**

The most serious risk to the church would be major structural damage due to some accidental cause, such as fire or a storm, but also from theft. The Church uses 'Smartwater' on individual objects of value and easily reached parts of the roof. Other risks would be that the number of people attending services declined markedly resulting in smaller collections and the Church no longer being able to meet its Common Fund and fabric maintenance commitments.

### **3.2 Health and Safety**

The PCC agreed a Health and Safety policy which will be reviewed in July each year. One of the Church Wardens is responsible for Health and Safety and carries out risk assessments for activities in the church.

### **3.3 Safeguarding**

In July, 2015, the PCC approved a Safeguarding Policy with one person being responsible for children and another for vulnerable adults. This policy will be reviewed every year.

### **3.4 Statement of Public Benefit of the Church of St James the Less**

The Church provides a place of regular worship for the Anglican community and other Christians in Kingston as well as the village burial ground for which a maintenance grant is received annually from Kingston Parish Council. It also provides baptisms, weddings and funerals for the whole community, acts as a community resource, providing a venue for a wide range of activities both religious and non-religious for the benefit of the village. For example; the Church provides a collection point for the local Food Bank, jointly arranged with the Parish Council, safe, accessible storage for the Kingston Local History Society and whole village events such as an exhibition of paintings for the annual Kingston Produce Show.

## **4. The Church at Worship**

### **4.1 Services**

The pattern of services during the month comprises Holy Communion on the first and (usually) the third Sundays, a family service led by a Team Reader on the second Sunday and a lay-led family service on the fourth Sunday. This arrangement is now well established and generally liked. Services are normally at 9-30am, but occasionally a lay-led Evensong

service is held at 6-30 pm on the fourth Sunday of some months. When there is a fifth Sunday in a month, a joint team service is held in one of the churches in the Modbury team. Home Communion has recently been re-established on an occasional basis for disabled parishioners who are unable get to church.

#### **4.2 Church attendance**

There were 58 parishioners on the Church Electoral Roll in 2015. The average weekly attendance was 19.3 adults and 0.3 children, but much larger numbers attended at festivals and special services (e.g., Easter Sunday 57, Carol Service 85 and Holy Communion on Christmas morning 56).

#### **4.3 Planned giving**

Planned giving through envelopes linked to Gift Aid, standing orders and annual giving was used by around 75% of the congregation. This together with Gift Aid Donations, amounted to a total of £9,004 of which £8,245 was Gift Aided.

#### **4.4 Other sources of income**

##### **4.4.1 Appeals for Donations.**

These amounted to a total of £6,614

##### **4.4.2 Interest and Investments**

*This raised £593*

##### **4.4.3 Grants**

Grants worth £3000 were received for the North Wall Project plus £3,481 from VAT reclaim grants from the Listed Places of Worship scheme.

##### **4.4.4 Church Collections**

£3,087 was collected which is eligible for Gift Aid.

### **5. Review of the year.**

#### **5.1 PCC Meetings**

The Kingston PCC met four times in 2015: 14<sup>th</sup> January (91% attendance), 25<sup>th</sup> March (73% attendance), 1<sup>st</sup> July (91% attendance) and 7<sup>th</sup> November (81% attendance). The APCM was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2015 (91% of PCC attended plus 8 other parishioners).

#### **5.2 Priorities for Action by the PCC in 2016**

##### **5.2.1 Maintenance of Church Fabric**

The Quinquennial Inspection of the Church fabric in November 2012 revealed the need for several remedial works to be carried out. The replacement of gutters and downpipes, repairing stonework on the North Wall and replacing damaged slates commenced in November 2014 and was completed in August 2015 at a total cost of £20,000. A Faculty for this work was obtained from the Diocese and grants were obtained from various agencies together with private donations. Clock repairs and upgrades took place in April and cost £3,000. The churchyard wall alongside the chancel was repaired in September at a cost of £3,090.

##### **5.2.2 Fund Raising Organised by the Events Committee**

The Events Committee raised an impressive total of £3,706 of which £2,690 went towards the day-to-day running costs of the Church and £1,016 for charitable giving

##### **5.2.3 Donations to Charities**

A total of £2,870 was donated to charities which is well in excess of the recommended 10% of income (£1,600 for 2015).

## **6. Financial Review**

The balance of all accounts at the end of 2015 was £16,590. The church's allocated contribution of £8,275 to the Diocesan Common Fund was paid again in full for 2015 (this will increase by £56 to £8,331 for 2016).

### **6.1 Investment Funds**

The total value of our investment funds at 31/12/2015 was (£15,287, a small increase of £205 on 2014).

### **6.2 Reserves**

The PCC has agreed to maintain a reserve of £10,000 of unrestricted funds in the Lloyds/CBF General Accounts. This enables immediate funding to be provided for urgent projects, whilst grants, fund-raising and VAT reclaim grants are pursued. It also provides a buffer for occasional cash flow shortfalls. The reserve at 31/12/2015 was £12,769 and increase of £2049 on 2014.

### **6.3 Friends of St James the Less Church**

A Friends organisation has been set up and will become fully operational in the second quarter of 2016. There is already a guaranteed income in 2016 of at least £1,000 from this source, which will be used for the maintenance of the Church and the churchyard/burial ground.

## **7. Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting (APCM)**

The annual report and accounts for the year are presented at the APCM for approval. Elections for the two churchwardens are held at the Annual Meeting of Parishioners which precedes the APCM. The Deanery Synod representatives and PCC members are elected at the APCM. The APCM was held on 20<sup>th</sup> March in 2015 and will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April in 2016.

## **8. Clergy**

The Rev'd Neil Barker continues as Team Rector of the Modbury Team of churches (6 churches in 2015 to be reduced to 5 in 2016) and takes the Holy Communion service in St James the Less on the first Sunday of each month. The Rev'd Michael Wilkinson, a retired minister living in Kingston, continues to take Holy Communion Services on most third Sundays in each month and at Festivals such as Easter Day.

### **Approved:**

Team Rector .....

**Date:** ..... 2016

Churchwardens .....

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