

St Edwards Church, Eggbuckland

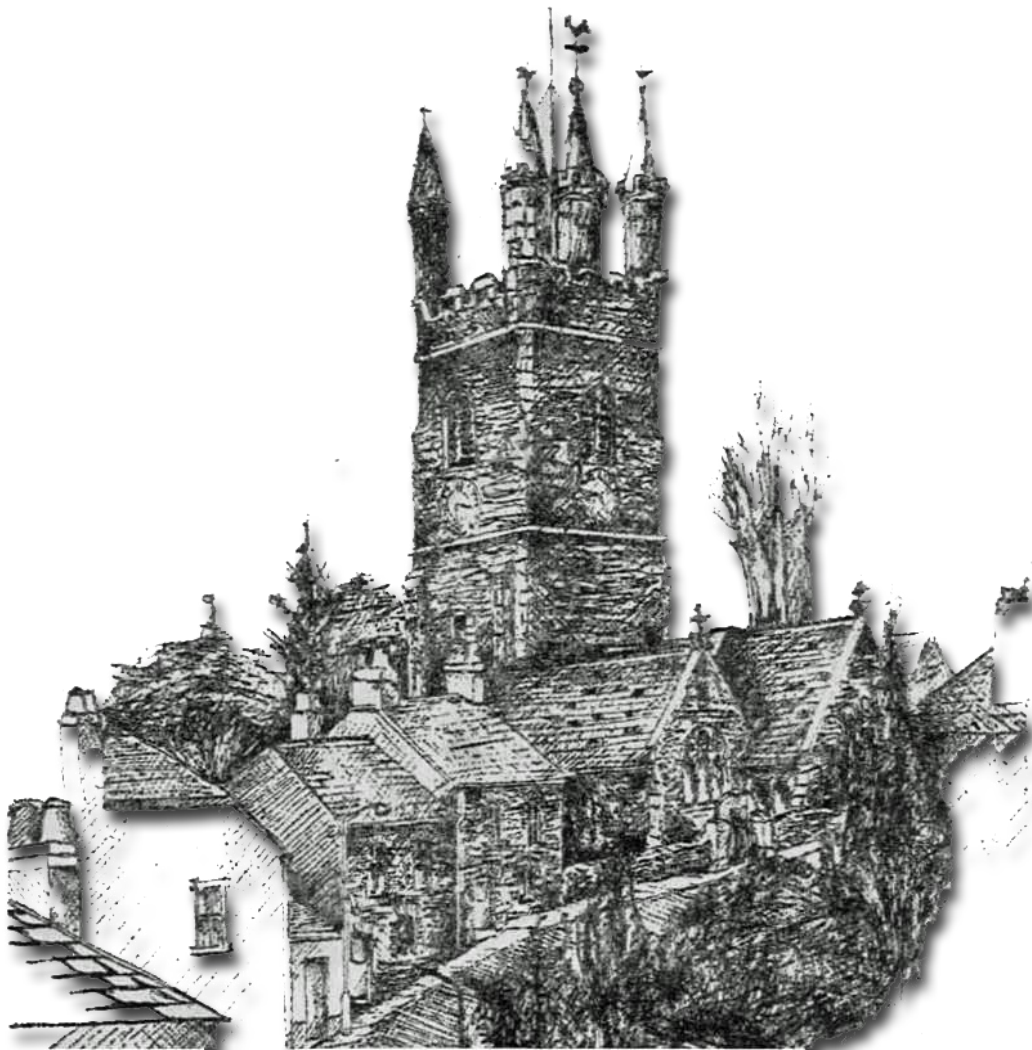
One family in Christ ... for all the family:

Loving, Serving, Growing



Parish Report

2013-2014



Introduction

It gives me great pleasure to introduce this Annual report for 2013. As we look back so much has happened and there are many reasons to be grateful to God for His goodness to us over this last year. I hope as you read through this report you too will rejoice about what God is doing here in Eggbuckland and commit afresh to serve him in this coming year. This may involve for you a new area of service and I encourage you to be open to where God is leading you that we may all best lovingly serve him and grow both in our faith and gifts.

Yours in Christ's service



Chris
Rev'd Chris Routledge
Eggbuckland PCC Chair



Aims and Purposes

St. Edward's Parochial Church Council (PCC) has the responsibility of cooperating with the incumbent, the Reverend Christopher Routledge, in promoting in the ecclesiastical parish, the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical. The PCC is also specifically responsible for the maintenance of the Eggbuckland Church Hall complex Church Hill, Eggbuckland, Plymouth.

Objectives and Values

We aspire to be a church where all feel welcome, valued and able to grow both in their faith and love of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the gifts that God has lovingly given to each one. This is encapsulated in the tag-line: *One family in Christ... for all the family: Loving, Serving, Growing*. This remains our long-term aim.

In order to work together towards that goal, the PCC and its various teams have identified key areas for our particular focus. These have been grouped together in three areas as below:

Inner Growth:

Leadership and Management
Resourcing for Mission
Worship and Prayer
Pastoral Care
Discipleship

Outward Growth:

Evangelism
Community
Mission Support

Special Focus Area:

Children, Schools, Families and Youth

These 9 areas along with associated aspirations and potential tasks have become our 'Mission Action Plan' (MAP) and are effectively our 'mid-term' plans for achieving the long term goal mentioned above - to be *One family in Christ.. for all the family: Loving, Serving, Growing*. This is a working document and changes regularly to reflect new opportunities. From this Mission Action Plan the PCC, through the annual away day, have drawn up a short term 'Year Plan' (the latest copy of these documents is be available on request from the PCC secretary). Though not all the tasks put on the Year Plan have been fully achieved yet, it has been a helpful tool to ensure that we make some progress on them and details of next steps are included in the 'achievements and performance' section of this report.

