

St. Mary the Virgin Parish Church, Fryerning annual report for 2014.

The format is following the *Serving with accountability* framework from a paper issued by the Diocese of Chelmsford and based on Acts 2. 42-47.

Worship.

What are you doing to make worship the central focus of the life of the Church?

Three of our four Sunday main services at 11.15 are traditional Book of Common Prayer services. The officiant for the first Sunday Morning Prayer service is Derek Bevan and the organist is John Moore-Bridger. The second Sunday service uses the Merbeke setting for the Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion service. The third Sunday service is a Morning Prayer service. These services are normally led by either of our clergy. Traditional hymns are sung at these services and are supported by our small and enthusiastic choir. The fourth Sunday service is a more informal modern family service using a mixture of traditional hymns and worship songs. Normally I lead this service, which is followed by refreshments. On the second Sunday of the month we hold a six p.m. Book of Common Prayer Evensong. In recent years, due to the small number who attend, this has developed a more informal style. Our Music Director Oliver Lincoln plays at all these services. We also alternate with Ingatestone church to hold an eight a.m. Book of Common Prayer said Holy Communion service. Most of the congregation for this service also attend the 8 a.m. communion service at Ingatestone church on the alternate Sundays. Members of the congregation read the lessons at all the services. Special services were held throughout the year to mark Christingle, Good Friday, Easter Day, Pentecost, Remembrance and services around Christmas. On Remembrance Sunday we are joined by the Explorer Scouts, and one of them reads a lesson. The Nine Lessons and Carols

service had an attendance of over one hundred and thirty people and was followed by refreshments. Ollie had organised a large choir for the service. On Christmas Eve at 3 p.m. over fifty people came to the crib service. A small group of people always ensure that the flowers add to the atmosphere in the church. A dedicated group of embroiders continue to progress with producing beautiful bespoke kneelers. The congregation are informed of all Churches Together services and some people attended the New Year's Eve service at Ingatestone Church. We welcomed Canon Martin Wood to lead and preach at a service in December.

Spirituality.

What are you doing to teach people to pray?

The spirituality of many people who worship at Fryerning Church is based around using the B.C.P. prayers. The collect for the week is printed on the weekly notice sheet produced by Rene Horner and people are encouraged to take those home. The annual Quiet Day was again held at Barnard's Farm. This was led for us by Revd Rose Williams and over twenty people attended, including some people who normally worship at Fryerning church.

Nurture.

What are you doing to teach people the faith and help them in their discipleship?

Janet Collins and Judy Parmenter both contributed to the Lent booklet of daily Bible reflections for Lent. All the evening activities organised through Ingatestone Church and the Churches Together are advertised to the worshippers at Fryerning Church on the weekly notice sheet. Ella and Max Morris, who were baptised at the church and regularly attend the family service, were prepared for confirmation. They were confirmed by Bishop Stephen at the service on Easter Eve at Chelmsford Cathedral.

Evangelism.

What have you been doing to share the faith with others?

In May we held a weekend of events to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Diocese of Chelmsford. The planning was led by Revd. Jes Salt and a group representing Ingatestone church and Fay Cherry and Janet Collins on behalf of Fryerning church. Fay Cherry and Janet Collins arranged for Fryerning Church to be open across the weekend. On Saturday John Moore-Bridger played the organ. On Sunday afternoon, children from the Church Junior School came and presented their own service. Many parents attended and afternoon tea was served on both days. In September members from Fryerning Church and friends attended the Bring and Share Dinner with the Venerable Elwyn Cockett at the Junior School. Congregation members were invited to accompany and encourage friends to the Churches Together free BBQ outside Ingatestone church in September.

Vocation.

What are you doing to nurture and develop the whole ministry of the people of God?

The small Welcome Team have an invaluable role in welcoming people to worship, and also practically providing refreshments after the service. In the autumn, Judy Parmenter attended a morning session at Doddinghurst led by the Archdeacon of Chelmsford on leading worship and has led an Evensong service. Tony Collins and Duncan Stewart are authorised to assist with Holy Communion along with David MacAdams..

Service.

How is your church a blessing to the community?

We hosted a concert in church, organised by Pippa Stephens, a former regular member of the family service congregation. The church was also the venue for weddings, funerals and baptisms. Sarah Mackay has taken on the role of keeping those who have their children baptised at the church informed about activities. Our involvement with the Church Junior School is a blessing to the community, with Sarah MacKay representing the church of the governing body and taking a very active role. We have also welcomed to the Church Junior School children twice during the year. The number of pupils means we cannot accommodate them all in a single visit. The Towers magazine is distributed to subscribers around Fryerning and visitors to the church are given a copy. The April edition was delivered to most of the houses in the parish. Fryerning is a small community and within it church members are very involved in informal support networks. The congregation also includes people who do not live within the parish. Pastoral care is provided formally and informally for them. One former P.C.C. member receives communion monthly in his home.

Hospitality.

What are you doing to ensure your church is a place of safety and welcome for all ages and people of all backgrounds?

Our Church wardens and P.C.C. continually look to examine the building to ensure that, despite its age, it can be suitable for the needs of those who attend. Further work was undertaken during the year, thanks to a generous benefactor, to develop the area under the tower. This will make a space that can be utilised for large wedding and funeral services. Recently purchased toys are available for very young children, to be used on the carpeted area opposite the organ. There is a wheelchair ramp to access the toilet. Consideration is being given to the placement of rails by the ramp. Sara MacKay is the Child Protection Officer.

Interdependence.

How are you working in partnership with other Christian communities?

We have an organisationally close relationship with St. Edmund and St. Mary Parish Church, sharing clergy, music director and treasurer. At the 8 o'clock B.C.P. Holy Communion service sacristans from Ingatestone church have served. I am chair of Ingatestone Churches Together and Revd. Jes Salt is also on the committee, which meets four times a year and organises many events. We are fully represented on Deanery Synod with Mark Morris taking over the role from Janet Collins. Martin Taylor is the Deanery Treasurer. I am a clergy representative for Brentwood Deanery on Diocesan Synod.

Generosity.

What are you doing to ensure that your Church is showing signs of generosity towards the wider church and community as well as being financially secure?

The church supports the Brentwood Foodbank. This is a great witness to the wider community. This included a special focus, in conjunction with the Church school at harvest. There were also a number of special collections taken during the year. These were for The Children's Society and The Royal British Legion. There is an active Fundraising Committee, chaired by Fay Cherry. They organised a Spring Lunch and a Harvest Supper. These events are both attended by local residents who do not attend church. They also organise a Christmas Bazaar, held at the Church Junior School. Following making public the financial needs of the church, improved levels of giving have taken place. The church has also been blessed through a legacy and donations. Thanks are particularly due to Martin Taylor, in his role as treasurer.

Patrick Sherring January 2015.