Our PCC are due to meet on Saturday 26th April 10-3pm at the Chapel, University of St Mark and St John for our Annual away day. Members of the congregation are welcome to join with us for the morning where we will be considering our focus area for 2014 which is proposed to be 'Welcome and worship - believing and belonging'. This will help us to focus on how we can develop our worship programme to encourage people to get more involved.

To facilitate all this work it is important that we maintain the fabric of the Church of St Edward, Egguckland and the Church Hall complex.

Achievements & performance

There is much to give thanks to God for over this past year as well as good cause to prayerfully consider our response to the vision he is calling us forward into as a church family. Here is a taster of how the MAP is being progressed in the life and worship of our church community:

Inner Growth:

Leadership & Management

MAP Outcome: Effective & Visionary Leadership and management

Year Plan Tasks:

- 1) Develop the Website to reflect core values and current information
- 2) Develop Key Priority Teams (i.e. Worship & Services, Evangelism and Mission, Fundraising etc)

Although both the above tasks have not yet been completed, a good start has been made. A basic template is in place for a new website. This will need to be populated with relevant information and plans to move on with this are made for after Easter. New teams are being established as appropriate but we have felt it was more important to ensure such teams are firmly established rather than develop too many new ones and the Fabric and Finance teams are beginning to find their role. Lots of short term planning happens in small teams which are responsible to the PCC through the incumbent, church wardens or treasurer.

Resources for mission

MAP Outcome: Efficient Stewardship of resources for mission

Year Plan Tasks:

- 1) Develop a 'Friends of St Edwards' Support Scheme to fundraise for specific projects
- 2) Incorporate stewardship information into a more general 'welcome pack/leaflet' given to all who are new/would like one.

The 'Friends' idea was explored last summer in some detail but in the end put on a back burner for the time being. However a number of people have suggested this more recently and we may revisit this if a suitable format, structure and purpose could be established. With regard to Stewardship aspect of the welcome leaflet, this is on hold as we are currently experimenting with a new more efficient way of giving and claiming gift aid. How to incorporate this into a range of giving strategies will be considered as we continue to develop a 'welcome leaflet'.

As you can see below a number of other important tasks have commanded attention this year.

Churchwardens' Annual Fabric & Maintenance Report

Preface: 2013 was an eventful year and many projects and issues arose but I wish to thank the members of the ~~Fabric and Maintenance Team for their hard work and support, especially for the Rev Chris Routledge and our Health & Safety Officer Mrs Eleanor Parry.~~

Fabric & Maintenance Internal:

Tower Dampness: At the beginning of 2013 we were faced with water ingress at the bottom of the tower door. The steeplejacks were consulted and recommended work to the outside of the church, which included the installation of two vertical rainwater pipes. Their quotation was £1640 (INC VAT), the PCC felt we should wait and see whether the problem occurred again; so far it has remained dry despite the bad winter.

Leak in Vestry Window & Yearly External Church Inspection: The spring of 2013 saw the general inspection of the church exterior, which apart from a few loose slates was good. However some remedial work to the roof, already mentioned in the Quinquennial Report of 2011, needed to be undertaken during the spring of 2014.

Boiler House Project: For many years there had been a desire to provide a toilet facility within the church itself. This usually focused upon converting the old boiler house, adjacent to the church building. Last year saw this project move a step forward but rather than the conversion of an outside structure, it was recommended by the DAC to develop the church kitchen by the creation of a Disability Toilet/Baby Changing Room within that area. We have made provisional plans and produced a draft application for a faculty and are in the process of accessing funds for the development.

New South Porch Door: The Jubilee Gate in the porch, which provides some security but is an unattractive and unwelcoming feature, we hope to replace with a reinforced glass double door. This will mean that the South Door can be open during the services, making the church itself a welcoming place and give additional security. Again as with item 1.3. above the procedures mentioned are ongoing.

Reordering of Nave: As St Edward's congregation grows it will be essential to examine the way the church's interior caters for that growth. Presently we have the children's corner at the back of the church, 2x disabled members having to be placed in the aisles and a minister who during times of communion is far removed from the people. Obviously making any permanent changes to the nave, involving the possible removal of side pews and replacing them with newer modern portable pews will need a faculty and proper consultation of the church membership. However we do have a way of testing out these ideas through a temporary reordering, granted by the Archdeacon; whatever changes made, using this measure, will only be on a trial basis.

Commemorative Plaque: Some may have been aware that the Memorial Altar and the Jacobean table have swapped places. Although this move was welcomed, the family of the person for whom the Memorial Altar was made, expressed the wish that the small plaque, attached thereto, be placed on the Wooden Reredos in the Memorial Chapel. In consultation with the vicar it was felt it would be better to get a replacement plaque made for the Reredos. Quotations were acquired and a response from the family is awaited.

Temporary Church Reorganisation & PA System: It will have been observed by most of the congregation that various items of furniture have been repositioned over the course of the year. For instance the frontal cabinet and bookcase at the back of the church have moved. This has been carried out to improve the space available when there are large numbers of people attending services. It will also be apparent that a new mixer amplifier (kindly provided by Mr Stuart Parry) has replaced the old one, which eventually gave up after some 30 years of use.

Graveyard and Exterior Maintenance:

Tree Surgery:

Holm Oak: During the course of the past year, the trees in the churchyard have proved costly. In the spring one of our neighbours complained that various trees were preventing light from reaching his property. The PCC suggested that a financial contribution would be helpful; unfortunately this was insufficient and only minimum work could be undertaken. However just before Christmas 2013, the Holm Oak, in the South Western Churchyard, received a battering from the wind and part of the trunk fell. Although no damage was done to any adjacent properties, there still might be some damage to gravestones and monuments. The Plymouth City Council and a professional tree surgeon are in the process of dealing with the issue. The cost was estimated at £750 but this could be more due to the complexity of the work. The insurance company will be informed once the site is clear enough to assess the extent of harm caused.

Conifers: The Honeyshute Preschool requested we removed the two conifers outside the upper hall to allow for the extension of the outdoor play area. This was done by Mr Jon Lake and Mr Brian Bassett.

Drainage at the bottom of the Western Churchyard: Another neighbour had expressed concern about the stream, which meanders through the Western Churchyard down to Doidges Farm Close, as potential flooding was a possibility. Representatives from the Diocesan Advisory Committee, the Plymouth City Council and St Edward's Church all met on site to discuss the way ahead. We agreed that the council would establish a temporary gully, which would divert the stream so preventing any flooding. Should this solution not work then another resolution would be sought; as to date there have been no further complaints.

Church & Church Hall Notice Boards: After going out to tender, The Church Notice Board Company supplied us with two notice boards. Unfortunately errors were made and the received amendments are waiting to be affixed to the boards.

Grounds Steward: In 2013 we terminated the services of Countrywide who had maintained the churchyard. Mr Jon Lake (a church member) has now been engaged as our new Grounds Steward. Apart from the general grass cutting he has coordinated 'tidy up days' and a bulb planting morning. He hopes in the future to be able to work with schools and the community to involve them in the living area of the churchyard.

Path through Western Graveyard: This path is a vital route to the open part of the graveyard and can be a hazard during the winter months. This is something that has been discussed by the Fabric & Maintenance Team and we hope will be resolved during the course of 2014.

Other Matters:

Church Hall Improvements: 2013 has seen various improvements to the church hall. There has been the transformation of the Lower Hall through the efforts of the Honeyshute Preschool. Additionally the Upper Hall has been redecorated, had new blinds fitted, a large multi cupboard built and a kind donation of some chairs. There have also been various electrical alterations made throughout the halls. Outside at the back of the church hall a new shed has been constructed and there is now security lighting in the lower parking area.

Church Hall Future Improvements:

Lower Hall External Doors: In the spring of 2014 there will be two new aluminium double doors fitted to the lower church hall, as the present ones have reached an age where replacement was necessary.

Future improvements: It is hoped that we will see the conversion of the male toilets into a unisex facility and the redevelopment of the ladies toilets and foyer into a café style area. Provisional plans have been made and were presented to the PCC along with the church projects at an extraordinary meeting on 13th June 2013.

Boundary Fence: The F&M Team in 2013 considered the options of renewing or repairing the boundary fence, which has been in place since the church hall's construction. Damage during the winter months has made it necessary to deal with this matter as soon as possible.

Dampness in Lower Church Hall: In the summer of 2013 a damp patch appeared in the toilets of the Lower Church Hall. The F&M Team instructed the Churchwarden to get a plumber to investigate this phenomenon. We also have had an increase in our water consumption for the hall and it was felt there might be a link; although it is likely that the two items are not related. Mr Mike Symons was contacted and we await his report.

Petition for a Faculty for the burial of cremated remains and the introduction of a memorial in a churchyard: The Vicar had had a request for a small space to be designated for the burial of cremated remains. This area unfortunately had no such designation and so a faculty had to be sought. Finally after several months this was agreed by the Lord Chancellor and the interment will take place later in 2014.

Annual Inspections: All annual inspections have been completed but the following have resulted:

Gas Check: One of our new radiators would not start properly in the latter part of 2013; this was remedied by the clearance of external obstructions. All the radiators are now working and have been checked for safety.

Organ Maintenance: We have engaged another Organ Tuner called Lance Foy who replaces the contractor from Midland Organ Ltd. The PCC also agreed that a small fee would be introduced for Weddings and Funerals for the upkeep of this instrument.

Banner at the corner of Church Hill and Eggbuckland Road: The Plymouth City Council has given permission for a banner to be placed on the church hall wall at the junction of Eggbuckland Road and Church Hill.

Julian Payne (Churchwarden)



Church Hall Report

First of all I would like to thank Allan Smith for his continued help with the cleaning of the upper floor of the hall.

There have been many things happening in the hall during the past year. Not only was the main upper hall painted in January last year, during August there was the construction of some new cupboards where the regular hirers are able to store their equipment. There is only one vacant cupboard left.

In April, the curtains in the upper hall were replaced by some Vertical Blinds which were installed by Beacon Blinds. The curtains had been there for about twenty years and were past their best.

Some 80 stacking chairs were donated to the church for use in the hall. The old plastic stacking chairs have been removed to the garage where they are being kept for use during the meetings of the PCC and Eggbuckland Forum's Public Meetings, which meet in the lower hall. Of the arm chairs, some have been taken and recovered for use in the vestry and are used by the wedding parties.

Honeyshute Preschool (Lower Hall) has expanded their age range to include babies; and they are now using the hall weekly and all day throughout the year. They close only for the Christmas and New Year period.

Some light fittings throughout the hall needed renewing; this has now been carried out. Two new lights have been fitted outside the lower hall. One is to light the playground and lower slopes of the carpark and the other is over the fire exit door which has a ramp.

Eddybears (Mother and Toddler Group) started last Summer term, and a shed has been placed near the fence for them to store their larger toys.

'Soup and Bible' started as a Lent Course last year, and is still continuing, but now on a monthly basis.

Bookings in general have increased and the Birthday parties have increased each year since 2011 which had 27 parties. In 2012 there were 36 parties, and last year there were 43 Birthday parties. So far this year, compared to 10 last year, there have been 14 Birthday parties.

Olwen Grindell (Church Hall Secretary)



Finance Review

~~Total receipts on unrestricted funds were £57873.91 of which £3,969.25 were unrestricted voluntary donations and a further £28,201.05 was from the Planned Giving.~~

Restricted donations of £3,927.80 were also received and are detailed in the financial statements.

The PCC also holds one investment account with CCLA known as the "Huxham Close" Account. This is a total of 5,720.87 shares which was valued in December 2013 at £62,128.65. The interest from this account paid into our bank account twice a year totals £2,844.42. The Vicar and Wardens are trustees of six additional Trusts and the interest from these accounts contributed £60.16.

The Planned Giving through envelopes and Bankers' orders increased by 14% on the previous year. Income from the church hall totalled £14,339.07 which is an increase of 49% on the previous year.

£20,117.42 was spent from funds to provide Christian Ministry. The 'Common Fund' request from the diocese for 2013 was £25,063. The Financial Statements for 2013 attached show payment of £20,500 however this request has now been paid in full for the first time in number of years.

£21,577.99 was spent from funds to provide planned and unplanned maintenance of the church, hall and churchyard. This is a 19% increase on the previous year.

The PCC has also approved a number of special projects:

Improving of the Church hall facilities in 2013 came to a sum of, £2,964.45 and the final cost is expected to be £8,309.58 when it is finished. We have also had two new notice boards made to help publicise the church and church hall at a cost of £1,038.

The appointment of a SWYM worker, £2,750 was taken from “Huxham close” fund and the congregation were asked to contribute to a restricted fund. A total of £1,540.00 was raised and this almost met the requirement of £1560 for weekly allowance.

The net result for 2013 was £77,049.10 of receipts over payments of £82,765.79 on restricted/unrestricted funds. The bank and deposit balances from restricted/unrestricted funds, carried forward as at 31st December 2013 (less the previous year debits still in bank at start of year and previous year credits banked after start of year) totalled £14,157.02 of which £1,148.06 was set aside for payments yet to be cleared. It should also be noted that £4,563 would also need to be paid to the Diocese being the final instalment for the 2013 common fund contribution.

Reserves Policy

The PCC is beginning to explore an appropriate reserves policy. As it stands to date, the “Huxham Close” fund is allocated to be used for capital and investment purposes which explains its use over the last year.

Gift Aid Secretary's Report

£4,789.33 has been claimed from HMRC for gift aid for the period 1st January 2013 to 31st December 2013. This is a decrease of 15% on the previous 12 months.

At the end of December 2013, the number of regular tax-efficient givers had increased to 45. GASDS (Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme) is a new gift aid scheme, which started on 6th April 2013, allowing some tax to be reclaimed from church service collections. Our first GASDS claim for the period 6th April 2013 to 31st December 2013 will be submitted to HMRC shortly for £1,073.04.

From 1st January 2014, 5 members of the congregation joined the pilot Parish Giving Scheme. The donations and any gift aid claimed on these is deposited into St Edwards Bank account within 10 days of payment from the donor. As the payment is by direct debit, there is also a facility (with the donor's consent) for the donation to be automatically increased each year. After 6 months, a decision will be made, as to whether we will continue with the scheme and offer it to other members of the congregation.

Mandy Collins (Gift Aid Secretary)



Worship and Prayer

MAP Outcome: Accessible Worship & Prayer

Year Plan Tasks:

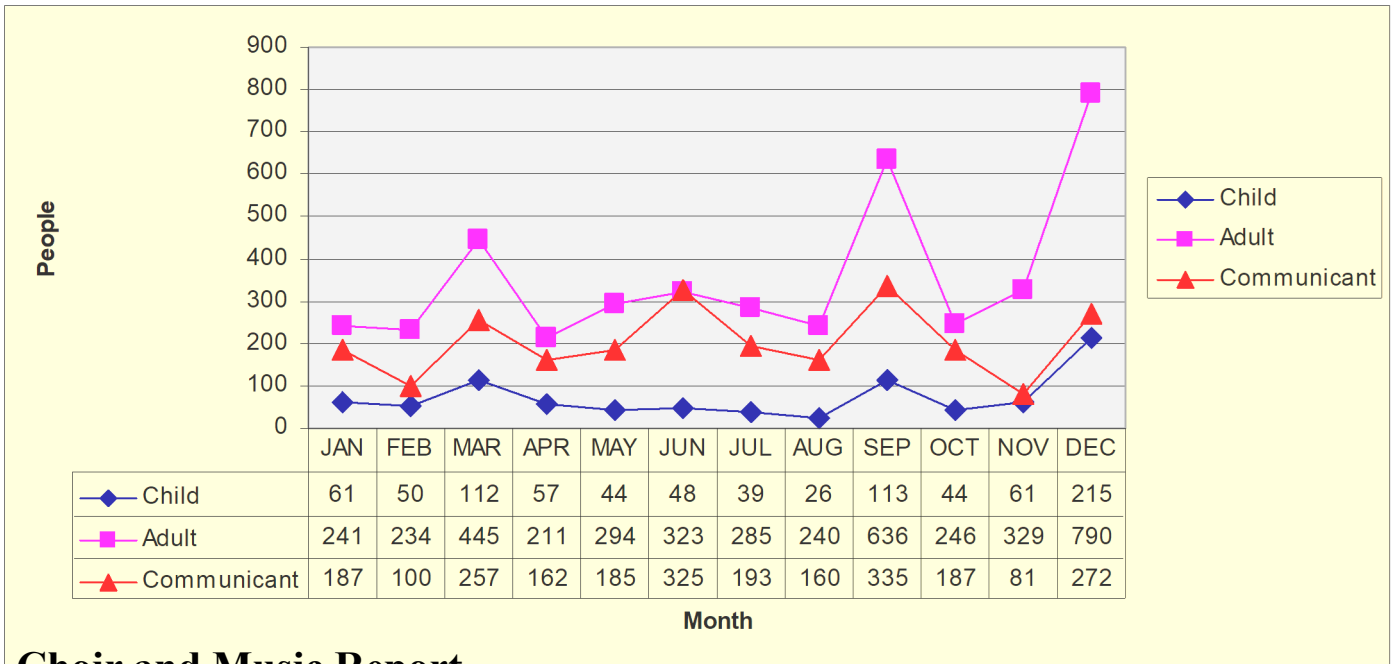
- 1) Increase Choir membership
- 2) Explore ways of improving accessibility in worship for those in wheelchairs/with buggies etc (including visibility, audibility and health and safety precautions)

Our choir membership has decreased by one (Sandra Prestidge) and increased by 3 (Val Francksen, David Bettison and Peter Anderson). If anyone would like to join the choir, please speak to Glenda. Choir practises are on Mondays 6.30-7.30.

Accessibility has been improved through the moving of the Frontal Chest to the front of the North Aisle and the bookcase next to the font. Though there is now more room at the back of church there are further ways that we need to consider better accessibility to ensure visibility and audibility.

We continue to offer a traditional service with robed Choir, Holy Communion and Children's groups at 9.30, a more informal and contemporary evening service in the evening at 6.30 and once a month a service for all ages at 10.30 preceded by a quiet and reflective service of Holy Communion in the chancel. Total participant figures have risen from 71 (59 adults, 12 children) (2012) to 85 (72 adults, 13 children) (2013) which is derived from an average of normal weekly attendance at both morning and evening services. This is very encouraging and cause for thanks and praise.

There is however more that could be done and to improve our accessibility for worship and improve our connection points through welcome, range of worship opportunities, developing our links made through occasional offices (weddings, baptisms and funerals) and so we hope to make this a focus area for 2014.



Choir and Music Report

This year the members of the choir have, as they always do, led the singing at every 9.30. service, and sung for a number of weddings – at some of which there were unusual requests!

We were very sad to lose Sandra Prestidge last year when she and Reg moved away from Plymouth. Sandra was a really committed choir member, and we miss her very much.

Judy Smith's illness has also had its effect on the choir. She was unable to be with us for a considerable time. We are thankful that she is now in the choir on Sundays, and is hopeful that she will be able to come to practices again when the weather improves, and the nights are lighter.

We pray that she and her family may know themselves to be surrounded by God's love and peace as she continues to do all she is able, in spite of her illness.

Robert Moon has also had health problems since the beginning of this year. He has come back to the choir, but continues to be unwell. We pray God's blessing and healing for him.

At Christmas we invited members of the congregation to join the choir, just for the Christmas services. We were delighted with the response. Peter, David Bettison, Val, Emily and Yvonne all came and joined us, and we greatly valued their help.

It was obviously not a terrible experience, as Val, Peter and David decided to stay on, and become regular members of the choir.

Since then, Eleanor has found herself unable to continue because of work commitments. We will miss her, and her willingness to help out in any way she was able.

So, early in 2014 we are in a position where we are short of sopranos. Our male section is the strongest it has been since I became choir leader, but our ladies are now sadly depleted.

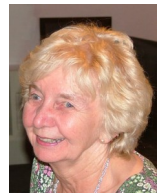
If there are any ladies in the congregation who are able to sing in tune, (it's not necessary to be able to read music), and who can commit to Monday evening practices, regular attendance at the 9.30 service and some Saturday weddings, will they please have a word with me.

I would like to point out that singing in the choir is an important ministry within the life of the church, and that – as a choir – we enjoy fun and fellowship together.

At the evening service, Heartbeat, worship is often led by Steve Colcombe on his guitar, and sometimes by Jon Lake. On the occasions when no-one is available, recorded music is used.

If there happen to be any instrumentalists (flute, oboe, violin?) in our midst, please make yourselves known, as it would be very good to have a group who could play from time to time.

Mrs Glenda Davies (Musical Director)



Church Flower Arrangers Report

~~There are just nine volunteers to cover the monthly rota and this is at least three less than ideal, especially when taking account of the unavailability of some at certain times.~~

Those who do help are extremely generous with their time and in providing flowers, for the most part at their own expense. There is also a generous response from church members who contribute financially for the major festivals, especially Easter.

We will always do our best to make the church as attractive as possible but can seldom do anything extra for weddings due to the limited number of arrangers, although it is usually possible to provide any specially requested colour co-ordination.

Thanks to all who have contributed throughout the year by whatever means to making our lovely church even more beautiful.

Brenda Whatty (Coordinator)



Pastoral Care

MAP Outcome: Newcomers feel welcome and stay

Year Plan Task: Develop a Welcome Pack/Leaflet that clearly explains the priorities and values of the Church, how newcomers can get involved and information about giving financially

It is clear from the participation figures that this is happening and therefore cause for grateful thanks and praise but anecdotally there have been some who have passed through and not found their place at St Edwards. This is inevitable in one sense (it is important that people feel comfortable to attend without pressure placed upon them) but we want to ensure that we do everything we can to communicate our pastoral concern for them and the clear message that all are welcome and valued here.

The Welcome leaflet has not yet been completed but is underway and this will be the approach taken in that leaflet.

Through the PCC focus next year we hope also to explore further ways that we can communicate this. One thing that has been hugely beneficial has been the appointing of Vicky Hocking as our Pastoral Care Coordinator. She has diligently and faithfully kept in touch with those who are unwell, those who need extra support, the bereaved for whom we do services for in order that they may be prayed for, visited and supported in ways that are necessary and appropriate. Though we have not formally developed a Pastoral Care team yet, we do have a number of members of the congregation who show pastoral support for a range of people in and outside of our church membership and keep Vicky and the Vicar in the loop for those that would value and appreciate support from church.

Discipleship

MAP Outcome: Members of the Congregation are growing in their gifts for service and in their understanding of faith

Year Plan Task: Consolidate and develop current opportunities through ministry teams and small groups.

A small house group was set up Easter 2013 in addition to extending the successful lunch time group during lent 2013 which became 'Food for thought'. These have been a helpful meeting place for Bible study and spiritual growth. These have needed some more development and 2014 has seen a relaunch of the home groups, supported through the Lent Course.

Outer Growth:

Evangelism

MAP Outcome: Towards —> A range of opportunities for people to hear the Good News about Jesus clearly explained

Year Plan Task:

- 1) Set up and Alpha course in Autumn 2013 (including a 'Welcome Supper')
- 2) Explore opportunities for outreach with other churches through 'Hope 14' and other initiatives

An Alpha group was set up in September 2013 with small numbers. This continued until around mid October but with the agreement of the group we stopped around half way through. This needs to have more ownership from the congregation and church family in order to be successful. So although we hope to run this again, we need to ensure that a sustainable team are able to implement it and the the congregation are involved in inviting friends, colleagues, neighbours and family. A more sustainable course for smaller numbers is the Christianity Explored course which we have run a few times at the vicarage.

There are some plans for some evangelistic events in 2014 so we encourage members of the Congregation to get involved and invite those who may benefit.

Community

MAP Outcome: To be Egguckland Community's greatest friend

Year Plan Task:

- 1) Support the Community Fun Day led by the Dreamscheme
- 2) Develop a Community Christmas Event (Light switch on with local businesses?)
- 3) Explore other more regular social events such as beetle drive and Cream Tea, classics afternoon etc.

We supported the 2013 Fun Day and Christmas Community Lunch which were both successful and appreciative of our support. This is something that we hope to build upon for 2014 with the possibility of having a stall.

The Christmas event envisaged did not happen but considerable energy was given to develop the Christmas Eve service that was very successful. This is an idea that we are continuing to consider in partnership with the local businesses.

A Cream Tea, Quiz night for Harvest and Harvest Supper have all happened in 2013 with good success with plans and a desire to increase the frequency of these events.

Bell Ringers Report

The New Year of 2013 started very favourably for St Edward's tower with the arrival of Sarah Law who learnt to ring at St Columb Major in Cornwall where she spent her formative years. Fortunately she already rings to a high standard and therefore requires no coaching from us and has slotted in to our band very nicely. To have someone join our band like this is a rare occurrence as we normally have to teach ringers ourselves, which can take two or three years. Sarah is married to Steve and they have two young daughters, Emily and Abigail.

The competition season started very well with an excellent result at Ide near Exeter where we managed to win with a peal which exceeded all expectations and accrued only two faults. This may be the lowest number of faults we have ever received in our history! We have always been slow starters on the competition circuit because we don't practice much as a team during the winter months, whereas many of our rivals continue relentlessly with winter knockout competitions.

From this base we went on to achieve a number of successes which helped enormously towards providing the confidence needed to help quell the nerves which are ever-present when competing in the Devon Association Major Final. Last year we were placed third at Down St. Mary, near Crediton so we certainly had something to prove at this year's competition. The qualifying round for South Devon was held at Yealmpton and we needed to be placed in the first five teams to make it into the final. The Team did not disappoint and our position ensured the best chance of winning the "Ross Shield".

The Devon 6-Bell Final was held at Cornwood in brilliant sunshine, and no matter what the result, the Eggbuckland ladies were determined to enjoy the day. They arrived with their picnic baskets and bottles of Pimms and lemonade and on finding a sheltered spot in which to listen to their competitors, lay their blankets down and began sipping their fruity cocktails. A ploy, they said, "to steady the nerves". Well, it certainly worked. We managed to win by a sizeable margin! This result takes the number of wins in this competition to twenty-two since 1980, a record to be truly proud of.

I promised "Our Petal" (Marie – one of our learners), who originates from Birkenhead, that I would arrange a week's tour of her area when she became a more competent ringer. In October we made a sojourn to The Wirral which is an area I have never visited before. This also happened to coincide with her fiftieth birthday. We rang at twenty-nine towers during the week, only missing out on one of the nineteen ringable sets of bells in the Wirral peninsula. The others towers were in Gloucester, Worcestershire, Cheshire and Flintshire.

Marie's family arranged a party on her birthday (which was held at her brother Frank's pub!) and provided a wonderful buffet and live music for everyone. As we entered the premises, from the sound system could be heard the pealing of bells, which brought about a round of applause from 'the locals'. A good time was had by all and it was a great way of ending our tour.

Since the summer we have been struggling with availability of ringers for competitions through holidays and work commitments so we had to turn down around a dozen invitations over the year. This is probably more than at any time since my captaincy which may be a reflection of the times, of course. People lead such busy lives these days.

Hopefully, 2014 will start as 2013 did as I understand that there is a member of the congregation, who has learnt to ring elsewhere, who is also thinking of joining us.

Watch this space.

David Trout (Captain of the Ringers)

Eggbuckland Ladies' Group Report

We continue to meet on the second Tuesday evening of each month in the church hall. We have 25 members and on average 20 attend each meeting.

Our programme is a varied one and includes presentations by guest speakers on a range of interesting, informative and humorous topics. We have at least two outings a year, one in the summer and one at Christmas time when members enjoy a meal. This past year we went to the Whitsand Bay Hotel and Mount Edgecumbe and to the Two Bridges Hotel. There was an outside visit to and guided tour of the Peninsula Medical Centre. We have had some very enjoyable social evenings and there is always time for a cup of tea and friendly chat with fellow members.

We can accommodate as many new members as might wish to join and they can be assured of a most warm welcome.

Mary Castell Chairperson

Mission Support

MAP Outcome: To promote and enable commitment to Christ's Mission in this Country and overseas amongst the congregation of St Edwards.

Year Plan Task: Develop a coffee morning (or similar) for those who would pray for and encourage support for the wide range of Mission Support requests that we receive.

During 2013 we have had two Mission Support Coffee mornings which aspired to inform the congregation about mission events. These had very low attendance and we are exploring how we can better develop this important ministry.

The amount that we have given to overseas missions this year is £ 581.28 which is down from last year because of the increased need for mission support more locally. Mission Support for 'home' missions was £1,880.95 which is up by 25% on 2012 of which £700 went to support an Outreach and education project at Eggbuckland Community College through an organisation called Oriel Ministries and their band L.E.D. The team is slowly building and we are looking for other members. Amanda Thompson is taking the coordination for this on in 2014 and we thank her for her willingness and Glenda for the huge amount of work she has given to this role over the years, although she will remain on the team.

Mission Community

The Clergy team of the Holy Family Mission Community has now begun to meet regularly which includes weekly Evening Prayer at the Chapel in the University of St Mark and St John and monthly gatherings. One of the fruits of these meetings has been the idea to re-start Messy Church at Estover and four dates have been planned for 2014. We look forward to other opportunities for mission, support and outreach through the Mission Community.

Deanery Synod Annual Report

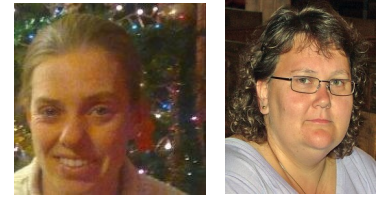
2013 has been a year of immense change for the Church of England in Plymouth. Bishop John Ford, Bishop of Plymouth has moved on to a new Diocese in Australia. Bishop Michael Langrish, Bishop of Exeter has retired, and Rt Rev Robert Atwell will be installed in the summer.

The City has become one Deanery and is currently led by Rev Ian Chandler, Archdeacon of Plymouth with a City Dean due to be elected in 2015. This new body is seeking a Treasurer to join Julian Payne (Secretary) and Anneliese Barrell (Lay Chair). The post of Treasurer can be taken by any Communion Member of the Church of England. It is recommended that the post holder has internet access. Each synod meeting has a guest speaker; in the past year we have heard from representatives from Plymouth Fairness Commission, Fairtrade, and Christian Aid.

The new Deanery is focusing on Children, Young People and Schools work for the next 3 years, all church councils are tasked with creating a new project for the Parish in this period. The Mission Focus Group is led by Father David Bailey, Rev Karl Freeman, and Rev Chris Routledge. The Deanery is building up a skills and experience database to help with this focus.

The Plymouth City Deanery will receive new representatives from the Parishes following the APCM.

Eleanor Parry & Tracey Buckner (Deanery Representatives)



Special Focus Area:

Children, Schools, Families and Youth

MAP Outcome: Children and young people are growing their faith
Families are connected and Supported

Year Plan Task: 1) Continue and develop existing work (Open the Book, FROGs, 'Friends and Heroes', Baptism and confirmation Prep etc)
2) Set up a Messy Church-Style event, drawing on Key contacts and various approaches to mission

September 2012 saw the start of our Sunday Children's Ministry 'Friends & Heroes' and 'Open the Book' Assemblies in St Edward's School so those have continued and developed throughout 2013 with the help of Lisa Dawson who was given to us for 2 days a week for 3-6months to help enable children's and families work to develop. Some of the fruit of her time with us was the setting up of Eddybears (our Parent and Toddler Group in the church Hall) and FROGs (an after school club at St Edwards school).

Also after Easter, thanks to support from the Mission Support budget and support from Crownhill & Compton Methodist churches, Emmanuel CoE Church and City Church, we were able to support Oriel Ministries as they came in to do a week of lessons, workshops and assemblies at Eggbuckland Community College. This culminated in a superb concert in the drama suite.

On the back of that opportunity a youth group was set up with a few of our young people meeting on a Sunday Evening at the Vicarage. We also began to explore the possibility of a SWYM worker. Emily Cree, who was at the Eggbuckland College event was accepted to be on placement with us for a year starting in September 2013. She has been and remains a huge asset to the teams she serves on and is beginning to develop the Assembly ministry. The PCC and congregation is very grateful to her and all who have been so generous in making it possible for her to be with us.

The Messy church-style event included in the 'year plan' became, in the first instance, an Alternative to Halloween Party event. This was very successful, extremely well supported and with a superb team who put it together. This fed into plans and ideas for the Christmas Eve event which managed to accommodate around 260 people this year a growth of around 20% on last years event. We are very grateful to Ivybridge Donkey Sanctuary for bringing along Garth the donkey as well as to the wonderful team who worked so hard to put on such a great event so close to Christmas day.

The church has continued to maintain good links with local schools and in particular have had visits from Eggbuckland Vale, Widey Court, Courtlands and St Edward's Schools. We have also visited or been visited by Honeyshute Preschool and Eddy's Preschool.

Our links with our Voluntarily Controlled (VC) school St Edward's have continued to flourish not least through the commitment and hard work of the foundation Governors, Frances Rendle, Pat Horrell and Rev'd Chris Routledge to whom we are very grateful. The school was inspected during 2013 by Ofsted achieving the 'Good' grade. This reflects a wonderful and talented staff, governing body and children who we are all very proud of.

We will also be involved in the new CE Primary Academy due to open in September 2015 which is within the parish and at the heart of the Mission Community. The interim governors on behalf the local church community are Rev'd Chris Routledge (Chair) and Rev'd Dr Paul Thompson. Watch this space for further developments!!

Obviously all our work with children, young people and their families is underpinned by our thorough safeguarding policy. Though this whole area has been in a period of flux over the last few years and new developments come in, our safeguarding team, headed up by our Safeguarding Officer Pat Horrell, have helped us through the changes and are in the process of ensuring we are fully up to date.

Volunteers

We would like to thank all the volunteers who work so hard to make our church the lively, vibrant and growing community it is:

From taking part in services through rotas, to leading assemblies; from singing in the choir to organising refreshments; from welcoming people as they arrive to ensuring money is counted properly and paid into the bank account; from organising craft work to attending the many planning and administration meetings that are necessary.

In particular we want to mention our churchwarden Mr Julian Payne who has worked very hard on our behalf in so many areas of church life. Also a huge thank you on behalf of us all to those who are very much behind the scenes helping to clean the Church on a regular basis as well as those who have come to the various church, church hall and church grounds clear up mornings.

Structure, governance and management

The method of appointment of PCC members is set out in the Church Representation Rules. At St. Edwards the membership of the PCC consists of the incumbent (our vicar), churchwardens, Lay Reader 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 electoral Roll was 87 in 2013. This is a 6% decrease on 2012.

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.

Given its wide responsibilities the PCC has a number of teams each dealing with a particular aspect of parish life. These teams, which include the 'Staff' Team, various planning and ministry teams for events or services, Fabric and Finance, are all responsible to the PCC and report back to it regularly with minutes of their decisions being received by the full PCC and discussed as necessary.

Administrative information

St. Edward's Church is situated on Church Hill, Eggbuckland, Plymouth.

It is currently within the **Plymouth City Deanery** and is part of the **Diocese of Exeter** within the **Church of England**.

It is also part of the emerging '**Holy Family Mission Community**' which is a special relationship of Churches in the North East part of the City comprising of Church of the Ascension, Crownhill; Christ Church Estover; Roborough Team (Bickleigh, Glen Holt, Woolwell, Roborough, and Shaugh Prior) and Eggbuckland.

In this spirit of partnership in the Gospel we also seek to work with other neighbouring churches namely Crownhill and Compton Methodist, St Peter's RC Church and Emmanuel (with St Pauls, Efford) and support the Churches Together In Plymouth (CTIP) network and other such initiatives where appropriate.

The correspondence address is:

Eggbuckland Vicarage,
100 Church Hill,
Eggbuckland,
Plymouth PL6 5RD

The PCC is a body corporate (PCC Powers Measure 1956, Church Representation Rules 2006) and a charity currently excepted from registration with the Charity Commission.

PCC members who have served at any time from 1st January 2013 until the date this report was approved are:

Pat Whatty	Val Francksen	Mandy Collins
Sue Colcombe	Steve Colcombe	Claire Edwards
Pat Horrell	Olwen Grindell	Muriel Marshall
Glenda Davies	David Sinclair	

Approved by the PCC Standing Committee on
by powers given to them by the PCC on 13th March 2014 for this purpose and signed on their behalf by the
Reverend Christopher Joseph Routledge (PCC Chair)

